



WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL



Sunday 26th June

Church Service 10.30. Wreath laying 11.20am. Bike ride leaves HB club 1pm

Monday 27th June

Festival Concert starts at 7pm in Village Hall

Thursday 30th June

Principal party 7pm in Village Hall. Quiz Night 7.30pm at the HB club

Friday 1st July

Fancy dress parade at Alexandra Park 7pm

Torch light procession 10.15pm. Bonfire 10.30pm.

Fireworks 10.45pm

Saturday 2nd July

Walkerburn rugby club 'Fun Day' at 1pm. Donations welcome.

Sunday 3rd July

Non-motorised boat race 1.00pm at HB Club.

There will be raffle tickets on sale all week.

The Festival Committee held a successful Coffee Morning in the Public Hall on Saturday 28th May. Many thanks to all who helped and to all who donated to the baking stall and raffle.

The names of the Festival Lad or Lass and Essay Winner were announced;

Congratulations to Walkerburn Festival Lad Charlie Nisbet and to Essay Winner Alice Shoemith!

WALKERBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL DUCK RACE

The race was held on 27th May. Despite the low water in the Tweed a good turnout of adults and children responded to the "Are you 'quackers' enough to join us?" challenge put out by the organisers.

The weather was kind and the river marshalls were kept busy rescuing capsized boats as they raced towards the finish line at the bridge. Unlike the annual Oxford and Cambridge' boat race, the hardy Walkerburn just pick themselves up after a capsize and keep heading for the finish line! Well done to all who took part.

PLATINUM JUBILEE BBQ

Community Celebrations were held when the HB Club and FoodHUGS came together to arrange an impromptu event to commemorate our longest reigning monarch HRH Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee celebrating 70 years on the throne!!

HUGE thanks to all who volunteered to help out on the day and to ALL of you who turned out to join in the festivities with us. The event was well attended and the organisers hope you thoroughly enjoyed coming together again. It was hugely successful and we had a great time!!

A sign of things to come perhaps? And as we return to some sense for normality following the pandemic we hope

to make more plans in the future. All we ask is for your support when the time comes.

Anyone who would like to become a FoodHUGS volunteer can contact Denise Hanks or pop in to the Hall to speak with another member of the team.

If you wish to become a member of the HB Club please contact them via 'facebook' or speak with a member of staff during their opening hours.

WALKERBURN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Walkerburn Pensioners would like to thank the Rotary Club for inviting us to Afternoon Tea in the Bowling club on the Bank Holiday Friday, as part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

We all enjoyed the lovely spread provide and it was good to be involved in this special occasion.

We are looking forward to our trip to Portobello on Tuesday 14th June - our first trip since lockdown! We will all be looking forward to seeing what changes and improvements have been made to this seaside town over the years. Here's hoping that we will enjoy a lovely sunny day at the beach!

There will be a report on the visit in next month's 'Burning Issues'.

If you are interested in joining us please get in touch with Mary on 870246, or Anne on 870757.



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Walk It Walkerburn

Gentle Walks Every Monday 10am Alexandra Park by the playpark

Our small group have continued our walks and been lucky with the weather most days. It's been great to be out and looking at the lovely landscape in different lights and seasons. Cheers us up every week!



ONE YEAR ON !!

We celebrated the 1st anniversary of this re-incarnation of 'WalkIt' with an Away-Day walk at The Haining, Selkirk. Other Away-Day walks during the year have been up to Muckle Mouth'd Meg, to Abbotsford and a farm walk at Torwoodlee, near Galashiels. We're planning more for the first Monday morning of each month so book in if you would like to hear more and join us.

We're really proud of our most regular walker and one of our members wrote an Ode to his success. Some extracts are here

*Robert was keen from the beginning.
 Hard and difficult going at first
 He never gave up, going for winning!
 Stretching his limbs as best as he could
 Gaining balance, strength of muscle
 A smile on his face and 'off' he went
 Along the river, right through the village,
 'round every bend.
 'I am going all the way to Innerleithen'
 one day he thought*

*and 'Walk it' he did,
 discipline can not be bought.
 From Walkerburn right into centre of town
 Thirsty and hot he sat himself down
 Awfully proud and wearing that crown
 And beaming with joy.
 O what a morning, boy oh boy.
 Congrat's Robert, from us all.*

We'd be delighted if you want to join us. Give it a shot!
 Alice Pringle - Mobile or text 07974 782016

* * * * *

*'Walk It' is the 'Paths for All' project in the Scottish Borders, supported by Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders. The aim is to help people become more physically active through providing low level and friendly led walks. We identify local routes suitable for most abilities. 'Walk It' walks are safe, social, low level, led and free. Walks are led by a first aid trained 'Walk It' Leader and are dementia friendly.
 You can find out more online by searching Scottish Borders Council 'Walk It'.*

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The busy Walkerburn Bowls and Petanque Club summer season is well under way.

The friendly Friday afternoon Petanque remains popular, and more people are welcome to come along and join in. There has been a good turn-out for inter-club matches and it is good to see everyone present enjoying themselves each time. We have been lucky enough to face some experienced competition and are improving with each match we play.

The Bowls section continue with their informal 'Wappenshaw' games at 2.00pm every Monday and Saturday and at 11.00am every Wednesday, each with a 'half-way' break for tea or coffee and a biscuit. It has been particularly pleasing to have the primary school children come along with their teachers and make the most of a sunny morning as they joined in some friendly games using the children's bowls that the club possesses. Thank you to the teachers and all the children who took part. We hope you will be able to take advantage of an open invitation to come back again more regularly! It is a great pleasure to us that we have been able to share

the wonderful facilities we have with our local community. The Food Foundation have also been able to use the clubhouse for meetings and the Rotary Club laid on a much enjoyed Queen's Jubilee tea for the Walkerburn Pensioners.

Members can take advantage of both Bowls and Petanque and many players enjoy having a go at both sports. Petanque has the advantage of being an 'all year round' sport and is seldom held up by bad weather. All are welcome and there are teas, coffee and biscuits available. Non-members of all ages are can also come along and have a go. We always look forward to seeing new faces and we are open all year round.

The club continue to follow the Bowls Scotland and Scottish Petanque Covid advice and is particularly well set up for members to be safe, with electronic monitoring and adequate disinfectant available.

For more details please contact George Thornton on 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk

BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS

Please submit articles, letters or other material for the July 2022 issue by the end of June. Thank you.

Walkerburn Rugby Back in Business

Following on from the successful Walkerburn Sevens the club is busy once again with practice nights and a new 'Tartan Touch Rugby' each Thursday evening between 7.00 and 8.15pm. All the hard work of the volunteers has paid off handsomely as the pitch is looked splendid. This is proving to be very successful and is open to all ages from 7 to 70! Children are particularly welcome. Do come along and give it a try!

'Food HUGS' Update

Who would have thought that after 2 years Food HUGS would still be going!

Although Covid, thankfully, seems to be on the decline, the cost of living crisis and soaring energy prices has meant that 'Food HUGS' is needed now more than ever. So for everyone who has supported Food HUGS, and for those that might be new to the village, here's an update as to what Food HUGS have been up to:

September 2021 saw 'Food HUGS' transition to the 'Food HUGS' lunch club which meets on alternate Tuesdays in the hall from 12-3pm with a craft session by Red Button Arts after lunch. Everyone is welcome and the cost is £3 which goes towards the cost of hiring the hall. However, for this you will receive a freshly made main meal, drinks, crisps, fruit salad and of course cake, as well as goodies such as flowers collected from the supermarket. The 'Food HUGS' team put on a splendid Platinum Jubilee high tea with home-made sausage rolls, coronation chicken vol-au-vents and even the cheats version of the winning Platinum Jubilee pudding of white chocolate and citrus trifle.

The last 'Food HUGS' lunch before the team take a short summer break will be on **Tuesday 21st June** and everyone is welcome. But the 'Food HUGS' team won't be resting entirely as we will continue to make Healthy Uncomplicated Great Scran for the Sharing Shed and those that are not able to come to the shed.

As well as the lunch club 'Food HUGS' are doing their bit to reduce food waste and tackle climate change, by collecting and redistributing surplus food on a Monday evening from all the big supermarkets in Galashiels. This is sorted and put into the Sharing Shed the same evening and advertised on Facebook. 'Food HUGS' receive this food as it has a 'Use-by' Date or 'Best-Before' date of that day. It would be thrown out if we did not collect and redistribute it!

It may be worth explaining the difference between 'Use-By' and 'Best-Before' dates:

'Use-By' dates are about food safety and food should not be consumed after the use by date. However, it is perfectly acceptable to freeze food on the day of its use-by date, to be defrosted and cooked at a later date (but food must be cooked and used on the same day it has been defrosted).

'Best-Before' dates are about food quality rather than food safety, so after the date has passed the food will be safe to eat, but its flavour, colour or texture might begin to deteriorate.

Food collected by 'Food HUGS' which has a 'Use-By' date of that evening is put into cool boxes in the shed and advertised on Facebook and must be collected that same evening. Food that has a 'Best-Before' date is put into the shed, but can be left in the shed and be consumed at a later date.

Some supermarkets are now removing 'Best-Before' dates from such items as fruit, vegetables, milk and yogurt, in order to cut down on the amount of food waste, so don't be surprised to find these items in the shed.

Food HUGS also stocks the Sharing Shed on a daily basis with food essentials from 'FareShare', for which Food

HUGS pay a membership. There is a rumour that all the food put into the Shed would otherwise go into landfill. **This is NOT true.** All tins and packets put in the shed are a result of supermarkets donating surplus stock to 'FareShare' or individuals donating in store to 'FareShare' or Food banks.

All food put into the Shed is free of charge and available to all, so please think of everybody and share! Any donations are always gratefully received and go towards the running costs of the Shed and the freezers. However please remember Food HUGS are not responsible for any food that is left in the shed and it is a matter of personal responsibility and choice whether you take it or not.

With the 'Walk In' group finishing for the Summer, the Community Fridge/Freezer will no longer be accessible for people to help themselves to anything that Food HUGS have stocked it with. Therefore Food HUGS will fill a cool box from its freezers and place in the shed each week.

So that everyone has access to this free food, the arrangement will be as follows:

Monday Fresh food collected from the supermarkets stocked in the Shed

Tuesday Fresh and frozen food stocked in the Shed

Wednesday Frozen food from Food HUGS freezers stocked in the Shed

Thursday Frozen meals made by the Food HUGS team stocked in the Shed

Friday Fresh and frozen food stocked in the Shed

Please remember these are guidelines and may not happen consistently every week as all these tasks are done by volunteers who have holidays and families as well. It is also worth noting 'Food HUGS' get what they are given from the supermarkets and from 'FareShare' and have no choice in what is stocked in the shed.

As well as the Sharing Shed and lunch club, 'Food HUGS' have been involved with many food related projects in Walkerburn. We have provided ingredients to the nursery for their cookery lessons, we have supported the Festival with juice, crisps, burgers, tea, coffee and biscuits for their events, and Food HUGS provided the food for the successful impromptu Platinum Jubilee celebration BBQ at the HB club on 5th June. It is hoped that in the future Food HUGS can support the school with providing cereals and fruit for a Breakfast Club, and by running a series of cookery sessions for the children in the summer with the theme of 'Fast food from Scratch', where we will prepare cook and taste test our versions of famous fast food!

If you or your group are planning a community event involving food please email me at denise.hanks87@gmail.com and 'Food HUGS' will do our best to help.

All this work that Food HUGS is doing in Walkerburn would not be possible without the large team of volunteers who give up their time to cook, deliver, pack, sort, restock and clean, the many people who donate food and money to Food HUGS and the Public Hall who house the freezers and store all the FareShare items without which Food HUGS could not operate. So Thank you all.

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022

Present: Mr. P Waller (Chairman), Mrs. Irene Ogilvie-Wilson, Mrs. L Thornton (Secretary), Mr. G Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Ms. M. Daykin, Mrs. S Horsburgh, Mr. M Wilcox (Co-opted).

Chairman welcomed all present, especially our Councillors - Robin Tatler, who was re-elected, and new Councillors Julie Pirone and Marshall Douglas. He mentioned how much the community council looked forward to working with them in the future.

Apologies and Notices Apologies: Mrs. M Maniam, Mrs. H. McIntyre, Mr. C. Kerr, Mrs. P. Purves.

Police Business Mr. Thornton gave a brief review of the Police Report showing detailed figures for the whole Scottish Borders Area for the period 28th March to 30th April 2022, with comments by Community Sergeant Stephen Granger.

His report includes updated advice for motorists, cyclists and motor cyclists: With the return of the warmer weather it is good to see more people out and about, including **cyclists and horse riders**. There comes with this the added responsibility on all road users to ensure they keep themselves and others as safe as possible.

i Drivers should **pass horses at no more than 10mph and at two meters distance**.

ii Drivers should give motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians who are walking in the road at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car.

iii Horse riders should keep to the left, abide by one way streets, never ride more than two abreast, and single file on narrow roads.

iv Cyclists and horse riders should be vigilant throughout their rides so they are aware of all approaching traffic. –

v Cyclists should inform horse riders if they are approaching from the rear by giving a clear greeting or 'bike' - horses are far less likely to be spooked by voice than by seeing presence suddenly next to them.

vi Cyclists should also slow right down and be prepared to stop when approaching horses from either direction.

All road users are entitled to use the roads safely and respect should be shown to all.

More information can be found at <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk>

Killed or Seriously Injured: 23/04/22 a report was received of a road accident on the A72 between Innerleithen and Walkerburn involving a motor cycle and a car. Sadly the motor cyclist succumbed to his injuries and the driver of the car was arrested for driving offences and kept in custody to appear at court on 25/04/22.

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555111.

April Minutes Proposed: Mr. P Waller. Seconded: Mrs. Irene Ogilvie-Wilson

Amendments: Mr. C. Kerr (co-opted) and Mrs. P. Purves (Co-opted) to be added to list of members present.

Matters Arising

i. Secretary reported that she had made further enquiries regarding the complaint about lack of grass cutting on the east side of the steep section of Caberston Avenue. SBC stated that they are not responsible for this. There have been previous unsuccessful attempts to establish ownership of various areas of land in that vicinity. However, Mrs. Thornton was pleased to be able to report that an unknown person had kindly carried out the cutting and thanked him on behalf of the community.

ii. Secretary reported on the potential problem of timber removals from Elibank forest and has contacted Brian Young, Karen McGrath and Philippa Gilhooly at SBC to raise these concerns.

iii. Secretary reported that she is awaiting further information regarding the problem of lorries exiting Caberston farm and causing problems and damage when turning at the entrance of Glendinning's yard.

iv. Regarding the suggestion that a Life Belt should be installed at the bridge over the River Tweed, Ms. Daykin will clarify where this originated.

Correspondence 21 items of Correspondence had been circulated to members throughout the month.

Items to note at this meeting are:

i. Dog Posters have now been put up in places where there have been problems with dog messes.

ii. The application for the Community Grant for the 2022-2023 year will be completed and submitted to Clare Malster as soon as the A.G.M. is finished and members have signed a Code of Conduct agreement. Also, the accounts will be audited by Mr. Harrison, as in previous years.

iii. Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wilcox will take part in a discussion with consultants regarding plans to prepare for increased usage of Electric Vehicles in the Borders Region. In particular, it will look at where to install public charging points. It will be held on 24th May.

iv. Secretary reported that, as well as the agreed site at the entrance to the multi-use pathway, she has also contacted the HB Club and they are willing to allow a bike repair stand to be erected outside their premises. Members expressed thanks for allowing these two sites to be used.

Planning Mr. Thornton reported that there were two S.B.C. Planning notices since the last meeting:

1) Planning Application for five Glamping Pods in the field next to Windlestraw with access through the Windlestraw parking area. There will be some lighting but no details as yet known and there will be changes to the road access. The pods will have decks overlooking the valley.

There are some potential issues/observations:

i. The field is outside the village boundary and has no previous buildings. It is also highly visible from the south side of the river. There has to be a question over spread of buildings, albeit wooden pods, in such a highly visible slope in this narrow part of the valley. Planned lighting, outside the village boundary is also problematic.

ii. If the application were to be acceptable to planners, there should be a legally binding tie to the hotel to stipulate that there should be no chance of this development being sold separately from the hotel and then potentially expanding into the next field along.

iii. The entrance to Windlestraw is already dangerous, but we should defer to roads to look at the proposed changes.

iv. There appears to be a lack of understanding in the application about the published Market Research as it totally ignores the fact that there is probably now an over-abundance of holiday lets in the valley – many of which are now struggling to reach 60% occupancy. Most holiday lets are aimed at bikers, but some owners are suffering because the number of bikers is putting off walkers and older visitors.

It is correct to say that there are no glamping pods in this part of the valley. The nearest ones, at Glentress, are nice but basic.

It is apparent that SBC Planners regard this as important because Community Council has been asked for observations to be submitted by 25th May.

Rather than raise any objections at this stage, it was recommended that the Community Council should put in observations since these do not have to be tied to particular planning policies.

Members agreed that, before doing that, Mr. Thornton should put together a reply for them to consider and to then to forward the agreed observations to S.B.C. before the deadline

2) Application for a sun room/garage pavilion and landscaping to garden at Kirna House, Walkerburn.

Members agreed that there were no grounds for objecting to this application and will inform SBC Planning.

2022 Elections Secretary informed members that election proceedings were up to date and that four valid application forms had been received for the five vacancies. There will be no need for an election ballot to be held. She also read out a letter from the Returning Officer, Dr. Henderson, confirming this.

Secretary also mentioned that the community council will continue to co-opt residents with necessary skills if circumstances arose in the coming year where that might be necessary.

Chairman thanked Dr. Henderson for his help and advice.

Scawd Law Update Mr. Wilcox reported that he had continued to monitor the Scawd Law situation. There has been no further developments in the past month. He had heard that a meeting would be arranged for local liaison groups.

However, details are not known at this stage.

Ukrainian Refugees Update Mrs. P. Purves submitted a short report on behalf of the Ukraine Sub Committee.

She mentioned that, although there was not much to add to previous reports, the SBC have been in touch with people who are offering accommodation and inspections have, we understand, started.

There have been no people wishing to come to Walkerburn. Various organisations are continuing to offer support to new arrivals and we are keeping in contact with them.

Councillor Tatler mentioned that Tweedholm Avenue residents had expressed interest in becoming involved where possible.

Talk by Rosie Callaghan on being selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea

Chairman introduced an invited speaker, Rosie Callaghan, who lives in Walkerburn and is now a 5th year pupil at Peebles High School. Rosie is one of over three thousand young people who have been selected from the UK to join 50,000 young people taking part in the World Scout Jamboree in 2023.

Through an extensive application process, Rosie has been chosen, along with 26 other young people from South East Scotland, to become Unit 8. This unit has also invited 9 Scottish Guides and Rangers to join them. Unit 8 will join 89 other UK units from across the four home nations. This will be the culmination of 18 months' work for the young people and their volunteer leaders, who together are called the UK Contingent.

She spoke to members about her interests and the Scout Jamboree, describing it as an international skills, cultural and adventure festival happening in sensational and scenic South Korea.

The World Scout Jamboree offers young people the chance to learn new skills that they can use in other aspects of their life as well as campaign for change on key world issues that matter to them.

Her talk also focused on the need to raise funds to cover her costs to attend and how this also contributes to assist those living in countries where the cost would be too prohibitive to be part of such an amazing adventure.

She needs to raise £4000 before she goes.

In order to raise this money, Rosie has been sewing badges on uniforms for other Scout members. She will be volunteering at the Edinburgh Marathon and at the Vintage Car Rally at Thirlstane. She will be challenging herself to complete the virtual Kiltwalk in October, which will see her walking round Kielder Water. She is also planning on running a couple of village events such as a quiz night or coffee morning.

Other fundraising opportunities will present themselves in the coming months but she appealed to anyone who can assist her journey by offering an opportunity to help at an event.

She concluded a most interesting talk by asking that anyone kind enough to donate to her fundraising in any way, to please get in touch through cardronascoutgroup@gmail.com.

Afterwards, she was thanked for a very interesting talk and asked to update the Community Council with her progress. Members offered to help her if they can. Councillor Tatler will speak to Rotary Clubs regarding possible funding. Mr. Thornton also offered to donate scouting memorabilia.

Reports by Members

Mr. P Waller (Chairman): Mr. Waller mentioned three different issues:

- i. The old benches in Alexandra Park are still needing painting. Can SBC arrange for this to be done in the near future?
- ii. Red barriers left in Alexandra Park have not been collected. They need to be removed soon.
- iii. Arrangements have been made for Walkerburn Community to take part in the Tweed River clean-up on Sunday 29th May. Protective gloves etc. will be provided from the local resilience shed. However, there is very little problem with small items of litter but there is a problem with a large tree being lodged against supports underneath the Tweed River bridge. It is too big for local volunteers to remove. Can SBC deal with this urgently?

Mrs. Irene Ogilvie-Wilson: Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson raised four issues:

- i. She pointed out that she did not think that the 'Dog Fouling' posters put up in various parts of the village were effective. People in the village did not feel that the Council was doing nearly enough to combat dog fouling and general bad behaviour by some dogs.

Members acknowledged that there was never enough action being taken. Unfortunately, the Council and the police did not have the resources to take more effective measures. However, it was hoped that people would report specific instances of bad behaviour to the Council as this could go some way to helping reduce the nuisance.

- ii. She mentioned that she had received a complaint about problems with vermin, largely caused by garbage left unattended and not properly protected, and wondered what was the best way for dealing with it.

However, as it is on private property, this is a matter for the affected parties to deal with. In the first instance, the landlord should be asked to deal with the problem if the affected property is not owned by a resident. SBC have an effective Pest Control unit that can give advice about dealing with these issues.

- iii. Next, she said that people had complained to her about the horse transport van which seems to be parked permanently in Galashiels Road and is an obstruction to traffic and darkens the windows of adjacent properties. Both Mr Waller and Mr Thornton said the van is not there permanently, having seen it being driven. Councillor` Tatler pointed out that if the van is taxed and insured the owner is legally able to park it on the road.

- iv. She also asked if there has been any update on the proposed pump-track to be sited in Walkerburn.

Secretary pointed out that this was something that the Development Trust was pursuing and there has been no news of any outcome.

Mr. G Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary): Mr. Thornton reported on five issues:

- i. He gave a short report about a meeting held in Innerleithen Public Hall on 16th May concerning the proposed Innerleithen Bike Hub.

A good turnout, mainly of people from the local area, listened to a presentation chaired by Ed Shoote, who has previously address WDCC concerning Mountain Biking and about plans for renovation and development of the disused Caerlee Mill buildings.

The Caerlee scheme has been developed in partnership with South of Scotland Enterprise, S.B.C. and Napier University. Other interested parties include NHS Borders, and Scottish Ambulance Service. It is at an advanced stage of preparation for a planning submission

Different speakers used a slide presentation to show what progress has been made to turn the three remaining buildings into a state-of-the-art Bike Innovation Centre and Bike Hub that into that would make it a major attraction for potential businesses and for research. As such, the scheme has the potential to be a real benefit to all of the local area.

However, concerns were raised that existing problems with anti-social behaviour by mountain bikers, bad parking in many parts of Innerleithen, lack of camping and toilet facilities and riders cycling on pavements must be addressed first as this was likely to exacerbate existing problems if they were not part of the plan.

Local residents were concerned that this project, however laudable, could create more problems for the community.

A planning application is due to be submitted to SBC by the end of this month.

- ii. SBC have informed community councils that applications for Annual Grants should be submitted as soon as possible. He confirmed that the Community Council annual accounts will be submitted after the AGM, together with various forms which are required. These include an Equality Statement and the Community Council Code of Conduct. The Accounts will be audited independently as usual.

- iii. The Rugby Club '7's' had been very successful and Mr. Thornton proposed that members should give the committee and helpers a vote of thanks for all their hard work. It brought much credit to the village. Members all agreed.

- iv. He had passed on a complaint about a dangerous pavement at the junction of Hall Street and Tweedholm Avenue. This had been dealt with promptly by SBC and he wanted to thank the resident for reporting it and the council workmen for doing a good job.

- v. He was pleased to note that Police Scotland were due to get extra Police recruits and wondered when and how many this might be for the Borders Region?

Councillor Pirone agreed to follow up this query and will also be pressing for more Police resources for the area.

Mrs. S Horsburgh: Mrs. Horsburgh mentioned the recent fatal accident on the A72 at the Pirn and had observed the resultant traffic difficulties when vehicle were re-routed along the back road. This random action had caused considerable congestion problems as the back road is simply not adequate for a lot of traffic. Did the Police not have any contingency plans for these incidences? This was by no means an isolated incident, albeit an infrequent one. She asked why a

convoy system could not be automatically put in place when the A72 was blocked? Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson was in one of the vehicles held up near the scene of the accident and agreed that it was badly handled. Members agreed that the Community Council should write to Sergeant Granger to get his views on this matter.

Ms. M Daykin: Ms. Daykin raised two issues:

i. She asked whether some traffic calming measures could be introduced along Peebles Road, eastwards from the High Cottages. There are considerable traffic speeding problems along this straight stretch of road. This is a danger to pedestrians and vehicles.

Mrs. Thornton reported that she had been made aware of this complaint and has already written to Sergeant Granger.

ii. As the amount of work done by the Community Council seems to increase each year, she wondered whether it would help to set out the monthly minutes in a more concise style. Perhaps they could be set out with bullet points to make them easier to read?

Minutes Secretary agreed, but pointed out that it was important to have a full record of each meeting. These minutes were also retained by SBC and published on the village website and in 'Burning Issues'. However, he welcomed this suggestion and thought that an abridged form that made reference to where a full version could be seen could easily be done. He will discuss this with Ms. Daykin and then ask members if they have any further recommendations.

Reports by SBC Councillor(s)

Councillor Tatler:

Councillor Tatler mentioned how pleased he was to be re-elected and thanked members for their kind words.

i. Regarding the issue raised by Ms. Daykin, he has had a meeting at WGS garage in Peebles Road to follow up complaints about traffic issues. He also will be having a site meeting with Chief Inspector Fisher.

ii. He reminded members that there is an on-line meeting on 24th May with Callum Henderson, Infrastructure Project Manager, Turner & Townsend Consultants, who have been appointed by SBC to carry out studies relating to Electric Vehicle infrastructure in the Borders Region.

Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wilcox will participate and report back to the Community Council.

Councillor Pirone:

Councillor Pirone also mentioned how pleased she was to be elected and thanked members for their welcome. She looks forward to working closely with the Walkerburn community.

Councillor Douglas:

Councillor Douglas thanked members for their welcome. As a recent member of neighbouring Innerleithen Community Council, he is very familiar with Walkerburn and many of the issues that both communities share. He is looking forward to serving all the local communities.

Any Other Business

i. The on-going problem of cars parking too close to the corner of Caberston Road and the A72 was again mentioned. Members pointed out that, although there had been an improvement, cars were still causing problems for large vehicles turning into and out of Caberston Road.

Police are aware of this problem, but will be asked to remain aware of it.

ii. Secretary has spoken with Development Trust and Hall Committee regarding a Jubilee commemoration and will report back. The original funding has been taken up, but there is a possibility of raising money from other sources.

iii. Secretary will update contact details of members and new councillors in time for making them available to the community when the A.G.M. concludes.

Chairman's Closing Remarks

Mr. Waller thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting and again thanked all three Councillors for attending.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th June 2022

AGM will be held at the earlier time of 6.30pm. To be chaired by Councillor Tatler), followed by the normal June Meeting at 7.00pm

Please note that a full version of the Minutes can be read on the Walkerburn website and on the noticeboards outside the village hall in Galashiels Road.

Members of Public are welcome to attend and to raise matters of local interest and concern

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: June-July

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------|
| Mondays | 'Walk In' Coffee Morning (<i>last one 20th June before break for summer</i>). Mindful Yoga | 9.30 – 11.30am 7.00 – 8.45pm |
| Tuesdays | FoodHUGS Lunch Club (<i>last one 21st June before break for summer</i>) | 12.30pm |
| Thursdays | Table Tennis (<i>every week, except Summer Festival Party 30th June 7pm-9pm</i>) | 6.00 – 9.00pm |
| Sundays | Table Tennis Festival Church Service 26th June | 6.00 – 9.00pm 10.30am |

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please contact walkerburnpublichall@gmail.com



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JUNE WILDSIDE

The last month has been great for spotting wild life around the place and insects are certainly making themselves more noticeable.

We've lots of different bees visiting the garden solitary, mining, honey and bumble and they're all great pollinators. It's become a sign of the warmer weather when we see the mining bees active in the lawn. They make such neat tiny holes and occasionally you'll catch a glimpse of one entering or leaving it's 'mine'. Like earthworms, ground-nesting bees are nature's natural lawn aerators. You'll typically see mining bees on your lawn between April and June. In the early spring, males search for females and will mate several times before dying soon afterward. After mating, female bees excavate the soil and create up to 3 shafts, each one with up to five smaller burrows, or nesting chambers. These shafts can be up to 2ft/60cm deep. She will lay up to five eggs with one egg in each chamber. She lays each egg on a lump of pollen and nectar and they will hatch within days before the new larvae start their year-long development. The following year, they emerge from the nest and the life cycle continues.

Their shafts can reach depths of 60cm and they're typically 5mm-7mm wide, allowing air to move freely through the soil. The mounds of soil they create as they excavate look like mini volcanoes and can be easily brushed back over the lawn is the same way you'd brush away dry worm casts. After 5 or 6 weeks, the bees will die you'll not see them again until the following year when the new bees emerge. Females can sting. Males, on the other hand, can be very active and even appear aggressive when in search of a female but they do not have a sting. That said, a female will only sting when protecting her nest or if she's trampled on. Even then they don't hurt much at all. They're only rated a 1.0 on the Schmidt Sting Pain Index. Beware though, if you're allergic to a bee's sting, you could end up in trouble. In general bees will use their sting only as a last resort because it means their own death. The sting they

leave has a barbed end meaning that as the bee sticks it in you, the whole organ is ripped from their body as it can't be withdrawn, hence the bee then dies. (This is the 'black blob' you carefully extract from your skin.) Not so with wasps which 'inject' you with toxin then live to fight another day and sting again!

* * * * *

I've been particularly pleased to spot a female roe deer albeit in a crop field and to have seen quite a few young birds visit the bird tables. One morning when I was filling the feeders, I unusually had a bird flitting about me. On stopping and looking, I noticed signs of red feathers appearing and then recognised it as a young goldfinch. We've heard the cuckoo and enjoyed hearing the screeches of overhead swifts during this past month. My blue tit nest is still busy and we've been lucky to have a pair of thrushes appear in the garden. Hopefully that means goodbye to slugs and snails damaging my plants! If they have young somewhere that's even better news. From 1st April this year, it has been illegal to sell or use the old blue/green metaldehyde slug pellets due to the danger they pose to other wildlife. We're now advised to use grit/broken egg shells/used coffee grounds /wool waste pellets or homemade beer traps around our plants. The other thing is to lay down bits of cardboard for the snails or slugs to hide under, then, dispose of the whole thing. No doubt, there will be other means for getting rid of these pests in the ornamental garden on the market in no time, because there's money to be made. We're advised to see these creatures not as pests but as part of the whole ecosystem. Well I can see that, they have their place but they wander out of their 'niche' in the ecosystem and are not welcome to destroy mine, so there! I'm not wasting my beer on molluscs, so where's that old bit of cardboard?

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