

Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn & Smailholm Community Council

Community Council Meeting Minutes

Smailholm Village Hall 18th April 2023

1. **Present:** Andrew Carter, Veronica Ross, Philip Green, Tony Kime, Gemma Butterfield, Tom Weatherston, Ian Topping, Lord Biddulph David Stark, Jane Roberts and Euan Robson
2. **Apologies:** Ian Malcolm
3. **Minutes of 17th January 2023:** Approved- Proposer Veronica Ross and Seconder Lord Biddulph. Tony Kime mentioned that the minutes from January 2023 were not yet on the FMNSCC website. Andy Carter agreed that we needed to agree a process going forward to ensure that the minutes get uploaded, Ian Malcolm agreed that he would be willing to forward them to the webpage developer to upload them if he was sent them Gemma Butterfield to email them to Ian going forward.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Nenthorn Salt Bin:** Ian Topping thanked Euan Robson for supporting Nenthorn get a new salt bin
 - b) **Recent Accident in Nenthorn Discussed at Previous FMNSCC Meeting:** Ian Topping advised he was away when the incident happened but that there have been at least ten accidents on this stretch since he moved into his house. Euan Robson and Tom Weatherston agreed to write to the roads team and ask that the council carry out a speed survey and about the possibility of a road sign on the bend of this stretch. There is also the possibility of a village gateway Scottish Borders Roads Team would need to design but FMNSCC could potentially contribute to costs Andy Carter asked Nenthorn members to get back to him to confirm whether they would support this being explored.
 - c) **FMNSCC Funded Salt Bin:** Tom Weatherston confirmed that if a bin was not a council bin that it wouldn't be placed on the council website to be able to report when in needs filling, the latest update is that if a person called the council to report it that they will get filled.
5. **Finance: Full Treasurers report can be found in the AGM meeting minutes.**

Current Balance: £ 2685.58.

Recent Expenditure: N/A

Key Points: Philip Green confirmed that FMNSCC had received the coronation grant from Scottish Borders Council and Councillor Tom Weatherston asked members to consider using this fund if possible as this had not been easy to pass through. Nenthorn defibrillator David Stark advised the telephone box would be an ideal place to hold this but that it is still in use

but the question for FMNSCC is could we fund it Andy Carter confirmed that for other defibrillators FMNSCC has funded 50% of costs

Key Actions: Members to consider use of coronation grant and other available funds. Tom Weatherston, following contact with David Stark, is looking into whether Scottish Borders Council could identify a power source for the defibrillator. Nenthorn members agreed to come back to FMNSCC when the proposal is firmer.

6. Reports:

a) Police Report:

Key Points: Andy Carter noted that there was nothing of significance to note from the report.

b) SBC Councillor:

Key Points: Tom Weatherston confirmed that Scottish Borders Council had agreed their budget for 2023/24 and highlighted that 83% that Social Care and Education accounted for 83% of budget, the council had balanced it's booked but it had been tight. Euan Robson confirmed he was looking into the foot paths in Makerstoun and asked Lord Biddulph to meet with him to ensure that the right paths being looked at Lord Biddulph agreed and this will be arranged between Euan and him. Euan also advised that in terms of food waste he had been through this at length with the council officer and that there was an opportunity to consider having village compost sites but that he thinks food waste will be high on the councils agenda in the next 3-5 years, all members of FMNSCC agreed that village compost sites not desirable due to pest control issues.

7. Correspondence:

Key Points: Tony Kime confirmed no correspondence to highlight apart from The Bridge which is a community council network update. Lord Biddulph brought up the recent correspondence around the work Scottish Borders Council are undertaking to make graves safe he felt a consultation prior to work commencing would have been beneficial. Tom Weatherston confirmed that the council had taken on board and acknowledged that the council had not handled the project well initially but that now it gives notice to all community councils.

Key Actions: Andy Carter agreed that members should be reading this update when received.

8. Roads:

a) Paths

Key Points: Andy Carter advised that the Scottish Borders Council Rangers Team have confirmed they could support work on Smailholm paths in addition to the resource FMNSCC has secured and all if members would support them coming up with a project- all supported.

Key Actions: Andy Carter will return to council to confirm this has been supported and progress.

b) Roads

Key Points: Andy Carter asked if there were any new issues. Lord Biddulph noted that roads seemed to be getting narrower in places near Makerstoun due to grass verges seeming to get bigger and that passing places are still being used as parking places. Andy Carter confirmed that if the passing place is tarmacked then they should have a sign confirming it as a passing place. Euan Robson also confirmed that there was planned work near Makerstoun he will find out further information and get this confirmed back to FMNSCC. Veronica Ross advised that the condition of Eden Road in Smailholm was terrible and that there is currently a dispute between home owners and Scottish Borders Council about where the road is public or private, she is currently awaiting into title deeds to investigate further. Tom Weatherston confirmed that when he had looked into this from a gritting point of view the council said this was a private road.

Key Actions: Tom Weatherston agreed to raise passing place issue with Scottish Borders Council again. Andy Carter confirmed that continuing to seek the title deeds was the right course of action in terms of Eden Road, potentially there is an ask of the council to adopt the road but it would not currently meet the criteria due to the poor condition FMNSCC could facilitate a conversation with the council and he asked Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson to support the facilitation of this.

9. Planning:

a) Place Making

Key Points: Andy Carter confirmed that at the first meeting in Smailholm 30% of the village turned up which is a good turn out considering Selkirk got 8% and Jedburgh got 5%. Continues to be an engagement piece if the proposals made become a proper plan FMNSCC will continue to be involved. An example of work in another place if a village in Devon buying a community power station with each household contributing £250 towards the cost.

Key Actions: Andy Carter confirmed the evolving plan for Smailholm will be available on the Smailholm Futures website should FMNSCC members wish to view this.

b) Other Planning Matter

Key Points: Andy Carter confirmed he was not aware of any new planning applications. Tom Kime confirmed that the new house being built in Nenthorn had planning permission granted on the basis that there wasn't to be a new opening onto the main road but there is one, Andy Carter agreed that the access was to be from a side road. David Stark confirmed that the current access was to allow for large construction vehicles to access the site.

Key Actions: Andy Carter agreed to clarify the planning permission for the issue Tony Kime had brought up.

10. AOCB:

a) Website

Key Points: Ian Topping asked if FMNSCC could put aside funds for upkeep of website, he also asked if the issue with finding the website when searching has resolved. Ian Topping then

asked if the minutes could be published on the website Andy Carter confirmed public once approved so as long as marked draft then they can be uploaded.

Key Actions: Andy Carter confirmed the search issue seemed to have resolved and suggested that FMNSCC could put aside 4 hours at a cost of £100 all members agreed. Gemma Butterfield to send minutes to Ian Topping as well as Andy Carter and Tony Kime going forward marked as draft for publication.

b) Leaflet:

Key Points: Ian Topping confirmed that FMNSCC still needed to look at updating this and we could consider setting aside costs. Andy Carter confirmed that there are 260 residencies that would need to have a leaflet posted, he also confirmed that Berwickshire's leaflet was a good example.

Key Actions: Tom Weatherston and Euan Robson agreed to try and source a copy for members to review.

c) King Charles Coronation Fund

Key Points: Andy Carter confirmed that each village had access to the allocated fund but that if a village wasn't going to use this then it could be re-allocated to another village within FMNSCC. Tom Weatherston urged FMNSCC to consider full use of the sum allocated as this is something he had supported through approval at Scottish Borders Council.

Key Actions: Philip Green proposed a date for members to confirm this by 28th April 2023 was agreed by all.

d) Increasing Membership of FMNSCC

Key Points: Andy Carter confirmed the ability to have 3 further member of FMNSCC and that it would be good to gain further representation from Floors.

Key Actions: Andy Carter confirmed he would write a piece for the FMNSCC website. Lord Biddulph confirmed he is currently working on a communication piece for Makerstoun Village Hall and will include about the opportunity to join.

e) Thank you: On behalf of all members of FMNSCC Ian Topping thanked Andy Carter for his excellent work as Convener.

11. **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be at 7pm on 13th June 2023. It will be held in Smailholm Village Hall, as a blended meeting.