



*Community Council*  
*of the*  
*Royal Burgh of Peebles and District*

**Minutes of the 305th Meeting of the Community Council which was held on Thursday 13 April 2023 at 7pm in the Peebles Community Centre, Walkershaugh. The meeting was recorded for the purposes of Minuting and Reporting.**

**Present:** A Mackenzie, A Snoddy (Secretary), F Richardson, G MacDonald, G Mackie (Vice Chairman and Treasurer), G Ramsay, J Crawley, J Shearer, J Wilson, M Bruce, P Maudsley (Chairman), S Coe, S Watson, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Small, Cllr Tatler

**In attendance:** M Davey of the Peeblesshire News

**Members of the Public:** F Dalgleish, G Finch, H Marshall, M Marshall, L Morrison, S Ritchie, L Turnbull, D Turnbull, A Winnubst, J Wilton

**Apologies:** C Forsyth, H Young, S Hamilton, Cllr Begg, Cllr Douglas

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of minute taking and reporting.

**Presentation**

Neil Dalgleish was in attendance to talk to the PCC about the Tweedlove Festival. N Dalgleish had already tabled a paper which had been circulated in advance to all the community councillors.

N Dalgleish thanked the PCC for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. There were two things to discuss, firstly what's planned for Tweedlove. Usually, the festival is in September but this year it had been brought forward to April because of the Cycling World Championships. Secondly, he wanted to provide an opportunity for everyone to ask questions about Tweedlove and discuss it more broadly.

The festival was running from 28th to 30th April on Tweed Green. There are 1700 people signed up to different events over the weekend, however he would expect maybe 3500 people to attend over weekend. There are 70 different cycling brands, and it is great to have them back, and some new ones, which demonstrates how important Peebles is in the Tweed Valley to the cycling world. Some of the biggest cycling brands are coming. In addition, there are 50 stalls and around a half dozen catering units. N Dalgleish went through the main features of the weekend itinerary. Friday starts off with a free outdoor cinema performance which is open to everyone.

Saturday is the start of the practice of the YT Industries Tweedlove International Enduro race, which is the biggest race in the UK this year. This is attracting a lot of racers including some of the biggest names in pro racing for this type of race. There are demos, meaning people can come and try new bikes. N Dalgleish invited, and encouraged, everyone to come and try one. There will be e-bikes and e-cargo bikes. There will be a gravel adventure ride which is 80km around the hills and there's an entry level race for less experience riders. The kids' zone will be open all day together with other family activities. They are working with UCI to help promote the world cycling championships. The main reason the government is funding the cycling championships is to try and change the status to make us more of a cycling nation and they will be hosting an event called Take Back

the Street. N Dagleish invited everyone to get a bicycle, come along, and join in. Later in the day there is another free outdoor cinema event to which everyone is again welcome.

Sunday is the big race day, International Enduro, and lasts all day. All the kids' stuff, the bar and food will be happening all weekend. There is the Frog bikes family day in the afternoon, and this is the biggest kids' event in the UK. The finish is 7pm on Sunday.

There are not many temporary road closures, the main one being a short road closure for the Take Back the Street event. There are some car parking restrictions, and permits have been delivered. Car parking is often a problem but there is extra signage and measures in place to assist. No town centre parking is what has been communicated to visitors.

There is a new a local traders association that has been set up for Peebles. N Dagleish has set up a new page on his website called Love Local and is inviting all the local traders to share their information for that webpage so that his viewers and customers will be able to access that local information. Anecdotally, over the years, he has heard that the visitors spend time in the local shops, and he wants to make sure he can get many local businesses to provide their information. He will also be emailing the information to the 15,000 email addresses he holds. He has also invited local traders to take a free space at the festival and will do his best to accommodate that.

N Dagleish confirmed if anyone wants further information, he is happy to provide it and asked for any questions.

The Chair thanked N Dagleish for his presentation and went on to point out that everyone was aware there has been concern from N Dagleish around the potential for charging by the Common Good. This subject had been debated by the PCC for around 3.5 years, and the reason for that had been because the Common Good Committee had not discussed the issue of charging for Tweed Green for a period of at least 5 years and the PCC considered that it should have been. In 2015 when Tweedlove received a grant of £10,000 from the Common Good. All the PCC had asked were two things. Firstly, to review the use of Tweed Green. The PCC had pointed out, on more than one occasion, that the PCC weren't prejudging it, it was down to the Common Good to debate the subject and come up with a rational decision. The second thing asked was why it had been said that there was a £1m a year return for Peebles resulting from the events. Those were the only two things raised by the PCC. We know now that the present Common Good Committee and SBC are looking into the charging rationale, not only for Peebles but across the Scottish Borders. Other issues have apparently arisen, but those issues have not been raised by the PCC. The Chair then asked if anyone had any questions.

L Turnbull had a question around the economic impact and benefit to the town. He knows that N Dagleish has talked about the Economic Impact Assessment, and L Turnbull has had a look at it together with the guidance, which is clear that, when completing these forms, the information has to be accurate. It also says that if you are going to use the form you must do a survey to assess the number of people attending, and amount of money they are spending. Had Mr Dagleish done such a survey? The PCC has asked this question over several years, and they had never received an answer. Can you provide figures that will provide assurance that the economic impact is as beneficial as suggested? As, speaking to local people, many are saying it is not.

N Dagleish asked who had quoted the benefit figures to PCC? L Turnbull said it was the SBC councillors, but pointed out that Cllr Pirone was not a Councillor at the time, and it was her predecessors who never produced the evidence requested.

N Dagleish said in future please just ask him directly if there are any questions, he is very happy to provide any information. The Chair said that the Common Good Committee manage the Common Good for Peebles and it

was the chairman of the Common Good Committee who constantly told the PCC that there was a £1m benefit to community, so it is he who was stating it. Therefore, it was he who was invited to answer the question.

N Dalglish said he would explain how it works. Every year they send surveys to their customers. They have all the email addresses of those who have taken part. They have additionally arranged face to face surveys at the festival. This has not been done every year, but it is done regularly. They have clicked in and out those attending, and they have done basic, but reasonably reliable estimates on numbers. They can also tell by the number of people who have appeared at events and bought tickets. There is motive to do surveys as this may lead to funding. They cannot get any funding from Event Scotland or SBC unless they can provide reliable data. He puts all that information into the event impact calculator, which is a Scottish government preferred device and is what they are told they must use, and it gives them the estimated benefit figures.

The Chair said the device used is basic. It's basically an Excel spreadsheet with set up of sections; one for competitors, one for spectators and another section for leakage. Basically, the latter is for where money is being spent but with companies not domiciled in region.

N Dalglish said it may be basic, however he cannot comment on Scottish Government devices. It is a lot of work for them to get the all the information from the public. One of the issues being that the Government requires them to ask so many questions. N Dalglish tries to make it as compact as possible so that people are not put off. The Chair asked N Dalglish if he would be willing to share that data with him? N Dalglish said yes, that would be fine.

G Mackie said the questions the PCC has been asking over the past few years have not been about Tweedlove specifically, but for everyone who uses Tweed Green. The PCC is not for, nor against, anything but has simply been trying to find out what the policy is, and to try and ensure there is a consistent policy and that everyone is being treated fairly. The calculation of the benefit to the town is clearly an estimate, but there is clearly a benefit. He does not believe we should get bogged down in the precise calculation. G Mackie said he would also like to commend N Dalglish for all the work. A phenomenal amount of work and administration must go into it.

N Dalglish thanked G Mackie and said there cannot be any doubt about how much good it does and how much economic benefit there is. Around the world people create events and most of the time they must pay for these events to come to the towns. We are lucky here where we have a team of people who are enthusiastic about cycling and willing to put this stuff on. There is no doubt about how many people come here and how much they spend and how much the reputation of the place has been enhanced by it. The Chair agreed that there is no doubt it is a phenomenal event and absolutely it should be supported. The Chair had a couple of questions about the figures that N Dalglish had sent over. 2014 was Tweedlove's biggest year, and the figure given is £1.7 million, involving roughly 2000 competitors and around 2000 extra visitors.

N Dalglish said he could not recall the exact figures, but he knows that was the first year that they did the Enduro World Series in Innerleithen, so that brought a lot of visitors, pro teams and media. He said that if we were to look at the EWS figures for Innerleithen now they would be much higher. The Chair said it seemed a high figure as £2m (in today's terms) divided by 4000 would be roughly speaking around £500 per head. N Dalglish said that there is quite an entourage that comes with these athletes, and they will often stay for around 10 days.

S Coe said he wanted to echo what G Mackie had said, and to commend N Dalglish for the tremendous effort putting on the festival, and thanked N Dalglish for the paper he had provided. He appreciated the scale of what he does, and it is impressive. To consider the other side, which is the commercial operation, N Dalglish's company has done well year on year, and obviously there is a huge benefit to the community, but it is a business. Why couldn't a contribution to the Common Good fund be made? N Dalglish said, he is not saying he cannot.

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S Coe said the event is creating a community benefit to some the local shopkeepers, but that does not extend to every person in the town, and he believes if there is capacity to help the Common Good fund a contribution should be made.

N Dagleish said they are not against that, if that's the rule. What he objected to was the lack of recognition of the work that has been put in by local people to do something good to promote to the local area. They have felt like they had been treated like a visiting commercial exploitative organisation. They don't make a lot of money but do it because they love it, the whole thing was set up out of love, that is why it is called Tweedlove. In principle, if that was the rule, it's fair enough. But for a Common Good policy to make sense, it needs to reflect what is in the Common Good. He had met a guy from Austria who does something similar, and the different towns all bid for him to bring his event to their towns. N Dagleish wanted to make the point that what he does is a real benefit. It brings a lot of people and a lot of good reputation. If you look at the difference from 15 years ago, they have played a part in that. If there is a Common Good policy, that is fine, they will pay but it should be recognised that the Common Good should encouraged and not discouraged.

J Wilson said she appreciated everything that Tweedlove did and had done for several years. She asked N Dagleish if he had been consulted by the World Championship group, as he clearly has a wealth of experience. She and others had attended a briefing from the organisers and believes he should have been consulted. The other question is, given that there are issues with young people and behaviour, what is being put in place around the policing of the event and how much support is being given from outside agencies?

N Dagleish confirmed the organisers have not consulted with them. Their event has caused difficulties for them because they have had to bring Tweedlove forward in the year, and there are many things that cannot be done which is disappointing. He thinks it's crazy they've not been consulted. On youth behaviour, it is disappointing to see it getting worse. They are going through the Safety Advisory Group process and have had a reasonable number of conversations with Police Scotland in getting their help at the festival and they have allocated some officers, but it's been hard to get exact numbers. They have not been dealing with outside agencies.

L Turnbull said he wanted to come back on the point that N Dagleish felt his company was being castigated. It had to be made clear that no one had castigated his company. The view of the community council was that, historically, the funfair gets charged for the use of Common Good land. A coffee vendor, who is a very small company, is being charged for the use of Common Good land. There are multiple tenants in Common Good properties all around the town paying rent for the use of Common Good facilities and what the PCC had been trying to do was to seek fairness for all organisations. The conversations have been about the lack of management by the Common Good Trustees. The good that has come from this is that it is now it is being brought to everyone's attention. SBC are looking at the issues. L Turnbull agreed with S Coe's point about the commercial organisation contributing to the Common Good Fund and that it was not unreasonable.

F Dagleish asked if Tweedlove were to pay to use Tweed Green, should they take away the free cinema that benefits over 300 children on the Friday and Saturday nights? S Watson said that was their choice. F Dagleish said that would mean that all the benefits they now give the community for free would have to be charged for. Presently they bear all the costs. As for rent, no one has ever asked Tweedlove to pay any rent. The Chair said that regarding the payment of rental, it is unlikely to be thousands of pounds, more like a few hundred pounds, which takes us back to the £10,000 grant Tweedlove received from the Common Good Fund and that it seems only reasonable that they should make a contribution.

N Dagleish wanted to explain what the £10,000 was spent on. The Chair said he had read the documentation N Dagleish had forwarded setting out where the money had gone, it stated it had been spent on insurance, first aid and marshalling. N Dagleish said that the reality was that it had been used to pay for the fee for EWS to

come here. The Chair queried this, referring to the grant application and N Dalgleish reconfirmed how the money had been spent. Out of the funding, there had been a huge chunk used for paying fees and then they had to try and recoup what they could to make the event happen. The Chair said that N Dalgleish was now running a successful business. N Dalgleish pointed out that the business does not pay anyone a large salary, everyone is paid way below the average salary. There is a reason there are no big commercial mountain bike event organisers and it is because it does not make money. He does not know from one year to the next whether they will make money or lose it.

F Dalgleish said that there are 300 volunteers who live in Peebles who help for free every year and said, if you want to make a stand for Tweedlove remember that a lot of your constituents are big Tweedlove fans. The Chair said this whole debate has arisen after one meeting of the Common Good, and that meeting was solely looking at the management of the Common Good - and nothing else.

J Shearer said she did not think that Tweedlove should pay rent. She asked if N Dalgleish had tried contacting the UCI to offer his assistance? N Dalgleish said he was just trying to survive the year, and no he didn't contact the UCI.

G Macdonald said she thinks Tweedlove is brilliant, and it's been a pleasure and with pride that she has watched it grow. Did N Dalgleish know how many people returned to Peebles after the event? N Dalgleish said it was around 80%.

A Mackenzie told N Dalgleish he was amazing bringing this event to Peebles. It is special and he would hate to see him go. He agreed with J Shearer, if it's not broken, don't fix it. Tweed Green should be free to everyone. A Mackenzie asked if the torchlight procession that they have organised in the past donates to MS and other charities? N Dalgleish confirmed that was correct.

**Open Forum:** D Turnbull said that he agrees that these events should continue to come back, but there are other aspects to this. Biking is a pastime, but biking is wrecking other pastimes like horse-riding. He cannot find anywhere to ride a horse, because of bikes.

G Finch wanted to mention walking. He said that it was difficult to feel safe walking, as bikes are flying along the paths.

The Chair said these were too wide a subject to discuss this evening.

S Watson said that the last time the event was here there were issues with wild camping and behaviour. SBC needs to address that. G Finch agreed, saying Kingsmeadow car park was full of campervans. They stay overnight and there is no overnight parking allowed. People leave because they can't park. The Chair said that what is needed is a wider debate on the whole subject, as the points being raised are reasonable, but that is not something the PCC can run, it is for SBC.

J Wilson said she does not disagree with the Chair and Mr Turnbull, but Peebles is changing due to the popularity of cycling in general. The Chair said all the points are reasonable and it is a debate the community needs to have as part of the placemaking. It is a large subject. J Wilson said that is why we need a loud voice on the placemaking committee. G Finch asked whether the event should go to the field where the agricultural show is held? They would have direct access to Glentress. The Chair said this was raised at the Common Good before.

**Approval of last month's Minutes:** S Watson proposed, and S Coe seconded.

**Matters arising from Minutes:**

**Coronation Celebration:** The Secretary confirmed that 51 tickets had been allocated and there was a waiting list. The ceremony is scheduled for 11am and it has been suggested to the guests that they should arrive between 10am and 10.15am.

The Chair pointed out that there has been a certain amount of controversy surrounding this event. Going back to the Queen's Jubilee there was a debate around whether to arrange an event and it was decided they didn't have the wherewithal to do that. Subsequently the PCC received criticism for not doing anything. So, this time it was decided the PCC should do something, and it was agreed to go ahead with an event at the Eastgate theatre, predominantly to bring in people who might otherwise be alone. There was now a successful event organised.

**Litter Pick:** G Ramsay confirmed it had been a successful litter pick. The PCC and others had collected 45 waste bags for the trailer, and several other bags were collected along the routes. 23 people attended and G Ramsay thanked all those who assisted. The Secretary will arrange for the photos to go on Facebook.

**Murals:** Is the Community Justice Team going to remove the murals from Tweedbridge Court and put them up on Boots' back wall? Cllr Pirone has asked them to add it to their list of works.

**Gypsy Glen Hill Race.** This is happening on 10 May. Cllr Tatler is looking for volunteers and will send an email out to everyone.

**Walking Festival:** Tweeddale Ramblers are unable to host this, so it's been handed back to SBC.

**PCC Elections.** No new nominations. G Mackie, S Coe and J Mitchell can commence. J Mitchell often cannot attend the meetings but is very active and involved. The committee were happy with this.

**Police report:** This has been circulated. The PCC had issued an invitation to our community police to attend, but no officer had turned up. Cllr Pirone has asked before and will ask again.

M Bruce asked if there is a need for an ongoing report from him because of the current lack of engagement from the police. He proposes delivering only an exception report if something specific arises. The MMR report will still be circulated.

S Watson asked whether we get value for money from CAT team? Cllr Pirone believes we do. If the issues are not brought up to the CAT team, they may not get dealt with. There is a huge resourcing issue within the police. The work that CAT do is beneficial. If for any reason they don't do the volume of work they should be doing within a month, the council receives a rebate. S Watson suggested if the CAT team were not there, then the police would have to deal with the issues. Cllr Pirone agreed, but they would not be tasked directly by the elected members and the community would not have a say and she considered it important. S Watson agreed there are not enough officers, but he disagrees at having to pay for it twice. The Chair agreed with S Watson regarding a perception of double taxation and agreed with Cllr Pirone's points too. The other concern he has is the perception that the CAT team is subsidising the policing in the Borders. Cllr Tatler agrees with Cllr Pirone. There is a review going on and he suggested M Bruce should contribute to the review if he can. The Chair invited M Bruce to put together a brief to be signed off by the PCC and then forwarded to Cllr Pirone. The Chair said that crime is low in the Borders but there is an ongoing issue with behaviour. Most recently, the new picnic tables were upended and a lot of equipment in Victoria Park is being vandalised and adorned with graffiti. There are reports of school kids being anti-social and that is what needs to be addressed. M Bruce's group is our best chance of reducing these issues and having an input ourselves.

S Coe: The vandalism has been going on for over two years. The kids are abusing equipment. Some are primary school children. Also, littering, it's the same thing and how do we deal with it. The local primary school head teacher has spoken to the children.

**Cllr reports:**

**Cllr Small:** all the Tweeddale West councillors are on holiday, and he has not got an update.

**Cllr Tatler:** Destination Tweed has started, and the Hydro grounds are improved. He suggests inviting them to a meeting for an update. Victoria Park: he is keen to get better lighting.

**M Bruce:** They are continuing to make encouraging progress in terms of engaging with the young people. They now have a voice in the group. They have spoken to say they want somewhere to hang out. Victoria Park, adjacent to the skate park looks promising and Cllr Pirone and M Bruce are looking at funding. They would like a second location for consideration and will be looking at Haylodge Park. The second venue would use fundraising.

**Cllr Pirone** also mentioned the conversation she'd had with M Bruce around funding for Victoria Park. They want the young people involved and the rest of the community. There were other conversations around anti-social behaviour around School Brae and Tweed Green, and to see what solutions there might be. There have been positive conversations about lighting to make people feel safer. Community Speedwatch is also in progress. A working group will be set up. The contract has been procured for mobile cctv and this will be in different locations and good for events. This is a new system owned and run by SBC and used in conjunction with the Police. The Chair is pleased to hear it is finally being discussed. L Turnbull asked if it's covert or overt? Cllr Pirone said it would be overt. It's not in a van, it's a mobile unit.

G Macdonald asked about the Costa initiative and thought the manager should be commended. M Bruce confirmed it was still running and agreed that the manager should be commended as should community police officer V Carsley.

Cllr Pirone wanted to mention the swimming pool. It should have been opened this month but there was extra work to be done in the plant room. The roof was being repaired to deal with the asbestos now, rather than looking to re-visit it in the future. It should open in early July, but if they can get it open before holidays they will. J Wilson said because of the pandemic we now had 5 years' worth of children living in a town, with a river running through it, who had not had access to the pool and many therefore could not swim. Cllr Pirone said she agreed and wanted the work done as quickly as possible. Swimming lessons had been available elsewhere, but this will make the pool fit for the future.

**Treasurer's report:** The report had been circulated. We are in a deficit of £35. The Chair asked when was our grant last updated? It has not been updated since the Treasurer took on the role in 2014. The grant is around £1300. Cllr Tatler has raised the issue and suggests addressing the issue directly to the Chief Executive. S Watson asked if the grant is based on population? G Mackie confirmed that was correct, the top band being over 10,000 people. No one was sure what Peebles' up to date population figure is. The Secretary agreed to try and find out what the current population is. The Chair will write to SBC.

**Chairman's report:** The report has been circulated. There were no questions. If anyone has any comments re March Street Mill, please email the Chair. There was a meeting recently regarding the Peebles town action plan. J Wilson said she would like to see the place planning information. The Chair said this is run by C Carleton and the Chair will check when he is available, during which time anyone can visit and feed in their comments. C Carleton wants to start drafting the place planning document, it is a huge job. Once the draft is done it will then be sent to people around Peebles because it is important to get it right. We also need to encourage youngsters to get involved.

G Macdonald suggested speaking to PHS and those students studying modern studies?

Cllr Pirone said that the Cllrs had recently gone to the Youth Parliament at PHS and did ask the young people to think about joining committees. The Secretary pointed out that C Carleton was a good person to speak to and she believed he would enthuse a lot of youngsters. The Chair pointed out that if it wasn't for C Carleton this would all grind to a halt.

There is a Volunteer Fair on 27 May and the PCC has a stand in the Burgh Hall. Can the Chair have some volunteers to host the stand with him please?

**World Cycling Championships:** The presentation has given the impression is that it's being taken very seriously, and everything is hand.

**Developing the Young Workforce:** The Chair has volunteered to assist in the DYM project and is helping interface with a group of students at the end of April. This program helps kids across the Borders who are close to leaving school for work or further education and particularly some who may feel disenfranchised. The project focusses on schools but reaches out to other organisations as well.

#### **Planning report:**

The biggest issue is the Chambers Institution roof. SBC have been managing the Chambers Institution and Trustees have not always been part of discussions. There is currently a problem with roof and the Trustees did not know. Cllr Tatler said that is correct, SBC did not let them know at the time, but we are in a different place than we were in 2021 with the beneficiaries group. It was done for the best reasons. The Chair said it should not have got to this stage. Cllr Tatler said it was a mistake. G Macdonald asked if regular surveys were done? Cllr Tatler said yes but he doesn't know how often. Cllr Tatler has said he now wants regular inspections. The Chair said looking back to when there were community trustees, that was the last time a full survey was done. G Finch asked about the janitor's flat? The Chair confirmed it has been rented for the last 4 years to a counselling service and it is now an office. S Coe said the client had previously rented the office from the Trustees but since 2014 has rented directly from LiveBorders.

The Chair had a meeting recently with LiveBorders and had a contact there now so we can take things up with the contact directly and build a rapport. Cllr Pirone said they are having strategic review of LiveBorders and there will be a consultation with the community. The Chair said that we do need to have a debate with them as the booking system is not always working. G Macdonald asked Cllr Pirone to add the mobile library to her list of things to discuss with LiveBorders. The Secretary asked to be kept in the loop too.

**Chambers Institution:** S Coe's report had been circulated. Things are moving forward, and he and Cllr Tatler were working well together. Cllr Tatler has proposed a business plan, which is overdue, and that will allow better control. LiveBorders has a huge amount of energy about what they would like to do with the building. The Chair said that the management was fragmented as LiveBorders manages parts of it. Cllr Tatler said that's exactly what they're trying to solve. S Coe said the Trust should be running it. Cllr Tatler said the project, that is the Burgh Hall project that is underway now, is a good example of how we are working together a lot better. This is how it should work.

The Chair agreed; if there was a coordinating manager there would hopefully be less waste. S Coe said everyone is working on a plan so that everything is coordinated. S Watson asked if it was on schedule? S Coe said there is a slight delay of around a week. J Shearer asked for the opening date which S Coe confirmed to be 28 April. Bookings can be made from 1 May.

**Peebles Community Trust:** The report had been circulated. M Bruce said School Brae is very much still the focus. They are encouraged as the board now has a written masterplan. They have new architects, and one chartered surveyor is taking responsibility for doing the master plan. She's identified around 8 redevelopment phases.

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Each phase will be costed accurately when it is chosen to be entered into a negotiating phase with contractors. They may do individual phases or group some phases together. What they do know is that they do not have the money. They will need to show how much they need and why. There was a number on it which is now out of date. It was £700,000 but is likely double that now. There had been a good meeting with the funding subcommittee and there are a couple of leads for the £1.5m that will need to be raised. They are considering taking on a full-time fundraising consultant on a retainer basis and the consultant is certain they can find funding. They are also looking at doing a combination of grant and loan.

**Parking group:** The Chair proposed we leave the topic of decriminalisation till the next meeting where Cllrs Pirone and Tatler can debate it.

**Local Bus Service:** G Macdonald had attended a recent meeting with Cllr Tatler about the local bus service with Borders Buses, SBC councillors and some of the users. G Macdonald suggested all the councillors take a journey on the local bus services: 90A and 90B. The big question at the meeting was, how can we increase the use of the bus? They were asked, can you please stop 90B outside Rose Park? It was clear that the bus drivers had the solutions. Can the bus stop outside Riverside House? One of the reasons people don't use the service is because they cannot easily find the times. Can we have paper timetables in the post office? The Chair suggested timetables could be delivered with Peebles Life. G Macdonald said the bus drivers go above and beyond and she was impressed. There will be another meeting on 24 April although G Macdonald cannot attend. The Secretary will ask C Forsyth if he can attend. Cllr Tatler said this will become a working group for both routes looking at things like, are the timings correct, and whether the timetables reflect what is going on in Peebles. Currently there is a gap in afternoon, and the bus in from Edinburgh doesn't make for a good connection timewise. Every organisation represented was keen to sort out the parking in Peebles. The bus stops outside Celebrations, but wheelchairs cannot alight because the kerb is too high. PCC might want to provide some help. The Chair said that Cllr Begg is encouraging people to take up their bus passes. G Macdonald pointed out it is tricky if you don't have online access. Cllr Pirone said you can only do it online or in contact centres if you don't have access to a computer.

Cllr Tatler said the parking group's consultation process finishes on 16 April.

## **AOB**

The Chair said that SBC promised to publish the PHS Plans matrix at the end of last month and this has not gone out yet and the Parents Council are concerned. The Parent Council has also had some unsatisfactory communications. The Cllrs have seen the matrix, and they will chase.

The new Traders' Association is now in place which is a good thing.

The Leithenwater Wind Energy Hub consultation is scheduled in the Rugby Club on 19 April.

S Watson asked about the roads. He commended the Council on the repairs so far, but it seemed to have stopped. Is there a list available anywhere of what's being done and when? Cllr Tatler confirmed there was. It's an annual publication and it will be circulated. S Watson asked if the cycle path is open? Cllr Tatler confirmed it is open to use but has not been officially opened. M Bruce confirmed that the PCT will do an official opening soon.

J Shearer said there were terrible potholes in Tweed Green and was encouraged to report them.

J Crawley : The PCC should note and commend the pupils from PHS who went to Belfast and Dublin to participate in a model UN. It was an action-packed weekend, and it was full on. J Crawley asked how many councillors owned and rode a bicycle? There was a show of a hands. J Crawley felt that N Dalglish did not get a sympathetic

shout, it was like an inquisition. S Coe said that N Dalglish set a tone too. J Crawley said N Dalglish does a lot for the community, from young to old. The Chair said that no one has ever argued against that. He does a lot of charitable work, and when he said he brought a lot to the town, that was agreed with also, but unfortunately, he took off on a tangent regarding the Common Good meeting. He had been asked for details for the £1m claim made by the Common Good, and there remains a question over the figures presented. The event brings a lot of money to the town. It was not the PCC who asked for the debate, it was N Dalglish who asked for a forum to speak at that had been provided. Ultimately it should have rested with the Common Good Committee to be decided and that would have been the end of it.

The Secretary had business to raise on behalf of C Forsyth: he is concerned about the cars that park on the grass inside Victoria Park. He had been there recently, with some blind people, and when he had spoken to one of the car drivers on the grass, he had received abuse. Cllr Tatler said he would put the chain back on. A Mackenzie said he was there recently fixing benches to the slabs to stop them being pushed over. Whilst there, some elderly people came in with young children and sat in their cars to watch over them. Is that something that would be beneficial, that they have dedicated spaces for people with mobility issues to do that? Cllr Tatler said that is a good idea. As things stand though, no one is permitted to park there, so that would have to be changed. The Chair thought this may be difficult to reconcile.

G Macdonald had the same issues brought to her around cars parking in Victoria Park and offered her assistance for the event on Coronation Day. G Macdonald can also provide First Aid.

J Shearer wanted to say that she is happy to see the picnic benches in Haylodge Park.

M Bruce asked who is responsible for the island in the Tweed because it needs tidied up. Cllr Tatler confirmed it is SEPA. M Bruce will contact SEPA.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting ended at 9.01pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7pm in the Lounge, Peebles Community Centre, Walkershaugh.