



Community Council
of the
Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Draft Minutes of the 297th Meeting of the Community Council which was held on Thursday 14 July 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was recorded for the purposes of Minuting and Reporting.

Present: L Turnbull, S Rae, A Snoddy, F Richardson, P Maudsley, M Bruce, S Hamilton, A Mackenzie, J Mitchell, O Olesheva, G Ramsay, S Watson, J Shearer, J.Crawley, Cllr Small, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Tatler, Cllr Begg

In attendance: H Scott, J Dalrymple and M Davey of the Peeblesshire News

Members of the Public: M.Haslam

Apologies for absence: L Hayworth, G Mackie, Cllr Thomson, Cllr Douglas, C Forsyth, G MacDonald

Presentation: By John Dalrymple, Building Convenor, Peebles Baptist Church.

J Dalrymple thanked the Community Council for the invitation and apologised for not being able to attend last time.

Peebles Baptist Church had a building in Greenside for around 100 years which was condemned in the late 1980s. It obtained land on the edge of Victoria Park and for a long time nothing was done. Currently it uses the Drill Hall for meetings and services. In the mid-2010s there was a feasibility study regarding the land at Victoria Park. Based on the study and funds the church decided to go ahead and construct a building for worship, which would also provide a community facility for the local community.

The Church proceeded to have ground works and foundations laid and the frame was erected in late 2019. The funds spent by then were around £500,000. It was planned to make it wind and weather tight. The roof had been purchased. Those plans have since have been scuppered by a range of things including Covid and Brexit. Cost of materials increased post-Brexit and Covid affected the fellowship, and the momentum was lost. The last estimate to make the structure wind and watertight was around £230,000, but they are £50,000 short. They do not have a solution at the moment but are taking action with fund raising efforts and are in discussions with other potential partners who may be able to join in with work and funding. As at tonight, however, there is no outcome, but they are keen to find a place for the church to meet and to provide the community with a facility for the town.

As to how long it might take, Mr Dalrymple could not answer that. He wished it had not taken so long but as things stand there was no solution.

The Chairman asked about the £50,000 shortfall and if that sum would go towards installing the roof? Mr Dalrymple confirmed it would go towards installing the roof and the walls but would not bring the building to completion. It would make it more sightly and less exposed to the elements.

The Chairman said that some of the local residents are little concerned about progress being slow. Could Mr Dalrymple add anything to provide some reassurance? Mr Dalrymple apologised that progress is so slow, this was never intended. They are actively trying to move it forward. They

have not given up or believe that this is the end, or plan to leave it as it is for ever. The lack of progress has been down to genuine setbacks. Mr Dalrymple said that he and the fellowship are open to suggestions as to how to improve the situation.

The Chairman said there were concerns around youngsters getting into site and damaging what is there, and themselves. Mr Dalrymple agreed. There have been some recent measures taken which have helped to some extent. Security has been installed and the fence strengthened. Some property has been damaged and this is unfortunate.

Cllr Tatler thanked Mr Dalrymple for the update, and complimented his group on how quick they responded to the young people getting in. He agreed that is a challenging issue. Cllr Tatler asked what the total amount is to completely finish the project? Mr Dalrymple said that at least another £250,000 beyond what is needed now. £230,000 needs to be spent now to secure the structure and then fitting it out and connecting up other services would be another £250,000. Mr Dalrymple pointed out that one thing they have learned is that estimates have rarely reflected the ultimate prices they have had to pay.

The Chairman then asked Mr Dalrymple if this means around another £500,000 to finish? Mr Dalrymple confirmed that was correct. They do have some funds, around £100,000 in their building fund. They have access to the Baptist Union of Scotland funding, who offer an interest free loan, but there is still a shortfall.

A Snoddy asked if the frame was deteriorating as it was exposed to the elements? Mr Dalrymple confirmed it was, and that the project manager would prefer that it was not exposed in the way that it is. As a result some remedial work will need to be undertaken but this would be minor work.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dalrymple and wished him luck with the project. Mr Dalrymple agreed to update the PCC at 3 or 4 month intervals.

Open Forum: No matters were raised.

Co-option: The Chairman proposed that Val Ferguson be co-opted onto the Community Council to lead the Peebles in Bloom project. The proposal was seconded by A Snoddy.

Approval of Minutes: A Snoddy raised a clarification received from Laura Scott, Secretary of Peebles Pensioners Association, as follows: "Thank you for the minutes. Whilst I wasn't there and I am sure that they are an accurate record of what was said, I would like to point out that the fact that the hall was dirty was the least of the problems at the Burgh Hall, as per my formal complaint. I also heard back from three of the recipients, the one from Live Borders came within a few hours on the same day it was sent, so it is not correct to say that a response was awaited".

Approval of the Minutes of 9 June 2022, as amended, proposed by S Hamilton and seconded by M Bruce.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Closure of the Post office on Glen Road. Cllr Pirone said she had not had much luck other than they are still looking for a replacement. She had chased again but there had been no response. Cllr Pirone suggested it might be a good idea if PCC did some work to find out what it is people want to see. Do they want the post office to be in a building, by mobile van, in a local community centre? PCC should obtain people's views and put them forward to the Post Office. Cllr Pirone welcomed any comments.

S Rae asked what suitable buildings there are? Victoria Park centre, the school? The Chairman cannot think of any. Perhaps we could ask the local journalists Mark Davey and Hilary

Scott to write an article about the closure of the post office in Glen Road, asking the public if they felt they still need one on this side of the river?

M Davey pointed out that he could write something, but it would still be up to his editor whether it would get published. He suggested he could put together a vox pop. Cllr Pirone said that would be helpful, although appreciates that would take time. Could the PCC ask the question on their FB page? S Rae said that could be done.

H Scott said M Davey's idea is good. H Scott can do a piece for her paper online which could then be shared by the PCC.

Bins on Tweed Green: A Snoddy, met with C Johnstone of SBC, who has placed an order for litter bins. He is not sure when they are arriving. C Johnstone spoke with C Blackie with regards to the larger bin proposal, however he was not involved in this discussion so he will investigate further. J Shearer had asked for a bin opposite 2B Tweed Green. At present he does not have the capacity to place a larger bin there. It's not a bin that is heavily used. A Snoddy asked J Shearer to take some photos next time it's overflowing and pass them to her.

Cyclist dismount sign : Still not replaced. SBC have been reminded. Cllr Tatler has also been in touch with Neil Pringle of SBC.

Peebles in Bloom. All blocks have been allocated to the Community Councillors. The Chairman reminded everyone to have their nominations in by 16 July.

Processing of prescriptions by Lloyds: Lloyds confirmed the problems were caused by the implementation of a new computer system. The Regional Manager was alerted to our concerns and is supporting the pharmacy team to ensure that an optimal level of service can be achieved once again. The processing of prescriptions is now 3 days behind, an improvement on the previous situation where they were 7 days behind. Things have improved in Lloyds although there are some concerns about Boots. Boots did not respond to the initial email and a chaser has been sent. It was noted that Boots were closed on Saturday with no apparent prior notice and at lunchtimes too. It would be good to know if this is long term or short term. We need a response. S Rae heard that Boots had also been closed on Monday too.

Cllr Begg said there was a problem with there being too few community pharmacists across Scotland.

Note: Most of Cllr Begg's comments were inaudible due to issues with his microphone connection. However, he emailed A Snoddy regarding the Electronic Prescription system and text as follows:

One thing that would help is an Electronic Prescription system. The EPS removes the need for a paper prescription and is much more sustainable at many levels. We continue to use a paper system in Scotland and issue approximately 106 million prescription items per annum (2019/20 data), this is an increase from 89 million prescriptions (2009/10 data). There are national shortages of trained pharmacists and GPs. Borders has not been as badly affected as elsewhere losing only one medical practice in the past year (Coldingham branch surgery). Many people including myself have been campaigning for over a decade for a more efficient process to dispense medications in Scotland to help GPs and pharmacists serve people more effectively. This is not within the sphere of influence of Peebles CC or SBC though so wise to include Christine Grahame, MSP.

A Snoddy had already sent an email to C Grahame and had a prompt response from her secretary. A Snoddy since confirmed with the secretary that Lloyds had been in touch and all was okay. A Snoddy will return to C Grahame.

The Chairman pointed out that the pharmacies are not working effectively, and we do need them open. Any other issues, please keep us in loop.

War Memorial: We wrote to Sir Hew Strachan suggesting that one way to mark the centenary would be to rededicate the war memorial at a separate service or a short service prior to the Remembrance Day service in November. We have had a response from Sir Hew, and he wants to speak to the Chairman to discuss other options that have come up. The Chairman will update at the next meeting.

Parents Group: H Young not in attendance. A Snoddy had noticed the new 20 miles per hour signs are now up, but not the pencil bollards yet.

The Chairman asked about the sewage spill in the car park adjacent to Kingsland School. A Snoddy confirmed that P Gilhooley is dealing with this.

Police Report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. M Bruce confirmed the multi ward report has still not been issued, so the system of a regular formal report seems to have fallen into disuse. M Bruce suggested that he speak to the new Cllrs regarding consulting with police colleagues to get back to some sort of formal liaison. Once the meetings are back in person the local community officers are keen to come in person. The problem now is that they do MS teams we do Zoom. M Bruce asked if Cllr Tatler is still taking lead? Cllr Tatler confirmed he was not.

Cllr Pirone is now the Chair of the Police and Fire Scrutiny Board and she has raised the issue of the reports with the Chief Inspector. She had mentioned to the Chairman that he should invite Ch Insp Fisher to the meeting. A discussion with the rural crime and divisional officer might be constructive as she is keen to help. Another thing that had arisen is how to report crime if you cannot get through on 101. That should change on the next report. There is a new CAT team leader, Sgt Harrison, and it might be useful for him to come to a meeting. Cllr Pirone has raised the reporting and asked that she be included in all issues raised so she can report back to the Community Council.

M Bruce considered the system before to be a waste of police resources and as local representatives we should not waste those resources. The two meetings essentially discuss the same thing. The reason for two meetings is that there is an issue of confidentiality. M Bruce said he had no issue signing something for Police Scotland that would allow him to sit in as a Community Councillor representative. This would help get back to some sort of dialogue with local officers. It's the sergeants and constables in Peebles that help with problems and achieve outcomes that are acceptable.

Cllr Begg said in the name of efficiency and reporting that 999 and 101 can be used, but crimes can also be reported on the website. Some constituents do not want to use 101, but there remains confusion about the 'contact us' page on the Police Scotland website. He wonders if one of our communications, either to our local officers or to Police Scotland, could contain a link so we can confirm what people should do for lower level reporting.

M Bruce said that J Graham had already re-circulated information around the 101 reporting and the online links. Cllr Pirone agreed it should be made clear and M Bruce said he would put the links, as well as the email address, on his next report. Cllr Tatler pointed out to M Bruce that the meetings held previously with Police Scotland were discussing Tweeddale-wide issues, not just Peebles, but it should be possible for M Bruce to join the meeting for just the part relevant to Peebles.

The Chairman asked about the anti-social behaviour initiatives. M Bruce had addressed this in his written report. Essentially moving along from high school meeting, they are in the process of

forming what will be a steering group with representatives from local churches and youth organisations. That's the direction of travel, which as yet has not got far. The contact the Chairman has made with the church community has proved to be helpful and brings some very welcome expertise in this area and we are looking forward to providing solutions. M Bruce had suggested some form of a shelter and composting toilet for a couple of sites. He'd pulled together a cost estimate and asked the Cllrs if they thought it a good idea? He has links to his research if they would like them.

The Chairman said our link with the churches in Peebles has been in touch with SBC which is useful. There are potential sources of funding and a steering group is needed to take it forward. The high school has a volunteers fair in mid-September to encourage students to come along to see what's on offer from organisations around the town. We may be able to recruit students to our steering group. The street pastor project is still a possibility and our contact is talking to the Galashiels pastors with a view to encouraging local churches to start the project in Peebles. It will take time. This is all very positive.

Cllr Tatler agrees this is a good idea (places for young people) and a discussion had been had some months back. The location is important, but he is not convinced Victoria Park is the best one. Young people are looking for places to meet later in the evening and Cllr Tatler had approached Costa to see if they would consider opening a little later on Friday and Saturday evenings on an experimental basis.

Cllr Pirone agrees with Cllr Tatler although she does not think a wooden shelter is a good plan because of the risk of fire. She agrees the location is important and suggested that we could get one of the shipping containers that the council owns as they are very secure. She is happy to speak to Cllr Tatler and M Bruce, and believes the young people should be included in any discussions. The Chairman agreed, saying we have to have the young people onboard.

S Watson said he was all for engagement with young people and steering them in the right direction. However a few will not be steered and will go their own path. There have been two major fires recently, the cost of which is still unknown for the pool. On top of that the Beltane Committee had employed security to guard their vehicles at a significant cost. He believes something needs to be done to deal with those who will not toe the line before there's a death. The Chairman agreed and said that the small minority deserved to feel the full force of the law. S Rae said the Highland Games were in same position regarding employing security, which is costing a lot of money. In respect of a meeting place for young people: what about the Pavilion on Tweed Green, it is fireproof and probably bomb proof and it's more central, although it may mean more disruption to locals.

Cllr Pirone said that with the fire raising, it was the same people, and there had been arrests. Police Scotland have been quick to take action and she hopes there will be no more incidents.

M Bruce pointed out that all of the work we have been doing is for 95% of good kids who just want to have fun. Unfortunately, there are a few who take it too far. The latest trend is upending bottles into grassed areas and then smashing them. This has to potential danger for, eg. the rugby players in Haylodge who could fall onto lethal glass shards. This has generated lots of chat online. M Bruce would like to pay tribute to the SBC operatives, including Andrew Dodds and George Forrest. They spend their entire day tidying up after the thugs. A Dodds posts photos online which is useful, and he puts bin bags out for the kids to use, which they don't, but he's trying.

H Scott also commended the council workers and said the PCC is doing an excellent job for the young people. She believes 95% young people would like a shelter, etc. The other 5% do not matter as whatever we do they are intent on destroying it. She is gravely concerned about the smashed bottles in pitches and parks, it is very dangerous. Shards in the ground for those playing sport could prove lethal.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman had a successful meeting in the morning with S Rae, P Maudsley, A Snoddy and the five SBC Cllrs on how to improve communication, etc between the Community Councillors and the SBC Cllrs. It was agreed to try and have one of these meetings 3 times a year to oil the wheels of communication. By keeping a conversation going there was better chance of not making mistakes. It was also agreed to have a meeting with the Cllrs, as trustees of the Chambers Institution Trust, with legal representative to go through the legal position and move the process forward. There is a new group being formed entitled the Chambers Institution Beneficiary Group. It is a user group, and this user group will influence the direction the trustees take about the management of the trust. This does not mean that PCC do not want to see representation on the CIT but in the meantime will work on the beneficiaries group. Also what would be helpful is if we had a list of all the SBC officers who can help to do things around the town, including roads, parks, litter, etc. rather than referring everything to the Cllrs. Once we have a list, we can encourage all the Community Councillors to go online and do it themselves. One example is the FIX MY ROAD app to report things to do with roads. A Snoddy can provide details for those who want to report things directly.

The Chairman attended the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting on 27 June which was not well attended. There was a presentation about the work of the council services at Eshiels. A consultation is starting soon. There is a subcommittee within the Tweeddale Area Partnership that assesses applications for community funding and there is a vacancy on this subcommittee. It would be good to have a PCC member on this subcommittee. Please think about whether you would be interested in helping as it would be beneficial. The meetings would consist of going online once a month to go through applications.

Finally, the Chairman mentioned the fire at the swimming pool. There were two aspects that caused grave concern. First was the attendance of fire service at the fire because no Peebles appliances turned out. The information received was that this was because there were no managers available to help man the appliances. The Chairman considered this worrying as it meant Peebles was lacking sufficient fire cover if what he has been told is correct. The Chairman has written to the Chief Fire Officer of Scotland expressing concern and asking for reassurance. The response was lacking in detail. The Chairman wrote again asking for clarification and reassurance and was reassured in the letter that the fire service does take measures to ensure full fire cover. The Chairman must take their word for it. The SFS response did indicate that the recruitment of fire fighters in rural areas and in Peebles is difficult and there is a shortage of staff. They are desperate to recruit more. The Chairman did invite the fire service to send someone along if they so wished to explain the difficulties they have in Peebles, in respect of resourcing and fire raising. The response was that they are waiting for the officer concerned to get back from leave and he will attend a meeting. The Chairman also expressed a desire for PCC to help with the recruitment process if they can. The PCC can help publicise issues and encourage people to consider it.

SBC Cllr Reports

J Pirone: It is recess at the council, but it's been a busy month. She's been dealing with funding for businesses and speeding issues. The local festivals have been good and it's nice to be out and about. She's still finding her feet and trying to change things. Community conversations have been happening. Issues with parking have been coming up and reports are being done for resurfacing and to fix pavements.

Cllr Tatler: In respect of the fire at the pool we should thank fire service for their response. It is important. They work hard and these types of incidents put lives at risk. H Scott thanked Cllr Tatler for his acknowledgment.

In respect of the Peebles Accessible Paths group. Allan Mackenzie is the PCC representative and the next meeting is in September. The projects are moving along nicely. Good group including Destination Tweed, Sustrans and the council are involved, the Callants and the Community Trust, and other organisations too.

During the last 18 months a group has been working on sports facilities in Peebles, in particular Whitestone Park. The next stage is to get a feasibility study done for which the Common Good granted some funding. Cllr Tatler reminded the PCC about Boots' wall and putting mural panels up on that wall and plaques for former and current residents. There is a need for PCC, the Trust or any other organisation in the town to take this forward as the council will not do it. We have had a letter from Boots and the Landlord has agreed. Cllr Tatler read the letter to the Committee. A Snoddy asked Cllr Tatler to send her a copy of the letter. This needs to be taken forward by a group. Cllr Tatler can support the group but it is a community project. Please let him know if this will be dealt with by the PCC or the Community Trust. Boots are not the landlord, they are the tenant.

The Chairman pointed out that the ground in the courtyard is uneven. Cllr Tatler said the courtyard is owned by RBS. The bank manager is trying to get the bank to do something. It would be a lovely place to sit, as it is a nice courtyard.

The Chairman agreed its potential and the suggestion for PCC to take it forward. The Chairman made a call for volunteers. This does not need to be only Community Councillors; any members of Peebles town could be considered. Cllr Tatler said it should be straightforward, we would already know tradesmen that could do it. It would take some documentation and approval to be done first.

P Maudsley pointed out the mural panels should stay put until the development is started.

Cllr Small: His report is about Stagecoach's decision to withdraw the route between Dumfries and Edinburgh. Cllr Begg is leading on this but all Cllrs are working hard to find a solution and don't have long to find it. The service stops on 14 August. There are over 10,000 names on a petition. This is a big issue, and people need to be able to get into Edinburgh.

The Chairman acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and wished them luck.

Cllr Begg is hopeful of an interim holding measure to keep the buses running, and a longer-term solution involving all the community councils across Tweeddale. Public transport needs to be attractive. Post pandemic people want to live a different way, including reducing car use. These bus routes are lifelines to small communities. This has been a good example of people, Cllrs and communities coming together. MSPs are also involved.

Cllr Begg has also found it positive recently getting out to the festivals and seeing Peebles come to life again, and it was joyous to see people enjoying themselves in person.

His other role involves work in the Sustainable Development Committee which should run through all activities. He has been meeting with various folk to look at reuse and recycling. It is important to improve the accuracy of recycling. More work needs to be done to understand several types of plastic. We do well here, but we can do better.

Planning is going well for new school, although it has not brought all sporting resource we'd hoped for, but we need to get building.

J Shearer asked what is the reason the bus is being cancelled? Cllr Begg: the existing contract of around £280,000 is a subsidy across three councils. The tender was put out to contractors and only one contractor came forward and wanted an 80% uplift, so did not get the agreement as it was too much of a gap. Two other council areas were approached for a contribution and that has not been forthcoming. It's complex as it covers over 5 council areas. He hopes to have good news next time.

Treasurer's report. This was circulated prior to the meeting. There is nothing significant to report.

Planning Report: this was circulated prior to the meeting. P Maudsley said that his report had not dealt with two items. The issue of the two vending machines attached to a tourist information sign. He queried this with (SBC) enforcement and noted the machines are being moved to separate securing points. He will follow up.

Next, the space occupied by seating outside The County Inn. He'd had an exchange of emails with J Henderson of SBC Technical Services and read out the email setting out their policy. There is no policy as such but conditions requiring adequate foot way. The County Inn put in the request every year and no one has made a complaint, so the request is always granted. From P Maudsley's perspective, there is adequate foot way.

Regarding Victoria Park steps, there had been disagreement with P Maudsley's report and the Chair of the Common Good. P Maudsley has not documented all contacts made to him and it is the same with the Cllr Tatler. What's done is done and we should move on. Cllr Tatler agreed, however he said a year ago when the steps were first closed and the engineer did his report, Cllr Tatler reported back to the PCC that the steps could not be repaired. They would have to be dismantled and replaced and the cost would be considerably more than the ramp that would be put there. The Tweeddale Access Panel are hugely appreciative of the new ramp P Maudsley accepts what Cllr Tatler said, but still thinks it a waste of money.

Planning applications. P Maudsley suggested we do not object to the holiday pods at the Park Hotel. We did object to first application, and they moved them back. Everyone was happy with that.

With regard to Peebles High School. On first reading P Maudsley was quite happy until he saw the article written in Peeblesshire News, and would like to hear what Cllrs Tatler and Begg have to say. Should we endorse the concerns? The letter said the 400m track would be on bumpy, uneven ground.

Cllr Tatler deferred to Cllr Begg but first said that previous Cllrs insisted from start said that the sports facilities should be at least as good as what they were and were done first. The 3G pitch and athletic facilities are going to be the first part of the development. However it is recognised those who pursue athletics have not got everything they want.

Cllr Begg dropped off the call due to technical issues.

P Maudsley said he had put out a report about the Chambers Institute have put in a report to help everyone going forward. Was the committee willing to endorse his view? It agreed it was.

Peebles Community Trust. M Bruce said that PCT no longer hold a Community Right to Buy order in respect of March Street Mills. Moorbook Textiles can go ahead and market the site now. There's nothing we can do about it unfortunately.

We hope to see changes soon on the façade of School Brae Hub and this is an important milestone in the transformation into what we want it to be.

The Chairman said it was important to say that the removal of the PCT's Right to Buy from the register is based on a narrow legal point. No reflection at all on standard of application by the PCT.

A Snoddy asked for an update on the railway building? M Bruce said this is stagnant. The group who are trying to push forward are planning to meet soon and had hoped to get funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund but that has not happened. There is only £7,500 in the bank raised from the community fund and a Just Giving appeal. The £3m package of funding that the Destination Tweed group received may present some sort of an opportunity to allow us to work with

them and find a way to integrate the building in its heritage state from the funds for the long-distance Tweed path, but this is yet to be explored.

P Maudsley: since March Street Mill may be marketed by the owners it will become a planning issue again. It may be worth casting back on the history: the owners did not want to pay the full amount of support payments, they thought that would make any development uneconomical, secondly they wanted to move the allotments to another site. SBC agreed with the objections on these points and turned down approval. This then went to the Scottish Government who upheld SBC which took us to the current position. It will become a planning issue again in the future and we should keep an eye on it.

M Bruce said we are well aware of the site owner's position, and we are also aware of the PCT's position. One way forward might be a meeting of minds between us and the site owners to discuss what everyone hopes to see. E.g ringfence allotments. We are all now free to discuss those things now without prejudicing any other processes.

AOB

Puffin crossing: The Chairman confirmed that the construction of the puffin crossing at Eastgate starts next week. This is disappointing because of previous arguments, but it's going ahead.

S Rae wanted to expand on this. One of the things that arose from meeting with Cllrs earlier was the need to provide evidence for them. If the public have issues, they should raise it with the PCC, the Cllrs or SBC. The public need to check planning applications and if they have an issue they need to raise it, and should not sit back and assume someone else will complain. S Rae wanted to make it clear that when it comes round to community participation, if you do nothing, nothing will change.

The Chairman thanked S Rae for the reminder of the crucial point of evidence. Evidence used by SBC to support the crossing was challenged by us and our views would appear not to have been considered. But the central point - that people become involved in making their views known - is very important.

A Snoddy asked about the hump behind the hospital. Is that what the paths group is looking at? Cllr Tatler confirmed it was. It was a priority. The timescale is a couple of years.

P Maudley notes Cllr Begg is back on the call. He has concerns about the 400m track. Can Cllr Begg give him reassurance? Cllr Begg said not at the moment. There are big issues with the grass. We don't have a proper 400m track in Peebles, like other towns. They are still looking at how to solve this. P Maudsley asked if the PCC can back up the letter published in the newspaper, and express concern? Cllr Begg said yes, that is reasonable. We have expert athletics coaches in Peebles and a substantial number who enjoy athletics in Peebles. Let us keep trying whilst not delaying the build of the school. P Maudsley will draft something on behalf of the committee.

The Chairman pointed out that A Snoddy went to a 'Community Conversation' event in West Linton. There is another one in Innerleithen on 11 August and it is open to anyone to go. A Snoddy said it was a worthwhile gathering with a opportunity to raise concerns. It was a great initiative.

Bonnie Peebles Plus has asked the Chairman to raise the issue of a grant from the Peebles Parking Fund. The grant was awarded at beginning of year. However, although bank details have been exchanged, no money has been received. Cllr Tatler will chase the finance department again.

Round the table.

M Bruce, in response to the discussion about the 400m track, said he attended PHS when the pitch was acquired. SBC did no more than stick posts in the ground, fence it and mow it. In 50 years it has received zero attention. If a 400m track is going to be laid out can we not at least get someone to plough and seed it?

Also, regarding PHS planning approval. Part of the plans for the site state that the old Victorian part of the school is to be retained for community use. He has not seen anything to flesh that out. We need to get on this bandwagon and start to find out what use they have planned for the building and influence the direction. What about community ownership? Perhaps it should not remain as part of SBC asset structure. We're skilled at bringing these buildings into community ownership. Time is short. Cllr Begg agreed. The meetings keep saying it is to be decided, but it is important. Cllr Tatler said that it is important for it to be put in the place planning process. Cllr Begg and M Bruce will talk about it.

J Crawley had an enquiry from a young person asking for the minimum age to join the community council. Cllr Tatler confirmed it is 16. They should fill out a form, from A Snoddy, and submit it. The person should be advised to contact the Chairman to discuss.

A Mackenzie. The Callants have been approached and asked to build a wall round a plaque somewhere on Tweed Green for the witches' memorial. The Chairman confirmed the location is yet to be decided. The group need to liaise with the Common Good Trustees and the PCC, and once a position has been agreed the Callants can make arrangements for any building work. M Bruce said Elise had contacted him and he would speak to the Callants.

J Shearer: Her brother recently visited and noted there was no up-to-date bus timetable at the post office. The Chairman advised J Shearer to contact Borders Buses and ask them to put one up. Secondly, J Shearer had been approached by a neighbour who has a disabled neighbour in Dalatho Crescent. This person regularly goes to Tesco's but is finding it difficult on some of the pavements as there is no access at the end of some of the pavements. Also, at Tesco's the entrance at the loading part often has vehicles in the way. They need a sign to say no parking. S Rae, agreed. Cllr Begg asked for the details to be sent to him as he has another pavement issue he's dealing with.

G Ramsay, what has happened to the Peebles parking group that existed before the election? Cllr Tatler has continued working on that and there is another meeting in the Autumn.

S Rae had in the past raised the state of foot paths between Dovecot and Tesco's and the rest of Peebles. Those were resurfaced in the spring, and they are much better, so thanks for that.

The Chairman wanted to build on Julie's point. Some of the footpaths are bad around town. Is there any way we could have SBC officers survey most of the paths with a view to fixing them and putting dropped kerbs in? Cllr Tatler confirmed they are already doing just that. Also the access panel did a survey and identified all areas needing that type of the work and this work may already be in the programme of repairs. Perhaps we could invite Neil Pringle to come to a meeting and explain the programme of repairs. The Chairman confirmed this would be useful.

The Chairman confirmed there would be a break for summer and the next meeting would be in September. It is likely to be a hybrid of online and in person, depending on the Covid risk. S Rae has bought audio/recording equipment to trial before the next meeting.

The Chairman wished everyone a pleasant summer.

The meeting finished at 2101hrs. The next meeting will be at 7pm on 8 September 2022. It may be online, in person or a hybrid meeting.