# Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn & Smailholm Community Council

# **Community Council Meeting Minutes**

 Smailholm Village Hall 18th October 2022

1. **Present**: Andrew Carter, Veronica Ross, Philip Green, Tony Kime, Lord Biddulph, Gemma Butterfield and Tom Weatherston.
2. **Apologies:** Heather Kerr, Ian Topping, Ian Malcolm, David Stark, Jane Roberts and Euan Robson
3. **Minutes of 21st June 2022:** Approved- Proposer Lord Biddulph and Seconder Tony Kime
4. **Matters Arising:** Use of Microsoft Teams and Zoom for blended meetings- Andy Carter confirmed this was work in progress and that we should continue to try and make this work for all members.
5. **Finance:**

**Current Balance:** £ 2606.43.

**Recent Expenditure:** £ 108 on Memorial Wreaths, £200 on Website.

**Key Points:** Philip Green confirmed he had applied for the end grant to be paid in but that this is the second year that grant has been applied for without FMNSCC spending all the previous grant, Tom Weatherston confirmed there had been allowances made due to COVID-19 pandemic but FMNSCC need to be mindful this may change.

**Key Actions:** Members to consider use of available funds.

1. **Reports:**
2. **Police Report:**

**Key Points:** Andy Carter noted that Kelso seems to be having issues with anti-social behaviour but no reports of any rural crime. Tom Weatherston confirmed that the issues in Kelso are down to a group of youths.

1. **SBC Councillor:**

**Key Points:** Tom Weatherston confirmed that a needs assessment was currently underway around the delivery of a Care Village in the Scottish Borders, aimed at moving away from day services into more community based services.

1. **Correspondence:**

**Key Points:** Tony Kime confirmed no correspondence to highlight.

**Key Actions:** N/A

1. **Website and Publicity Leaflet:**

**Key Points:** Members noted that whilst the website was now live it was not that easy to find when searching for it. It was also discussed and agreed that it would be good to add Zoom links for future meetings to the website to allow the public to access the meeting remotely to make them more accessible. This would potentially need a paid zoom account and Andy Carter confirmed he would reflect on this after the meeting as ties in with how meetings are held going forward. Andy Carter confirmed the FMNSCC leaflet falls out of the website work and could be designed to reflect the website

**Key Actions:** Andy Carter confirmed he would send out a link to the website with the meeting minutes and that he would also look into how the website could be made more visible when searching. It was also noted that minutes and agendas will be uploaded to the website. Andy Carter agreed to work with Ian Topping to propose a design for the leaflet.

1. **Broadband:**

**Key Points:** Andy Carter confirmed that the R100 programme should be delivered by the early half of 2023 delivering high speed broadband to properties that do not already have access, to note 20-30 properties within our area will not be connected.

**Key Actions:** Once R100 deliveredFMNSCC to consider removing broadband as a standing agenda item.

1. **Roads:**

**Key Points:** Noted the lack of Police enforcement of the 20pmh zones, Tom Weatherston confirmed that this is a frustration to Scottish Borders Council but that there is also recognition of how stretched the Police are. Andy Carter advised that in Northumbria communities have he right to set up speed monitoring. FMNSCC members agreed that the 40mph limits were working well in both Nenthorn and Smailholm but the 20mph having limited impact. Lord Biddulph described village gateways he had seen in England and that this certainly seems to make people slow down.

**Key Actions:** Tom Weatherston agreed to look into how community speed monitoring works in Scotland so this is something that FMNSCC could consider going forward. Andy Carter confirmed he would speak to the Council Roads Team about the possibility of support with the design of village gateways and potential of support with cost of installing these. Tom Weatherston agreed to look into an issue with the speed sign in Smailholm and also to support Veronica Ross with work she is doing in the village around making a crossing safer for a visually impaired resident by speaking to the roads team.

1. **Planning:**

**Key Points:** Andy Carter advised members on a Scottish Government initiative called Place Making which is a bottom up approach to getting community aspirations from communities which are then going to be used a measures for investment. Newcastleton have done a big piece of work on community needs following the floods they suffered which they have presented to Scottish Borders Council, the Council wants each community to undertake the same. Members agreed that one size would not fit all for FMNSCC as we have four communities. There is a real opportunity for FMNSCC here that needs to be explored Jedburgh, a community south of Sprouston, Crailing and Eckford are all taking forward. Tom Weatherston confirmed he was trying to support Ednam get an electric vehicle charging point at their village hall.

Veronica Ross brought up a recent planning hearing for two houses in Smailholm that the person objecting was only given six minutes to put their case across and was not allowed to speak to object then the planner said something that was fundamentally wrong, she wanted to make FMNSCC aware of her concerns with this process.

**Key Actions:** Agreed Smailholm would be an ideal place to start working through a place maker, for example the cost of heating electricity and running the village hall, then we could modify for the next community and so on Heather Kerr agreed to support for Smailholm.

1. **AOCB:**
2. **Grass Cutting:**

**Key Points:** Veronica Ross confirmed she had received a quote for £300 +VAT for cutting the Smailholm village path as it is down for one cut a year not two by the council, Andy Carter advised this is money we could spend from the FMNSCC budget and claim back, Philip Green confirmed that we could claim back up to £600.

**Key Actions:** Andy Carter confirmed he would speak to Susan Grey at the council about moving this to two times a year and that we should get a time table the cut then the cut quoted above if not resolved.

1. **Smailholm War Memorial Lettering and Kirk Wall:**

**Key Points:** Veronica Rossbrought up that the lettering on the memorial was badly warn away and some of the names were unable to be read as a result and asked members if FMNSCC could fund this being rectified. Veronica also noted the Kirk wall on the bend had been damaged and this had been reported to the council but had not need fixed, Andy Carter noted there was the same problem at Makerstoun Kirk.

**Key Actions:** Andy Carteragreed it seemed reasonable for FMNSCC to pay for the war memorial lettering and asked Veronica to get a quote for this work. Tom Weatherston agreed to look into the issues with both Kirk walls.

1. **Use of Passing Places near Makerstoun for Parking**:

**Key Points:** Lord Biddulph raised an issue with people using the passing points as parking spaces and that in the past the passing places had signs marking them as passing places.

**Key Actions:** Tom Weatherston suggested FMNSCC could contact the roads team to see if they could be reinstated.

1. **Trial of Updated Minutes**:

**Key Points:** Gemma Butterfield brought up the current minutes format and suggested that FMNSCC trial moving to more condensed minutes focusing on key points and key actions, members agreed to trial new format for this meetings minutes.

**Key Actions:** Gemma Butterfield to produce new format minutes and send to Andy Carter for approval and distribution to members. Members to provide feedback on new format and suggest any changes at the next FMNSCC meeting.

1. **Date of next meeting:**  The next meeting will be at 7pm on 17th January 2023. It will be held in Smailholm Village Hall, as a blended meeting.