

Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

Meeting of SBCCN Core Group

Held SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells on 20 August 2012 at 7.00pm

1 **Attendance:** Logan Inglis (LI, Chair), Robin Thomson (RT, Treasurer), Graeme Donald (GD), Diana Findlay (DF), Rhona Goldie (RG), Colin McGrath (CMcG), Clare Malster (CM), Rob Brydon (RB), Marion Short (MS), Trevor Jones (TJ)

2 **Apologies:** John Elliot (JE), Helen Crowe (HC), Raymond du Bois (RduB), George Brown (GB), Jo Pawley (JP)

3 **Approval of Minutes from 14 June 2012**

3.1 CMcG asked for it to be clarified that he felt that SBCCN's role should be as a pressure group and not a networking group.

4 **Matters arising**

4.1 Libel and Slander Insurance: CM stated that this was looked at during the 2009 Review of Funding to Community Councils. Based on research into how often such cover had been utilised since the establishment of community council it was agreed, at the time, that it was unnecessary. Community councillors shouldn't put themselves in a position that it was required. There was a feeling that this should be looked at again and CM agreed to investigate the additional cost to SBC. **Action CM**

4.2 DF stated that the date for the Berwickshire Community Councils' Forum Information Day in St Abbs had been changed to 29 August.

4.3 Further to 3.1, it was agreed that SBCCN should review their purpose. This will be put forward at the AGM on 29 September to see if there is support for this. **Action SBCCN Core Gp**

5 **Chairman's report**

5.1 LI reported that the last meeting of the Scottish Government short life working group will be on Wednesday 22 August when the submission to the Government will be finalised. The two main sets of findings will cover the role and purpose of community councils. There will be a survey sent to all Local Authorities officers that perform a community council liaison role.

5.2 LI highlighted the current consultation on the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. Not all at the meeting had seen a copy although CM assured them that an e-mail, including a link to the document, had been sent on 18 June 2012.

6 **Treasurer's report**

6.1 RT reported the current balance as £2,361.90; the annual grant had been received.

7 **Community Council Seminar**

7.1 CM asked for confirmation regarding what was expected from the NHS and

Planning presentations.

RT, DF and RG agreed to staff the reception desk and float between the main Council Chamber and reception area to make sure everyone found their way to the correct room.

8 Planning Aid Scotland – Training

- 8.1 CM spoke about Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) training that was available for community councillors and asked whether this was something the Network would like to host. TJ felt that PAS didn't give good value for money and suggested that the Network could help educate other community councillors on their role and what community councils should be doing.
- 8.2 RG expressed the need to give constant feedback to SBC and pass on issues that have been raised by the local community. It is imperative that community councils and SBC have to work together.
- 8.3 GD stated that SBC don't play a part in community council meetings in the same way the Police do and highlighted a previous request made for community councils to receive copies of inspectors' reports from schools. This is an example of a lack of partnership working. It is vital that community councils are involved in more than just spatial planning matters.
- 8.4 It was agreed that training should be provided for council officers on the role of community councils and how to engage with them.

9 Review of Community Council Scheme

- 9.1 CM spoke about the proposed review of the Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme and the format she expected it to take.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 GD felt that the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership should host a national conference open to all community planning partners

11 Dates of next meeting

AGM 22 November 7pm at SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells

LI thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.