

Grantshouse Community Council

Thursday 11th February 2016 at 7.30pm
in Grantshouse Village Hall

*If anyone attending these meetings, whether addressing the Community Council or not, should let the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary know if they wish to have their names omitted from any comments.
If there are no declarations, it will be presumed that there are no objections.*

AGENDA

	<u>Approximate Time</u>
1. Apologies	1 min
2. Police Scotland	5 min
3. Neighbourhood Watch Report	5 min
4. Previous Minutes	5 min
5. Matters Arising	20 min
6. Treasurers Report	5 min
7. Correspondence	10 min
8. Drone Hill Apps	10 min
9. Broadband	5 min
10. Any Other Business	10 min
11. Date of Next Meeting	

Thursday 10th March 2016

Anyone is welcome to attend and contributions are encouraged from anyone in the community.

Grantshouse Community Council

Thursday 14th January 2016

in Grantshouse Village Hall

Chairman John Prentice, thanked everyone who came to the meeting on this exceptionally cold and icy night.

Present: John Prentice (Chairman), Kym Bannerman, Marion Donovan, Ian Fleming, Angela Robertson and Walter Wyse (NHW Coordinator)

Apologies: Pat Durie, PC Richard Toward (Police Scotland), Michael Cook (Councillor), Joan Campbell (Councillor)

Police Scotland: PC Richard Toward was unable to attend this month's meeting and we have yet to receive this month's report.

A resident of Houndwood reported that a male was seen approaching a house in the area saying he had walked from Galashiels and requested a lift back. The resident whose house was approached was unnerved by this and her carer went to see if they could see the male but to no avail. The Police were called but no one was spotted.

Dark nights are creeping in and residents are asked to be extra vigilant.

Still be vigilant of doorstep callers and if unsure don't let anyone in.

Speeding and seat belt checks still on going.

Please remember the Non – Emergency number for the Police is 101 (local numbers no longer maintained)

NHW: - Nothing to report in the Grantshouse District.

A man from Jedburgh has been missing since Wednesday 13th January 2016. He is described as Slim, 5 feet 6 inches tall with Brown hair. His name is William Notley the public is asked to contact Police Scotland if there are any sightings.

Weather warnings have been issued from SBAAlert indicating the weather is to be extremely cold. Rain and Snow warnings have been issued previously.

A van aquaplaned during the flooding on the A1 to the North of Grantshouse Village and landed on its side. Katy and Darren Pitts are thanked for taking in the driver after this event. The police were called and van was removed the following day.

Previous Minutes. This month's minutes Proposed by John Prentice and seconded by Marion Donovan

Matters Arising:

Vermin: Michael Cook sent an email to the secretary asking if anything else is required with the vermin situation. At the present time it seems to have calmed down (but this is not an indication that it has passed). The main problem at present remains the litter in the area, which in turn encourages the rodents.

Action to be taken: The Secretary will contact Daren Silcock about this ongoing situation and request a meeting to see what can be done regarding the vermin and also the litter situation. The placement of bins and how many can be provided, along with possible deterrant signage are to be looked into. Initial discussion to be had regarding CCTV if all else fails to have an impact (the problems and issues with CCTV are recognized by the CC).

Harelawside Road: There are now signs in place from the North Entrance at Harelawside right round to the toilet block and up to the houses at the beginning of Howpark Road indicating that the road is a 30mph area. Questions have been asked into whether this will lead to lighting in the area.

Action to be taken: Contact the SBC and enquire about lighting for the area.

LIVOS Energy: Marion Donovan, Elizabeth & Michael Robinson and George Matthews attended the open event on the 14th December 2015. It was pointed out that the noise from Drone Hill already disturbs residents in the area, plus Penmansheil will be erected soon to add to this. LIVOS is looking at February 2016 being when they put in their Planning Application. It is thought that Community Benefit should be discussed once a planning application had been submitted. Decisions on whether or not to recommend the application will be independent from talks on community benefit.

It was discussed whether George Matthews would kindly report to the CC on issues with planning policies.

Action to be taken: The Chairman will contact George Matthews and ask if he would do this for the CC.

Howpark road: RES may well fully resurface the stretch of road that was broken up when the lorries were removing the trees after felling.

Thanks has to be given to George Matthews for applying pressure on RES.

Grass Verges: The secretary contacted AMEY regarding the walkway between Grantshouse and Harelawside. AMEY replied saying they would sort this out asap. In regards to the erection of a barrier this has been passed to the correct department.

The foul drain at the A1 is blocked again and running along the A1, when the road is wet this is not pleasant or healthy for pedestrians.

It was agreed that the ideal route for the path would be to take it further up the banking so that it no longer runs directly alongside the A1.

Action to be taken: The Secretary will contact AMEY again asking about the barrier and re-routing of pathway as suggested above. Contact SEPA regarding the foul drain. Collect photos of blocked drain and along pathway. Ask for a risk assessment to be carried out on thoughts brought up at meeting.

Christmas Tree: Walter Wyse collected the tree from Gordon Community Council. Next year he will require help and Ian Leslie has kindly offered. New lights were bought for the tree but a new connection is required as it was not long enough to be connected without an adapter.

There will be no permanent tree planted in the area due to the memorial Cherry Trees now thriving.

Can a donation be given to Gordon CC for the kindness of providing a tree for the community?

Action to be taken: A donation of £25 to be sent to Gordon CC. The Secretary will contact them for their postal address. Walter will put in an application for funding of new lights and adapter/connections to Foundation Scotland.

Carol Concert: The Carol Concert was a huge success with 101 names of people passing through on the night. The Choir from St Abbs attended and it was a lovely evening with refreshments had by all who attended.

Treasurer's Report:

The balances in the CC accounts as of the 10th December 2015 are:

Account 1 - £1,091.15

Account 2 - £10,862.07

The Secretary asked about getting a printer but thought an A3 one was too expensive.

The laptop used by the secretary is playing up since upgrading Windows and can't always get access into it.

Action to be taken: Payment to be released to Community Enterprise asap from Acct 2.

£25 to be released to Gordon CC from Acct 1.

Check with Walter if printer is still available

See if laptop can be reverted back to Windows 7, if unsuccessful permission has been unanimously given for it to be taken to Lothian Computers in Dunbar and the CC will pay them.

Apply to Foundation Scotland for a new computer/laptop and printer for CC use.

Correspondence:

Road Closures: Two reports of road closures have been issued.

One for the junction B6438 Marygold, which goes from Bonkle Church junction to Junction leading to Drakemyre.

Other for the junction D39/6 & C100 Todheugh, which goes from the Todheugh junction to the main road heading towards Chirnside.

Action to be taken: Email everyone on the "Add my name to" list with these road closure details.

3D Garages: The Chairman received an email stating their intentions to sell the Grantshouse Properties and someone from the company will get back to the CC at some point in January 2016.

Action to be taken: Set up a committee who would deal with getting a shop in operation.

Woodland: The lease is due to be signed as all members of the CC agree with this. The SBC have extended the insurance for the CC to include the woodland. An Annual Inspection will be required for H&S reasons and tree safety to the public.

Action to be taken: Sign 2 copies, one for CC and other for SBC. Find out how much it would cost for tree removal by getting 2 quotes. Find out cost of Annual Inspection.

Get Holding Number and apply for a felling license.

Noticeboard: The noticeboard at the bus stop is reportedly in a state of disrepair and would need replaced.

Action to be taken: Find out prices and report back to CC.

Broadband: An email has been sent to those who responded to the survey asking if their details could be given to BRISCONA to contact them. BRISCONA has the means to put access to Broadband into homes for those who have a poor connection speeds, each house will need surveyed however to check where the wireless signal can be beamed from. This like many companies may require a small set-up cost plus a monthly price plan.

Action to be taken: Get response from respondents.

AOB (Any Other Business): -

Scottish Power: A power disconnection is planned for Wednesday 20th January 2016 from 9am – 4.30pm this will enable the connection from the Penmansheil Wind Farm be carried out. Questions are asked into why this is taking place just now as there is no cabling completed over the A1 to join the completed cabling from the A6112 (Duns Road) to Grantshouse Village and this would surely entail the power being cut off again to complete this.

A couple of residents and a business owner have asked if provisions can be put in place to ensure there is heating and hot drinks, hot food for those who are heavily pregnant, elderly or infirm and have medical conditions.

Action to be taken: Contact local councillors for advice.

Contact the NHS for those who have medical concerns.

Contact Scottish Power into why power being cut off as connections are not complete.

Resilient Communities: It has been asked if it would be advantageous to enlist with Resilient Communities. It was pointed out that a few years ago the secretary tried to get the community to sign up and they would be the co-ordinator but it was felt by the community that they were self-sufficient already and didn't require further assistance. This is now being reconsidered after the heavy rain over the past 2 weeks which have almost flooded several local properties in the Village and the top section of Houndwood.

Signing up to RC would provide the community with sandbags and other items needed in the event of something like this happening again.

It was asked if it could be helped if ditches were dug out in farmland to help the water run a certain route? There are concerns that this would interfere when combining etc.

It was also suggested if a drain track could be put in at the turning circle to help the removal of excess buildup of water from properties?

Action to be taken: Contact SBC for more details on Resilient Communities.

Contact SBC about new drains and/or drainage routes. Get price for sand and sand bags for the community.

Volunteers: A meeting should be set up for those who have shown interest in helping in the community. This would enable everyone to find out where they would like to help.

Action to be taken: Contact residents who responded and organize a meeting.

New Age Curling: Equipment has been borrowed from Kelso to enable NAC for the Village Hall. It's good fun and worthwhile going along to have a go. A request has been put in for help towards hall hire for a period of 8 weeks to the CC but they have had to deny this. A request has been put to the Community Company in the meantime who have unanimously agreed to release £80 for the NAC to continue.

Action to be taken: Find out dates and times of events and relate back to community.

Contact Community Company for release of £80 for NAC.

Drone Hill Fund: Applications will be submitted by the Village Hall Committee. Also an application will be submitted for paint work on the Bridge at Houndwood Walkway.

The applications opened on January 1st 2016 and close on March 31st 2016 for an application form and guidelines go to the following www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/drone-hill/

Applications can be submitted from £250 up to £5000

Action to be taken: Obtain 2 quotes for works to be completed on bridge.

Obtain 2 quotes for computer/laptop and printer.

Obtain 2 quotes for Christmas tree lights, decorations and adapter.

Community Christmas Decorations: Can power supply points be put onto the street lighting to enable Christmas lights and decorations to be connected..

Action to be taken: Contact SBC for requests into power supply points then apply for funding from SBlocal grants.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th February 2016 at 7.30pm in Grantshouse Village Hall.