**RESTON AND AUCHENCROW COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

*Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21stMarch 2022.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Barrie Forrest B.E.M. (in the Chair) (**B.F**.) Logan Inglis (Secretary) (**L.I**.) Kerry Simmonds **(K.S.)** Jan Stringer **(J.S.)** Rob Robertson **(R.R.) (Co-Opted)** Mel Gilmour & Michaela McIntyre.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**:  Julie Gregory.

The Chairwelcomed everyone to the meeting.

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, this meeting is to be held under Present Covid restrictions.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** These were approved.
2. **Matters ARISING:** **L.I**. previously mentioned, **B.C.C.F.** offer of training to community councillor’s, members asked to consider and report back to the secretary.
3. **Resilient Group: L.I.** in light of the power outage that was experienced during storm Arwen, that a resilient kit had been made up with a view to be able to disseminate to households in need in the future, this will be brought along to the next meeting for members to view. **The community Larder** in support of the Ukraine appeal had donated medical supplies.
4. **Police REPORT:** As no Police in attendance **L.I.** had already circulated to all members the current Police report, with no incidents pertaining to Reston or Auchencrow divulged.
5. **Correspondence. L.I.** no Correspondence to note as most had been disseminated via email.
6. **Regular reports.**
7. **Chairman. B.F.** mentioned the flag flying at present, this was purchased by a member of the community in support of the country of Ukraine.

**B.F. & L.I.** reported on the recent **Greener Berwickshire event**, held in Ayton castle on the 17th of March, where many local organisations were present. Talks were given by Sandy Aitchison (sustainable Development Committee SBC), Paul Wheelhouse (South of Scotland Enterprise), Paul Minto (Green Power International) and Charles Fisher (the transition to electric cars). The morning was found interesting by all exploring greener topics.

1. **Treasurer’s report, L.I.** The present financial statement was displayed for all members with a rundown on the expenditure. Presently awaiting feedback on the increase to our insurance premium before payment is made, as there has been an increase of more than £100.
2. **A1 Trunk Road. B.F.** a site visit was conducted at the junction with representatives from **Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland, John Lamont MP and B.F. & L.I.** the meeting took place in darkness to best exhibit the difficulties at this junction. The community council reiterated the concerns of the residents and users of the junction expressing safety as paramount and the difficulties experienced ingress and egressing the junction in the dark. **Poor Lighting**- A request for lighting was thought to be a driver distraction and the accident rate at this junction does not quantify expenditure to this level. **Vehicles travelling south too fast**- again no accident statistics nor police concerns can measure additional costs to upgrade this junction. The representatives did however conceive that line marking could be improved and will carryout this. The representatives were thanked for their time and John Lamont MP for arranging this meeting.

1. **Railway Station.** **B.F.** updated all, not known actual date of trains stopping. Possibly towards the latter days of May, with a proposed official opening in late June, RAGES working with SBC for invitations to the opening whilst ensuring local celebrations in the village hall for residents.

**Consultation,** currently a route from Tweedbank to Reston station is being consulted upon, for walking and cycling between the two stations. Consultation ends at the end of March; members were asked to respond.

1. **Wish List update. R.R.** –gave an update on progress on current applications and 4 applications to be determined after this meeting.

**K.S**. joined the meeting

1. **Playpark. K.S.** woodchip is expected to be delivered tomorrow, with the park almost completed, however **Bam Nuttall** (railway contractors) have stipulated they have no manpower to carry out the promised fencing work for the park, they have also been uncommunicative to emails and telephone calls. **B.F.** to speak to the site office tomorrow.
2. **Planning. L.I.** ‘**Blue House’** near to Swansfield. The planning application has been refused by the planning officer, the applicant to appeal the decision.
3. **Platinum Jubilee celebrations: L.I.** mentioned the closing date for applications for the Jubilee fund and encouraged members to feedback for the application that the community council will be submitting.
4. **A.O.B.**

**D. Jones from Reston Concert Band** explained that the band has been going now for 19 years. Pre-covid the band was using the primary school for a venue to carryout rehearsals, due to Covid this could not continue, and the village hall is in use at present, however storage problems are an ongoing issue for the band. Mr Jones has looked at different areas for the band to continue and the possibility of building a suitable building to accommodate all. Land has been found in Reston that would require a pre-application to be submitted before going forward. The community council has been asked to support this, this was agreed by members.

**Memorial bench-B.F.** recent bereavement of Mrs Drumm, a request for a memorial bench to be sited around the village hall, members agreed that this would be a humble way to remember Betty. This had already been agreed by the hall committee as a wonderful idea.

**Cllr Laing.** Ongoing consultation for Waste management on SBC website, members were asked to submit a response, the secretary has already submitted a response on behalf of the community council. **Place Making working group**, members sought to be a part of this group. Cllr Laing gave her apology for the next meeting as this was to be her last as a councillor. All members applauded Cllr Laing for the sterling work she has done for the community council these last five years, and they wish her and family well.

Addendum to **Playpark**, omitted, to be added to agenda for next meeting, privacy concerns.

The Chair thanked all for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 20:00

**Next meeting to be held in the village hall on the 18th April**

Signed …………………………………………………… Date ……………………………………………

Another inconclusive meeting?