



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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023

Held on 11 May 2023 at 7pm in the Burgh Chambers. The meeting was recorded for the purposes of Minuting and Reporting

Present: A Mackenzie, A Snoddy (Secretary), C Forsyth, F Richardson, G MacDonald, G Mackie (Vice Chairman and Treasurer), H Young, J Crawley, J Mitchell, J Shearer, J Wilson, P Maudsley (Chairman), S Coe, Cllr Begg, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Thomson.

In attendance: M Davey of the Peeblesshire News.

Members of the Public: F Lumb, G Lumb, S Morrison, M Towers, S Towers, B Scott, H Black.

Apologies: M Bruce, S Watson, S Hamilton, G Ramsay, Cllr Douglas and Cllr Tatler.

The chairman welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the last AGM held on 10 November 2022 were approved by C Forsyth and seconded by A Mackenzie.

Chairman's annual report

It is only 6 months since our last AGM, held on 10 November 2022. However, the meeting although necessary and overdue was out of step with requirements and consequently is being held again in May this year.

The last AGM coincides with my having accepted the Chair and time has flown by, I suppose partly due to my advancing age which everyone agrees has some quantum effect on the passage of time and because it has been a very busy period.

I think elected members will agree with me that we appear to be working together with a satisfying degree of harmony, and progress is being made in some areas. However, the writer has a degree of frustration with the time taken to achieve some results, such as the Parking Group and the Holistic Transport Overview. A result no doubt of having a mainly commercial background rather than one experienced wholly in the public sector. Other areas such as our youth initiative are moving more swiftly and all involved are to be commended.

An AGM does generate an activity report, and, on this occasion, I thought it worthwhile to expand a little on this. Some members of the public saw fit to denigrate the activities of the Community Council on social media and directly to us by email; basically, saying that PCC is self-appointed, has no authority and does little for the community. It is worth noting that many more people thank us for our efforts than ever give criticism. This mixture of feedback is of course only natural and the negativity mostly reflects a lack of knowledge rather than any evil intent. Our reason for being is enshrined in legislation and the work we do is reported

fully here and in our minutes. However, I am conscious that our democratic standing could be stronger. This is not a fault of this community council. It is the system. We would welcome more members of the community putting themselves or others forward and to have a true system of voting that allows the public a proper say. This will not happen, the cost would be prohibitive, and so we will have to continue as we are. However, I would encourage all members to reach out in the community and to try to generate more volunteers.

In terms of personal effort your Chair has had the following involvements:

Month	Activity	Notes
November	Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting	
	Meeting with Councillor (RT)	
	Meeting with John Curry & Jason Hedley (SBC)	
	PCC meeting and AGM (and pre-meetings)	(3 meetings)
	Attended Remembrance Sunday	
	Common Good meeting	(2 meetings)
	Chambers Institution	Walk around & Beneficiaries meeting (4 meetings)
	Meeting with PCC member	
December	Meeting with Councillor (RT)	
	Meeting with constituent	
	Meeting with PCC member	
	PCC meeting	
January	PCC meeting (and pre-meetings)	(2 meetings)
	Meeting with Walkershaugh residents over flooding	
	Meeting with constituent	
February	PCC meeting (and pre-meetings)	(2 meetings)
	Meeting with John Curry (SBC)	
	Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting	
	March Street Mill preview	
	PCT AGM	
	Meeting with Councillor (RT)	
	Meeting with constituent	
	Common Good meeting	
March	PCT meeting on placemaking	(2 meetings)
	Litter pick	
	Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting	
	World Championship briefing	
	PCT meeting on placemaking	(2 meetings)
	PCC meeting (and pre-meetings)	(1 meetings, ill for the other)
April	PCC meeting (and pre-meetings)	(2 meetings)
	PCT meeting on placemaking	(2 meetings)
	Walk around Peebles with Drummond Begg and Neil Pringle	
	Baptist Church meeting	
	Peebles high School	

May	Coronation event at Eastgate	
	CIT Beneficiaries meeting	
	Gypsy Glen Hill Race	
	PCC meeting (and pre-meetings)	(2 meetings)

Further, to this, after 4+ years I now have 12,500 emails (in and out) filed.

The PCC's activities over the last 6 months have included but are not restricted to the following:

- Youth behaviour initiative (Shelter, street pastors, etc.)
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour (Victoria Park, etc.)
- Assisted in the "Developing the young workforce" initiative.
- Representation on Parking Group
- Representation on Buses Group
- Representation on Common Good
- Representation on Baptist Church Building Group
- Representation on Chambers Institution Beneficiaries Group
- Planning oversight ongoing
- Review of flooding in Peebles and representation to SBC
- Initial work on holistic transport review project
- Support for Parents Council for PHS
- Support for Parents Council for Halyrude School
- Annual Litter Pick and highlighted litter issues on Cuddyside
- Debated school transport at PHS
- Raised HVs speeding in George Street
- Raised issue of vehicles idling at Priorsford school
- Highlighted out of date street signage, e.g., School Brae toilets, etc.
- Involved with highlighting maintenance issues in Tweeddale West such as uneven pavements, street signage, tourist signs, etc.
- Raised traffic congestion due to street sweeping at peak times.
- Raised traffic concerns in Glasgow Road adjacent to Kingsland School
- Review of windfarm applications
- Review of March Street Mill development plans
- Assisting PCT with placemaking
- Held Coronation event at the Eastgate Theatre
- Assisted with Gypsy Glan Hill Race

All our members are to be congratulated on your efforts and the very important part that you play. I suggest that you ignore unjust negativity and take your lead from the many people in the community who express their support.

Peter Maudsley

Treasurer's report: The annual accounts had been circulated up to 31 March and D Pye had signed them off. They showed a deficit of £30, although this did not include £200 for Peebles in Bloom still to be paid. The balance shown and carried forward is around £1,088, minus the £200. We will need to be careful; the main income is from the SBC grant which has remained the same for at least 8 or 9 years. The Chair has written to

the Chief Executive to ask about increasing the grant. As part of the grant goes towards honoraria G Mackie and the Chair took the opportunity to point out the enormous amount of work that the Secretary puts into her role and asked for a vote of thanks which was heartily given.

Election of office bearers. P Maudsley handed the chair to Cllr Thomson and the following positions were filled:

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	P Maudsley	G Mackie	A Snoddy
Vice Chairman	G Mackie	P Maudsley	S Coe
Secretary	A Snoddy	F Richardson	J Shearer
Treasurer	G Mackie	P Maudsley	A Mackenzie
Planning Convenor	P Maudsley	A Snoddy	S Coe
Independent Examiner Accounts	D Pye	G Mackie	P Maudsley

Cllr Thomson handed the meeting over to P Maudsley as Chairman.

Appointment for the following representatives:

Peebles Community Trust	M Bruce
SBCCN	Vacant
Common Good	G Ramsay
Peebles Civic Society	S Coe
Parking Group	G Ramsay
Chambers Institution Trust Beneficiaries Group	S Coe

Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct: All community council members agreed to abide by the code. This is essential to allow for application of the grant.

AOB

None.

The meeting finished at 7.17pm.

The date of the next AGM is Thursday 9 May 2024.