



WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL



Festival lad Charlie Nesbit and Essay Winner Alice Shouesmith.

The annual festival returned with a bang after the long Covid months and the whole village turned out in one way or at one time or another!

It was a delight to see so many young folk enjoying themselves all through the week. The organisers had promised us something special and they did not disappoint! There was something for everyone - from the opening church service to the river boat race a week later. Every day was packed with activities. A bike ride, a concert, quiz night, fancy dress parade and a fireworks display kept everyone entertained as the weather also managed to be generally kind to us. The Essay will be displayed on the Community Council Noticeboard outside the Public Hall.

We all owe a big thank you to those who worked so hard to lay on the events and all of you who took part. Walkerburn Festival had a very good week and I think most people enjoyed the bonfire and fireworks but

unfortunately there was a lot of fly tipping on the bonfire which made it too big and environmentally unfriendly due to treated wood. The fire officer has stipulated that the bonfire to be built on the festival Friday afternoon and to be built with pallets only. I trust people will respect this stipulation to make our bonfire safe and environmental friendly.

Finally, after all the fun and frolics, our thoughts and prayers go out to Martha who has done so much to support the Festival and the village over many years. Rest assured Martha, we are all thinking of you and willing you to get better.

TWEEDHOLM AVENUE EAST ROAD CLOSURE DETAILS

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order. Order Details – ‘Road Closure’ and ‘No Waiting’

Reason for Order: Resurfacing works and footway works

Start Date and Duration:

- **Monday 25th July for 5 days – between the hours of 8:30 to 17:30**
- **Monday 1st August for 5 days – between the hours of 8:30 to 17:30**

FOOD HUGS

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.

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.

WALKERBURN CALENDAR 2023

Photos of Walkerburn and the surrounding area are needed for next year’s calendar. Images should be in landscape orientation and be at least 3MB in size to be included. Please send any images you think might be suitable for the calendar to mail@walkerburn.com

Thanks in advance, the calendar is an important fund raiser for the Development Trust.

Burning Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the August 2022 issue by the end of July. Thank you.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST
/COUNSELLOR AND
PSYCHOTHERAPIST.
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tweedtherapy@aol.com

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The busy Walkerburn Petanque Club summer season continues with friendly Friday afternoon Petanque games, and more people are welcome to come along and join in.

You can also practice alone if this is more convenient. All members have a key to the clubhouse and access to all the equipment they might need. The same goes for the Bowls section!

The Bowlers have regular friendly 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. Whether it is Bowls or Petanque, there are always players on hand to help out and give advice. Don't worry about equipment or experience.

Members can play 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. Non-members of all ages are can come along and have a go. We always look forward to seeing new faces. 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

Walkerburn Rugby Back in Business

Following on from the successful Walkerburn Sevens the club is busy once again with practice nights on Tuesday evenings and a new 'Tartan Touch Rugby' each Thursday evening between 7.00 and 8.15pm.

All the hard work of the volunteers to improve the facilities has paid off handsomely and the pitch is looked splendid. Allan and his mower have transformed the pitch into a first class playing area. This evening session 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.

'Turning Towards' Ourselves and Others

Dance, Meditation and Movement Workshops in Galashiels Delivered by: Julia Clarke, of 'Changingbodychangingmind'

This workshop will run weekly on Thursdays from **4 August to 22 September**. Each session will last for 2 hours from 10am - 12pm with regular breaks throughout. Sessions will take place in the rear studio in the MacArts Centre,

Galashiels. Please click the link to see information about the Workshops and to book

Facebook: [changingbodychanging mind](https://www.facebook.com/changingbodychangingmind) Email: julia@changingbodychangingmind.co.uk

www.changingbodychangingmind.co.uk (not yet live) Phone: 07986 961809

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! We're planning more 'Away-Day' walks for the first Monday morning of each month - so book in if you would like to hear more and join us. 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'.

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2022

Present

Mr. P Waller (Chairman), Mrs. L Thornton (Secretary), Mr. G Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Ms.M.Daykin, Mrs. S Horsburgh, Mrs. S. Sedgwick. Mr. C. Kerr (Co-opted), Mr. M Wilcox (Co-opted) Mrs. P.Purves (Co-Opted).
Councillor Douglas, Councillor Tatler

Chairman's Introduction

Chairman welcomed all present, especially our new member Mrs. Sedgwick. He mentioned how much the Community Council looked forward to working for the community in this coming year.

Apologies and Notices

Apologies: Mrs. M Maniam, Mr. M. Wilcox, Councillor Pirone.

Notices:

- i. A72 road at Horsburgh 30mph restriction for duration of Peebles Show between 13th August 06.00 hours and 14th August 03.00 hours.
- ii. Peebles Road, Innerleithen 'No Waiting' from 19.00 hours on 24th June to 05.00 hours on 25th June for maintenance of Scottish Water manhole covers between Traquair Road and St Ronan's Terrace.

Police Business

There were no incidents during the past month relating to Walkerburn.

Councillor Tatler mentioned that Sergeant Granger was no longer heading up the local community policing team and we are awaiting a replacement. We will be informed of changes as soon as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, it was suggested that Community Council think about what it is we want from the Police and invite Sergeant Granger's replacement to attend a meeting to discuss Policing in the village and surrounding district. There are a number of on-going concerns that need to be raised.

For instance, the current format for reporting crime and Police activity in Tweeddale could be improved. The current system which follows a West of Scotland format for reporting is not adequate for our needs as it is seldom relevant or informative enough.

Lastly, we would like to thank Sergeant Granger for his help in the community over the past couple of years.

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

May Minutes

Proposed: Ms. M. Daykin. *Seconded:* Mr. P Waller.

Matters Arising

- i. Councillor Tatler reported that he has spoken to Neil Pringle at SBC and ascertained that the benches in the park will be repainted.
- ii. Secretary reported that there are still a number of red barriers that are no longer in use and needing to be removed. She will continue to speak to SBC about this matter.
- iii. Secretary reported that the large tree lodged under the bridge over the river had still not been removed. Chairman said he was concerned that this could cause damage to the structure. Councillor Tatler advised that it might be helpful to contact the Flood Protection Officer.
- iv. Ms. Daykin confirmed that it was the Fire Service who had mentioned that a Life Belt should be installed at the bridge over the River Tweed. However, there is little support for it from members and the rationale was questioned. It was noted that such provision could be extremely dangerous when the river is low and even more hazardous when the river is in flood. A further doubt was raised about whether it would be properly maintained. This matter will be left the relevant authority to deal. However, Secretary will write to the Chair of the Police and Safer Communities Committee to ask for more clarification of this issue.
- v. Following the Community Council discussion regarding action to be taken when the A72 is closed, Secretary had tried to contact Sergeant Granger to ascertain what current plans, if any, were set out for dealing with serious incidents. She has not had a reply, and Councillor Tatler explained that Sergeant Granger was away at present.
- vi. Ms. Daykin referred to the suggestion that it may be better to set out the monthly minutes in a more concise style. This is still being discussed with the Minutes Secretary.

Correspondence

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

Planning

Mr. Thornton reported that, as requested, he had replied to S.B.C. Planning regarding the notices discussed at the last meeting.

There was also an addition to the previous application for internal building work at Kirna House, Walkerburn and Members agreed that there were no grounds for objecting. Mr. Thornton will inform S.B.C. Planning.

Scawd Law Update

Mr. Wilcox is continuing to monitor the Scawd Law situation. There have been no further developments in the past month and it is still not known if or when a meeting will be arranged for local liaison groups. However, one further issue has arisen at this late stage because there is a possibility that Golden Eagles are nesting close to where the turbines will be sited. It is understood that this is being investigated and there should be more information available before next month's Community Council meeting.

Ukrainian Refugees Update

One family has moved into the village, but since then no Ukrainian refugees have expressed an interest to come to Walkerburn. Various organisations are continuing to offer support to new arrivals and we are keeping in contact with them.

Mr. Kerr mentioned that Traquair village had asked for a meeting with Walkerburn to get more information about helping refugees locally. The local area Rotary Club had offered to help where possible.

Councillor Tatler was pleased to mention that two families have been housed in Galashiels and that Tweedholm Avenue residents had expressed interest in becoming involved in order to help where possible.

Mrs. Purves mentioned that S.B.C. have been slow to carry out checks and have still not carried out checks in the village to confirm suitability of accommodation that has been offered. However, she did point out that, although the offer of local accommodation sounded good in principle, the village is remotely located and it is very difficult for families to cope if they are isolated.

Reports by Members

Mr. Waller (Chairman) mentioned two different issues:

i. He again raised the issue of the badly damaged steps ascending the path that continues to the East of the Boardwalk in Alexandra Park. There had been an agreement with S.B.C. that this should be rebuilt, but the Covid lockdown has prevented this from happening.

Mr. Thornton said that he and Mrs. Thornton had a site visit with Neil Pringle some time ago and it was ascertained that the land was indeed the property of S.B.C. It was expected that the work was suitable to be carried out by offenders subject to 'Community Service Orders'. It would be done under the supervision of S.B.C. Mr. Waller will raise this issue again with Neil Pringle.

ii. He had received complaints about overgrown shrubs causing an obstruction on High Cottages outside no.8 and was going to contact S.B.C. However, he has now learnt that this has been pruned back and wanted to thank whoever did the work..

Ms. Daykin (Vice-Chairman) raised three issues:

i. She was concerned that the floor of blue bus shelter at the west end of Peebles Road was still in a dangerous condition.

However, S.B.C. are aware of this and it is being dealt with – either by removing the shelter or, preferably, by repairing the floor.

ii. She reported on the recent request from Bus Users UK for communities to complete a questionnaire. However, as Ms. Daykin pointed out, the questions were both disjointed and incoherent and she had found it impossible to give any reasoned answers to questions. Members agreed that this was disappointing, but was not of great relevance to our community.

iii. She also raised the on-going issue of the proposed cycle pump-track for Walkerburn.

It had been suggested that any planning application might be submitted from the Community Council, rather than the Development Trust, because their support was necessary and it would also reduce the planning costs. However, it was pointed out that, although there have been precedents for this, any support would have to be with the full agreement of the community. For instance, when an application was submitted for the paths in Jubilee Park some years ago, all the neighbourhood households had agreed to it unanimously.

If the Development Trust can get similar consent, the Community Council could consider handling the Pump Track application.

Mrs. Purves pointed out that the Community Council would also have to have full control of this contract. If a joint-venture was proposed, that would take a considerable time to establish and would result in a long delay. Councillor Tatler also pointed out that there would also have to full proof of who actually owns the proposed site. For instance, there have been past local land-ownership conflicts involving S.B.C., S.B.H.A. and Horsburgh Porters.

iii. 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.

Mrs. Thornton (Secretary):

Mrs. Thornton raised three issues:

i. She raised concerns that nothing appeared to have been done about redecorating the ante-room in the Hall as "Mollie's Room", to commemorate Mollie McIntosh. She understood that Mollie's family had donated money towards this memorial.

Jade Turner, who is the Chair of the Hall Committee, was able to inform members that a meeting has already been arranged to discuss this issue.

ii. She asked Councillors how best to get a replacement for the faded street signs at the top of Hall Street and at the Caberston Rod junction with Peebles Road. Councillors advised that it could be dealt with by writing to Neil Pringle.

iii. Further complaints have been received about the wide horsebox van parked almost continually on Galashiels Road. This is an on-going issue and causes obstruction to traffic on the busy A72 as well as blocking the light from the windows of nearby residents.

It was pointed out that the van is understood to be taxed and insured and there is little that the Police can do to have it removed. It is drivable as the owner has been seen to very occasionally use it to transport two dogs to the parking lay-by on the back road.

Mr. Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary):

i. Mr. Thornton reported that he and Mr. Wilcox had taken part in a consultative meeting 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. The meeting had been

useful and informative. Unfortunately, although a number of community councils had been asked to participate, only one member from West Linton and the two Walkerburn members had taken up the invitation.

The overall impression was that the Borders region, being a rural and scattered area presented a number of problems. However, it was apparent that both the Scottish Government and the S.B.C. were taking the matter seriously by working to install a suitable infrastructure while also bearing in mind that alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, might even supersede electric batteries.

Walkerburn was one example of a village where there would be difficulty finding suitable site for electric charging points. Members would be updated on the outcome of the research findings when their final report is published. Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wilcox will participate and report back to the Community Council if there are any further developments.

ii. Mr. Thornton reported that he had assisted Mrs. Purves and Secretary to sort through boxes of old Community Council papers that had been stored in the Hall Ante Room. Much of it was of no further use or interest, but some of the papers were retained and filed away as they might be of future use. Mrs. Purves agreed to store papers at her house, where they would be kept dry and safe.

Mrs. S Horsburgh:

Mrs. Horsburgh mentioned that she had a most unpleasant experience when council workmen had strayed from the public roadside verge weed killing by also spraying flowers and plants which were part of her private garden. There has been some public concern about this, but she wanted this to be made fully known to S.B.C. officials responsible for roadside spraying so that workers would be more careful in future.

Councillor Tatler said that he has already spoken to Craig Blackie about this matter and he will get more details. Contractors were used on this occasion and S.B.C. will do more to prevent any repetition.

Mrs. Purves raised two issues:

i. Vans are causing an obstruction in Caberston Road by parking outside the H.B. Club, close to the sharp bend coming off the Tweed Bridge. Because there are no 'No Waiting' signs anywhere in the vicinity, drivers just park indiscriminately. This causes considerable difficulties for large lorries trying to negotiate the turn. As there are two 'Air B & B' properties in this vicinity, visitors are also adding to the parking problems. It was again requested that we have signs in place to prevent this from happening.

Councillor Tatler agreed to look into the matter and report back.

ii. At the opposite end of Caberston Road, on the bend coming off the A72, there is a similar problem for goods vehicles which is caused by cars parking too close to the junction.

It was mentioned that this is an on-going problem and Police have made intermittent attempts to speak to the drivers responsible who live in adjoining properties.

Mr. C. Kerr raised two issues:

i. Mr. Kerr mentioned that School buses were frequently cutting into the grass of the green space opposite the H.B. Club. This is damaging the edge of the road and the grass and leaving large ruts in the ground.

ii. He also pointed out that he has noticed that there are increasing incidents of vehicles speeding along Caberston Road. This is a considerable worry because there are families with small children who cross the road to play on the drying green. The fact that they often have to come out from between parked cars exacerbates the danger. He laid the blame squarely on local drivers, who are well aware of the speed limits and should know better. He has remonstrated with drivers on more than one occasion but they continue to drive too fast. This is something that needs to be dealt with urgently.

Councillor Tatler mentioned that site meetings have been organized to look into issues at various parts of the village. This will be included.

Mr. Kerr pointed out that there had been a possibility that we would be included in a village 'Speed Watch' scheme. Unfortunately, like many other things, Covid seemed to have put an end to it.

Mrs. Thornton mentioned that she had spoken with Sergeant Granger a short while ago about speeding issues and he was hoped that the 'Pop-up-Bob' would be available again later this year.

Reports by SBC Councillors

i. Councillor Tatler informed the meeting that he intended to walk around the village with SBC officers to ascertain where there were infrastructure problems. He asked that a member of WDCC accompany the group. The date has yet to be determined Mr. Kerr volunteered and all agreed. Councillor Tatler will liaise with Mr. Kerr.

ii. Councillor Douglas reported that he has been following up on issues in Walkerburn, such as speeding. The newly elected Council is arranging a series of meetings to improve the organisation and to get issues progressed. One of their tasks will be to use more video-conferencing in lieu of face-to-face meetings. This should result in big savings on travel costs and members' time. He also mentioned how well the recent Enduro World Series cycle event had been organized and hoped that both Walkerburn and Innerleithen communities would be able to build on this year's success in the future.

Any Other Business

i. Mr. Thornton will be present at the Tweeddale Area Committee meeting on-line session on Monday 27th June as Ms. Daykin will be away.

ii. Secretary has updated contact details of members and new Councillors and will make them available to the community when she has confirmed that everyone agrees with the information in the list.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th July 2022

Members of the public are welcome to attend and to raise any questions they may have regarding village matters.



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JULY WILDSIDE

July has arrived -a time for summer holidays from work and school, and a change in everyday life.

June was an interesting month though, especially with all the fledglings. Our young blue tits have become quite accomplished at the nut feeder but it's the siskins - up to seven at a time - which have surprised me. We don't usually see them much of them at this time of year but the thistle or nyjer seed feeder has proved very popular with siskin families and goldfinches, to the extent I've run out of seed. There will be seed heads a plenty in the wild now for them to feed on so I'll not worry too much before the Autumn about re stocking. The feeders are supposed to be supplementary feed to wild foods anyway. One bird I've been particularly pleased to see is a pair of song thrushes which have been enjoying snails amongst other things. I hope they stay a while and keep snails and slugs away from my veggies! As is usual the blackbirds are busy feeding on our redcurrants so I must remember to cover the strawberries which are starting to tinge red. If the blackbirds or the thrushes see them, I won't get a look in. We have lots of ripening berries on the rowan and hawthorn, and the pyracanthas were all heavy in blossom

so hopefully plenty of berries in the Autumn for the birds when they really need them. In the meantime then they can leave the blueberries and strawberries for us!

We were lucky enough to see a hare mid month but as the grass grows longer they are harder to spot. Fortunately, no rabbits in the garden yet. Our bugbear at present is jackdaws and a couple of their rook friends. They are so greedy and destructive with the feeders and we've had to cover the bird table in a wide mesh to allow only smaller birds in. They've figured out how to pull it off a couple of times though so the fight continues.

The next 'supermoon' when the full moon, in this case, is nearest the Earth, occurs on 13th July. This one is known as the buck moon. When one of these supermoons happens, it appears 14% larger and 30% brighter than usual. The best time to see it at its best is just after it rises or just before it sets.

If you are away on holidays soon, remember to look for unusual wildlife and enjoy!

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: July/August

Mondays	Mindful Yoga	7.00 – 8.45pm
Tuesday 9th August	Red Button Craft Session Walkernburn Community Development Trust AGM	2.00-3.30pm 7.30pm
Thursdays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm
Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm

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

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