



Community Council
of the
Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minutes of the 302nd Meeting of the Community Council which was held on Thursday 12 January 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, F Richardson, G Mackie, G Ramsay, H Young, J Shearer, J Wilson, M Bruce, P Maudsley, S Coe, S Watson, Cllr Begg, Cllr Douglas, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Thomson

In attendance: M Davey of the Peeblesshire News, A McGilvray of Radio Borders

Members of the Public: C McKay, M Marshall, J Hamilton, S Renwick, T Compton, A Milligan, Father Lappin Jen Noble and Jo Dube

Apologies: C Forsyth, G MacDonald, J Mitchell, S Hamilton, Cllr Small, Cllr Tatler, Police Officer V Carsley

The Chairman welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year.

There were apologies from M Livingston and M Dickson who could not attend this evening to talk about designating the Scottish Borders as a National Park.

The Chairman had had two meetings with residents from Walkershaugh who were badly affected by the recent flooding. We will be allowing time at the next meeting to discuss. The residents were full of praise for the resilience group. Several people had turned out including M Bruce, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Thomson, and Cllr Drummond.

There then followed a 10-minute presentation from representatives from the Halyrude Primary School Parents Council.

The presentation was delivered by Anne Milligan, Chair of Halyrude Parent Council. Attending with her was Father Tony Lappin and some representatives from the Parent Council. A Milligan spoke about the proposed plans that SBC have for the Halyrude Primary School building. A Milligan brought a handout of her presentation including drawings and a link to a virtual visit, and the full version of this is available from the Secretary by emailing: secretary@ccrbpeebles.co.uk

The proposed plans on the SBC portal look harmless but the impact is huge. It will result in the loss of the central hub on the ground floor of the school, moving all P1 to P7 pupils upstairs within the building. The pupils will lose direct access to collaboration areas and outdoor space. The changes will have a detrimental impact on the education, ethos, identity, and growth of the school. If planning permission is granted, the school will lose its central area, The St Joseph's Centre. This is the heart of the school, where it provides opportunities for pupils to learn through play which is an essential element for the curriculum for excellence. When SBC is promoting collaboration in learning for schools, why are SBC planning on taking away this opportunity for the children?

Should these plans be imposed on Halyrude, then all pupils from P1 to P7 will move upstairs. This may create a barrier to families who may otherwise have chosen the school, whether that be for religious reasons or because they prefer the ethos of a smaller school. Young children will have to move up and down the stairs at least 8 times a day. There is concern regarding fire evacuation and safety issues on the stairs. There is limited access to toilet or cloakroom facilities upstairs (3 toilets for 100 pupils plus staff). Younger pupils will have to make unsupervised trips to the toilets downstairs without teachers or support staff.

Peebles needs Halyrude Primary School to be recognised and supported as the third primary school in Peebles.

When the building was sympathetically refurbished many years ago, it was done to meet the needs of Halyrude Primary School. The refurbishments were recognised and praised by Architecture and Design Scotland. Over the last few years, the head teacher, staff, and parents have worked hard to promote the school.

The proposed plans include construction of a fence that will split the playground in two. This will cause segregation for all children that use the playground. Junior and senior pupils within Halyrude leave the school building at different doors, preventing families from collecting their children from different classes within the school and potentially raising safeguarding issues. No summer fairs and fundraising community events will be able to take place.

Rosetta Early Learners have objected because the fence will block their view and deny access to the playground. Rosetta uses the Halyrude building and playground frequently. Rosetta believes that these proposed plans will deter parents in enrolling their children in their early year setting which will impact their business.

Halyrude Parent Council were only made aware of these plans at the beginning of December 2022. There was no consultation with the school or parents and although SBC are not legally obliged to do so, this goes against the Scottish Government's main guiding principle for designing schools.

Since being made aware, the Parent Council has increased awareness among the Halyrude community and the local Church and managed to secure 57 public letters of objection. There has also been an objection from the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and Peebles Civic Society to the fenced area in the playground.

A Milligan said they appreciate the PCC's letter to SBC asking for consultation and ask that the PCC continues to support and promote the school so that it can continue to offer a nurturing, dynamic and engaging education for all families within the Tweeddale area.

The Chairman thanked A Milligan for her concise overview for what is a large subject matter. He had gone, together with Cllrs Pirone and Begg, to the Halyrude Parents Council meeting before Christmas. The Chairman had not been in the school before, and they were given a tour. He was impressed by the school and by the arguments being presented. It appears the central issue is similar to the one for Peebles High School, that is a lack of consultation. SBC have still not come forward, but it is still early in the new year. The Chairman asked for questions.

Cllr Pirone said she had spoken to the Director of Education, Lesley Munro, and they are going to be emailing the Parent Council in the next few days and arranging to meet with them to discuss the rationale. All the Cllrs have made it clear that more consultation and engagement is needed around these things. A Milligan asked if the plans might be changed? Cllr Pirone said they will need to have

Secretary: Anne Snoddy
c/o The Bridge Tweeddale, School Brae, High Street, PEEBLES, EH45 8AL
Tel: 07980 587139: secretary@ccrbpeebles.co.uk
www.peeblescommunity.org.uk

that conversation with SBC. J Noble asked if Lesley Munro was committing to come to the meeting? Cllr Pirone said she would check and update them.

Cllr Thomson said that she and Cllr Douglas are unable to be involved in these meetings as they both sit on the Planning Committee, but they are listening.

In response to J Shearer, J Noble explained that there are two schools within the building. The plan would mean splitting it into two by moving Halyrude upstairs and housing Leader Valley downstairs. This would allow an outside door to be opened up downstairs. A Milligan pointed out that they represent Halyrude and cannot speak on behalf of Leader Valley. Father Tony said that the design statement is completely focused on the benefits for Leader Valley and that Halyrude is not mentioned. They want the best for Leader Valley too, but there are consequences for Halyrude that have not been taken into account.

The Chairman pointed out that his report contains further discussion on this. It is satisfying to see that a rationale is now going to be put forward regarding the decisions. Moving 100+ students upstairs with 3 toilets and moving down 12 students to an area with around 20 toilets, as one example, does not seem well thought out. However, the main thing is SBC will now consult with parents and the PCC will be interested to hear how it goes. We will then take a communal view as a Community Council to agree if we will continue to support the parents on their concerns.

A Milligan said Halyrude Primary School is keen to promote their school within Peebles and they welcome all children. They are not only a faith school. Everyone is welcome.

Cllr Douglas said that there are two processes within SBC. The educational aspect, which is who is going to meet and speak with them, and the planning process which is separate about the physical aspect of the building. If enough people object, that should go to the Planning Committee. If it goes to the Planning Committee, he and Cllr Thomson cannot comment on it. Objectors or supporters of a planning application can attend and speak at the meeting subject to certain rules.

Open forum. Catriona McKay from Tweeddale Red Squirrel Network said she had been surprised to read in the Peebles Life recently that the Tweedlove Festival does not pay a fee for the use of Tweed Green. She was then further surprised to read a scathing response from Mr Dalgleish from Hillside Outside in the Peeblesshire News in respect of what appeared to have been a perfectly reasonable question by PCC to the Common Good Trustees. The Red Squirrel Network group had made enquiries last year to have a stand at the Tweedlove Festival where they were quoted a price of £90 for a 3m x 3m stand for 3 days, and that was apparently a discounted rate because they are a community group. Unfortunately, that was too much money for them. In contrast, the Peebles Wood Market which was scheduled for the following month offered them the same pitch for free, because they are a community conservation group. C McKay's question was, if the Tweedlove Festival are not paying to use Tweed Green, why was the Red Squirrel Network asked to pay £90 for a pitch? C McKay said that she felt it was important that the PCC ask these questions on behalf of the people of Peebles in respect of the Common Good Assets.

Approval of Minutes: The date on the last Minutes needs to be altered to 8th December. The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th December 2022, as amended, were proposed by S Watson, and seconded by M Bruce.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Traffic speeding through residential streets to transport depot: Cllr Begg has spoken to residents and the team at Brown Brothers, but this was still a work in progress. He has spoken to the Roads Department and to Police Scotland for guidance.

Litter and weeds at Cuddyside: The recent flood water had washed away the litter and weeds. Unfortunately, the water had also lifted the road surface, and this is being looked at.

Road sweeper: Cllr Pirone had spoken to her colleagues at Eshiels. The road sweeper needs to do the cleaning early in the morning and delays are sometimes caused by the obstruction of badly, or illegally, parked vehicles. Cllr Pirone has raised it with the Community Action Team who will be investigating this to see if it can be resolved. They will also look at the timing of the sweeper to see if it can be altered slightly.

Defibrillators: The Chairman had investigated this and had fed the information back.

Peebles High School: The Chairman had had some exchanges with SBC officials which to him demonstrated that they were keen to enter a meaningful process.

T Compton presented his update: He noted Steven Renwick, project manager, from SBC was at the meeting and hoped that he may be able to answer questions on the project. In terms of progress update there had been relatively little because of the festive break. Things have started moving this week. As previously mentioned, the lack of shared information so far has been frustrating. However, a Freedom of Information Request has been made for plans to background. This information will be published by SBC soon in response to a Freedom of Information Request, and it will be welcomed because everyone in the community will be able to see the plans, etc. This is positive progress.

Consultation: T Compton has been led to believe that a couple of consultation sessions will be fixed soon, hopefully early February. It is important that the consultation sessions not only happen soon, but that there is full feedback following the consultations.

The Chairman said that he had had exchanges with John Curry of SBC where he agreed with the Chairman that the process needs to take place, where people need to be able to put their views forward, for all those views to be recorded, the decisions noted and the reasoning explained. This process needed to be conducted urgently.

T Compton said that there has not been much progress on the specific issues around design. He believes the project team are working on responses particularly around the assembly and performance spaces, and the open plan elements. He understands that there are discussions with the architects going on. The general space is still constrained, and he hopes there are plans for discussions about creative use of the space. In summary, he is hopeful. Any questions?

H Young: At the last meeting we had discussed enclosed classrooms, that is those with four walls and a door, but she could not remember the number. T Compton replied that 17 out of 41 will be enclosed, and that the correct term is non-practical classrooms. H Young asked if this was still the case? S Renwick said: yes. H Young asked because this remains an issue for many parents, and she had raised this at the November meeting. Since then, she has spoken to educational professionals in other mainstream schools and local authorities. She has also spoken to other professionals including audiologists, and they all say that open plan does not work for many groups of children, not just those with sensory impairment, e.g., children on the spectrum for autism. SBC has an inclusion framework which is at the heart of the education policy that says that all children should be in

mainstream school and adjustments should be made to include all children. So how do we square what she has been told by all the professionals with what is happening? H Young is concerned that if the flexible space isn't looked at now, it will cost a lot of money to retro fit it in the future. Open plan schools built several years ago are now having to be retrofitted and budgets are tight. Perhaps this has been taken into consideration, but we don't know because we have not been given the information. It's a big concern for a lot of people

The Chairman thanked H Young for her very comprehensive overview and asked her to put it into a small report for us to pass to SBC, and she agreed she was happy to do that.

T Compton said that at the last meeting J Wilson made comments about the brief for Kingsland School and the non-negotiables. His group has now asked for a copy of the brief and hopes to have a conversation with J Curry about it. They don't understand where the open plan decision comes from. Has there been research done that they are unaware of? Why are we in this position discussing open plan when there are many local authorities that are reversing their original decisions at great expense.

Cllr Pirone said that it would be helpful to have a report from H Young. These points have already been raised and passed on to S Renwick, J Curry, and L Munro. Engagement sessions should be the week of 30 January. S Renwick is setting up another visit to Jedburgh on 24 February and H Young is welcome to come as a representative from the PCC. The Chairman can let Cllr Pirone know. As a PCC representative all the information and plans will be made available to them.

S Renwick said that they find it slightly frustrating that the term open plan is used. They recognise the comments made in October. They have put together some presentation material that was used in November and December to try and describe the variety of teaching spaces. It is a layout that has a wide variety from fully enclosed with a door, to semi-open, to more flexible spaces. They are meant to allow for a variety of different teaching at different stages of young learners' education where some of the learning can be allowed to move outside a conventional teaching space. That promotes independence and collaboration and other educational benefits. Authorities that have built open plan have large volume spaces without sub-division. They also know they need to be sensitive to their all-inclusive agenda. They acknowledge they need to be an all-inclusive authority. They know they need to look at the acoustic treatment of these spaces a different way. The requirements are that effectively a teaching space that is not enclosed must have a double acoustic treatment to allow it to perform. Background noise is much easier to migrate into these spaces, so they need to counteract that. They will also be looking at lighting and ventilation and a whole range of other measures to make sure they do recognise neurodiversity to ensure inclusivity.

T Compton said he is aware of the SBC's frustration with the term open plan, but he would like to know what percentage of the space is considered to be connected space? S Renwick said he does not know. T Compton said his calculation was that approximately 20% or 30% was enclosed and the rest was open, i.e., connected through circulation and collaboration spaces. T Compton believes the term to be important.

The Chairman said that this could not be agreed tonight and from his perspective the first thing is that when a new school is completed to the new design, it needs to be at least as good as the current school, and hopefully better. There is a lot of money being spent. The second thing is that it is vital that the people in Peebles see that their comments are captured in some form of a matrix. We need to see that comments are considered. The most important fact is that time is running

down. If we run out of time and it becomes a fait accompli, all trust currently being built with SBC will go down the drain. That is a wider issue than just the school. We need to build trust with SBC, PCC and the community. If this is badly handled trust will be severely damaged.

J Noble asked S Renwick if he had spent time in the school and observed the spaces now, how the students use it, how the teachers use it? She said the new design looks to be more in line with a college design and not a High School where there are several younger students who have many different needs meaning they need to be contained in a room. S Renwick said he had spent time in the school, but he is not a teacher. J Noble asked if he had spent time in classrooms? S Renwick said he had not. J Noble asked how the teachers felt about it? S Renwick said they have mixed views. There is a variety of young learners who have different needs. The senior students are more mature, so the timetabling of the junior students in the school would be an important component for the balance to all learners. Senior students may benefit when moving into college, etc.

S Coe wanted to point out the lack of workable performance space. This is important and needs to be resolved. He had spoken to the music teachers in Jedburgh and their space does not work either. The way it is designed clashes with other uses, such as exams and dining, making it difficult to put on performances.

Cllr Begg declared he has a child at the school. However, he is hearing lots of different opinions. There is no single view on the future of teaching but what is correct is that the future is different to the past. Technology-enabled teaching is the future. Is this building going to be fit for purpose in 50 years' time? We are all trying to see that future. He thanked everyone for having these open conversations because they are important.

The Chairman agreed that there was a huge debate across the entire area of education.

J Wilson was Head Teacher at Kingsland Primary when it was going through a similar process and agreed she could discuss at length about the benefits and otherwise of flexible spaces. We need to be flexible in our heads. She told H Young that if you are going to write a paper, it is important to have researched-based evidence for arguments. Be open minded about what a flexible space is. We are educating some of these young people for jobs that have not been invented yet. Four walls may not meet that need. She does not believe it to be helpful to visit Jedburgh as it is a very different campus. Jedburgh is a 3-18 campus and PHS is huge with 1400 pupils aged 12-18 years old. They are very different. She has visited a lot of schools and has seen where flex space worked and where it didn't.

T Compton asked about the difference between flexible space and open plan space? The Chairman said unfortunately there was no time to continue the discussion as we needed to move on. What has been demonstrated is that not enough information has been shared and now time was short.

Police report: M Bruce had circulated his report. The Chairman said that some concerns had recently been raised in the Walkershaugh area about ASB. M Bruce said he is not keen on the term anti-social behaviour and prefers the term youth behaviour. One of the issues being addressed is that no one has had meaningful conversations directly with the young people. Currently, there is a meeting being chaired by Iain Gibson with youth workers, agencies and some of the young people to find out what is missing that the PCC and SBC could direct resources towards. M Bruce will report back next month.

The Chairman said if we looked back three years there was nothing being done about previously about youth behaviour. The issues are not easy to resolve. We have made good progress, and we are lucky to have Iain Gibson involved.

J Noble asked which young people are being involved in discussions? M Bruce replied that youth workers were doing the selection. J Noble said that she worked with a youth offending team in London where they would bring the offending youths in, and they would put forward suggestions. M Bruce confirmed that one of the group is dealing with the restorative justice aspect. They are trying to encompass everything.

SBC Councillors' reports:

Cllr Thomson said she had emailed a Tweeddale West Report to the Chairman. He confirmed he had received it, but it was mainly headings, and he would need the backgrounds also. Cllr Thomson said she could arrange that, but several of the topics had been covered already. She will organise it for next month.

Cllr Begg agreed to go through their list. Flooding being at the very top. He thanked all the community groups and emergency services, etc, saying they were a credit to Peebles, and it was obvious everyone had learned a lot from 7 years ago. We need to focus now at looking at what we can learn from this. The best way to learn is in a no blame culture and to aspire to do better. He and Cllr Thomson had been out and about, speaking to all the different groups and having a debrief with experts. The Chairman said that there have been one or two issues that have come up, although not for discussion here, and he would pull it all together into a report to send to the Cllrs.

Cllr Begg had a brief comment on the parking levies. This is a very important area, and we must get it right. They are looking at having a more uniformed levy and what would be good for the town. This needs to be discussed. The Chairman pointed out that there is a parking working group. There have already been discussions with John Curry for SBC/PCC/etc to work on an overview of transport and the traffic in general and it is impossible to separate these issues. There is a bit of overlap with the Common Good too and they need to work together.

Cllr Thomson said that Cllr Small attended the access meeting, but as he was not at this meeting, there was no update.

Cllr Thomson had been in touch with SBC re Enduro. The Council update is expected next week, and she will update the PCC thereafter. They have also set up regular surgeries with the Dovecot residents who have suggested they would like some raised flower beds and they are finding resources for that. They are working on some bus routes issues, and with schools on other things. Everyone will have seen that SBC are working on roads. Meanwhile the Tweeddale West Councillors are attending all their meetings.

Cllr Begg wanted to say that this is a challenging time. Kindness is powerful. Choose one thing this year, be kind. It saves lives. It is harder to be kind when things are going wrong.

Cllr Douglas: things have been busy over the last few weeks with flooding all over the Tweed Valley. There has been tremendous damage, including a fatality. The Roads Department are extremely busy. The roads are being salted, sometimes 2 or 3 times each evening. We have had to endure extreme conditions and the SBC is doing a tremendous job. SBC is preparing the budget for the coming year which will be very difficult. It will be a unified and apolitical budget from the council. Working groups are involved in that. A consultation has gone out to the public, and he asked that

everyone takes part in that. It will be on the council website until the end of the month. The Secretary confirmed she has circulated the link.

Cllr Pirone. The others had touched on most of the issues. The 20mph results are out and we are to remain at 20mph in the Borders. She will continue to work with Police Scotland and Community Speedwatch. She has attended good meetings at the Chambers Institute and the Common Good. In respect of the recent flooding there have been many good points fed back. We need to consider what can we do to protect people and look at the other side of river this time. The work at the swimming pool is underway and that should be open by the end of April. The skate park in Victoria Park is coming along well and may even open early next week. People will be able to use it before it's officially open. They are looking at the lighting for it. She reiterated that everyone should take part in the SBC budget. Under 18s can also make their views known and their views are encouraged because it is their future. F Richardson asked what the lower age is? Cllr Pirone confirmed 0-18 years. S4, 5 and 6 should be encouraged. T Compton asked if the results will be published? Cllr Douglas confirmed they would; a full analysis will be available.

Treasurer's Report: This had been circulated by G Mackie and there were no questions.

Chairman's report: This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

PCC Officers: F Richardson has agreed to be deputy secretary. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to support the decision which was unanimous. G Mackie has agreed to be Vice Chairman. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to support the decision which was unanimous.

Peebles Parking Working Group: The Chairman asked if his section of the report for the Peebles Parking Working Group seemed reasonable? Everyone was happy with that section.

Common Good: The Chairman addressed the letter published in the Peeblesshire News and, not wishing to dwell any further on the subject, asked all the community councillors including the elected councillors if they agreed that his response was fair, accurate and measured. They agreed unanimously. The Chairman asked if there were any inaccuracies and there were none identified.

Healthpool Forest: No further observations.

Halyrude School: We have now heard from the representatives, and we will leave it to them and SBC to arrive at a solution.

Cycling World Championships: SBC should lead with this. The SBC Cllrs should ask the questions and let us know if they need anything from us. Once they've spoken to their colleagues at SBC they should come and talk to us. The Cllrs all agreed.

Chambers Institution Trust. S Coe gave his update as below, and will circulate his next report ahead of next month's meeting:

At the December meetings of the Chambers Institution Trust and Beneficiaries Group, it was noted that around 200 feedback responses had been received from members of the public following the recent consultation process involving guided tours, architects' presentations, and an open exhibition event. A document was prepared summarising the responses and Fiona Colton and Lisa Haddow at Live Borders were thanked for their all their work in facilitating the events.

Following discussions, Page\Park Architects have now been invited to prepare an additional feasibility sketch study to look at options for the Burgh Hall area in conjunction with the existing

proposals for the front part of the building complex, with a view to this being completed by mid-March, when it will form part of the next stage of consultation.

Meanwhile, the brief for the appointment of a facilitator to coordinate the second stage of the current consultation has been agreed, and discussions are ongoing on how best to extend and improve public engagement in the process.

This week the programme of work to remove the suspended ceiling in the Burgh Hall has commenced as planned, and the existing historic roof structure will be revealed during the course of next week. Various necessary additional works and costs have already been reviewed and approved by the Trust. A subgroup of the Trust and Beneficiaries Group met on site earlier today to review proposals for items such as lighting, blinds, radiator covers and paint colours, and these will be considered further over the next week or so in discussion with the Heritage and Design Officer.

As May 2023 will be the 140th anniversary of the death of William Chambers, it is intended that a grand opening event will be held in the Burgh Hall to view the completed works and to mark the occasion in the context of the consultation.

The Chairman confirmed that he was impressed with the speed at which everything was now moving forward.

Peebles Community Trust: M Bruce's report has been circulated. There was nothing further to add.

Parking: The Chairman asked about the proposed charges and when they would take effect from? Cllr Pirone confirmed they would be in place from the start of April. S Watson believes the increase should cover all car parks and the Chairman said that many people agreed. A further overlap is the placemaking that is going on as the two cannot be separated. The Secretary asked if the car parks provided a payment facility if someone does not have cash? M Bruce confirmed there was, including the app RingGo.

The Chairman referred to a letter sent to Villeneuve Wines from SBC which he considered harsh. Because of the new crossing, they have lost access to a loading bay in front of their shop and had been putting out cones to make space for their delivery vehicle. SBC have sent them a strongly worded letter telling them they are not allowed to put these cones out. The original loading bay had been created because of the business case Villeneuve had made to SBC, which at that time had been accepted and it has now been removed.

Idling vehicles: Cllr Begg was looking at concerns about vehicles idling in the High Street. No progress to report yet. He has spoken to Police Scotland who are looking into it and will come back to us. It is a big issue.

The Chairman pointed out that there have been no Police Officers present for three consecutive meetings. Cllr Pirone will make enquiries again.

AOB:

The old tourist sign. A Mackenzie confirmed this is coming along fine; the Callants are paying for all materials for it. He will be able to give us a further update next month but confirmed it will be ready for summer.

Children's Cemetery: A Mackenzie confirmed that the children's cemetery is a work in progress. The group need to get a bank account in place before it can be progressed.

Idling vehicles at Priorsford School and PCC Vacancies: H Young said that she had been approached by a concerned parent about vehicles idling at Priorsford School. The person was having to walk through the exhaust fumes there. Cllr Pirone will look at this. H Young asked if we have any PCC vacancies? The Secretary confirmed we have two spaces and can co-opt another three. H Young said it would be valuable to have someone aged 16-18. H Young is happy to help recruit a young person. The Chairman agreed it would be a good idea. Cllr Pirone said we should try to get two young councillors, or even three. Cllr Begg said he and Cllr Small had been engaging with the Modern Studies faculty at PHS and are doing a video with some S2 pupils, and he could mention it then. H Young will liaise with Cllr Pirone.

S Watson had witnessed a business in town using a bottle bank to get rid of their commercial glassware. Is this appropriate, or should commercial waste be disposed of in another way? Cllr Pirone thought that technically they should have a trade waste licence but expected the cost of living is putting pressure on small businesses. The Chairman suggested if the bottle bank gets to a point where it is consistently overflowing then steps could be made to intervene.

A Mackenzie asked if the Cllrs could chase up the repair of the reflective sign at Mercat Cross please? Cllrs will deal with this.

J Shearer wanted to talk about the flooding. Her property had been badly affected by it. She asked about the Peebles Flood Protection Scheme – is that still on track? She said she saw no one from the resilience group in Tweed Green during the evening. The defences she'd been given did not work. She felt as though she had received no help.

Cllr Pirone suggested J Shearer join the resilience group if she has time as her experience would be valuable. There is a flood plan which should be robust for all areas. Last time we were taking about it, Cllr Tatler said the Tweed Valley Flood Scheme is next on list, but these flood schemes are not funded by local authorities, but by Scottish government. The government make the decision and the funding is on hold for now. The Hawick Flood Defences have held up well which gives us hope but we will need the funding first. Meanwhile, SBC are looking to bring in extra resilience, e.g., pumps. The Chairman said he is confident that there is a debate going on now, that will help in the future. One example, the Walkershaugh sandbag store is not big enough and we need to consider putting one on the other side of the river too.

The Chairman also identified that a member of the public had spoken to him about the puffin crossing again. If driving onto the High Street from Tweedbrae, and concentrating on the traffic coming from the right, when you turn to the left you cannot see the status of the traffic lights. A car has to move to join the traffic stream and to do that must look right. However, the lights may have changed and a pedestrian started to cross. There has been lots of feedback that it's an accident waiting to happen.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting ended at 8.41pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 7pm in the lounge, Peebles Community Centre, Walkershaugh.