



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

Our 140th Annual Show takes place on Saturday 7th September in the Public Hall.

The Vegetable Association is the oldest organisation in the village run by a committee and we are always keen to welcome new members. We also have a group of volunteers who help us set up the hall for the show and dismantle the tables on the Saturday evening. Perhaps you would like to help?

This year we have made some changes to our schedule, giving some history from 1960 and listed last year's prizewinners. The biggest change is in the Junior section which is now divided into classes:

Pre School Classes - Primary School classes age 1-3
Primary School classes age 4-7 and High School

Classes S1-S6.

We have also brought the prize money in line with the Vegetable, Flower and Industrial sections. A separate sheet will be distributed to the school nearer the show date.

A reminder **all exhibits must be received in the hall by 10am on the day of the show.** We are also open on Friday evening to receive exhibits. Doors open at 2pm on the day of the show. There will be the usual teas and raffle. We look forward to seeing you on the day and hope you are a prizewinner!

Irene Cotter (Secretary)

SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL ASSEMBLY FOR CREATIVE CLIMATE ACTION

This year's theme of the 'SRINGBOARD' (Scottish Borders Local assembly for creative climate action) meeting is 'Active Travel', and we're delighted to announce that we will be spending the day in and around Walkerburn Village Hall creatively learning, discussing and participating in workshops sessions around funding, inclusive active travel, collaborative project planning and a river side session with Connecting Threads (un)trodden Path Artists' in residence - Coleman and Hodges.

This event will also be part of the Borders wide 'Walking & Wheeling Festival with a circular bike ride from Walkerburn 'Cardrona' in the morning (10am-12:30pm), led by Galashiels 'Hike and Bike' hub.

There will be e-bikes available to hire from Walkerburn Community Bike Hire. If you are a local resident, please contact walkerburncdt@gmail.com to access FREE/subsidised hire. All welcome!

This event is open to all local residents, and anyone interested in discussing Active Travel - biking, walking and more.

Details:

Thursday 5th September, Walkerburn Village Hall

Bike ride: 10am - 12:30pm - Lunch (free) 12:30 - 1:30pm

Registration & local Active travel stalls:

11am - 1:00pm

Creative Climate Action Local Assembly:

1:30 - 4:30pm

Registration details and outline programme for both the bike ride and the event coming next week on Wednesday 14th August is at CABN Eventbrite.

Please contact Kerry from 'Connecting Threads' via email - kerry@sup.org.uk or phone: 07385 816531 for more information.

* * * * *

This event is led by CABN, SBCAN (Scottish Borders Climate Action Network) and Connecting Threads with support from Creative Carbon Scotland, Hike and Bike Hub, Walkerburn Development Trust and Creative Scotland.

POST OFFICE COLLECTION TIN 'THANK YOU'

The 'Burning Issues' team would like to thank everyone who has put money in our collection tin at the Walkerburn Post Office. We have been entirely self-funded since we started some 20 years ago. Apart from a generous grant from Borders Council for a photocopier to be used by us and the wider community, we have always relied on our advertisers and donors to help us to continue. Many thanks everyone!

WALKERBURN CALENDAR 2025

Once again the year seems to be going very fast and we're still waiting for summer, but that won't have stopped the photographers amongst you. Now is the time when 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 village.

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: August/September

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please note new contact: enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Mindful Yoga. For more info, please tel. Sue Cotterill on 07983 167075 or email reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com	6.00-9.00pm
Tuesdays (weekly)	Youth Club (except for last Tuesday every month)	6.00-8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting NO AUGUST MEETING. Next one is on Wed 18th September	7.00pm
Thursdays	'Active Travel' open event 5th September	10.00am - 4.30pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service 18th August Table Tennis	2.00pm 6.00 - 7.00pm

PEEBLES & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Appointments available at Walkerburn Public Hall, Thursdays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Call: 01721-721 722 for an appointment.

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The Peeblesshire League is now into the second half of the club bowls competition and we look forward to a good final result when the season ends in mid-September.

It is heartening to know that we have a pool of players to make up a team and even provide reserves when needed.

The Wappenshaw games have been well attended and the opening rounds of the club competitions have begun.

There are two major Open Tournaments to look forward to: the Flora Pairs on Saturday 31st August and Open Pairs on Saturday 14th September. There are still places to be filled and we look forward to welcoming new pairs to each event.

Thanks to all who have taken part and to the helpers who worked so hard to provide the excellent catering and good organisation we can guarantee that the

Coming events will also be a big success!

The Petanque section has also been engaged in a number of summer fixtures, including a new Borders League and a coaching event. The informal Friday afternoon 'drop-in' sessions are increasingly popular and new members have commented on how pleasant it is to play at Walkerburn.

All are welcome at these events. Tea, coffee and biscuits are always available.

* * * * *

For more details, please see the Walkerburn Bowls 'Facebook' pages, or contact George Thornton on either 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk.

HBMI CLUB (Follow us on 'Facebook' – fb/rodger)

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WALKERBURN DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held in Walkerburn Public Hall on Wednesday 17th July 2024

Present: Mr C Kerr (Chairman), Ms M Daykin, Mrs S Horsburgh, Ms G Jones, Ms S Sedgwick, Mr G Thornton, Mrs L Thornton, Mr P Waller, Mrs P Purves (Secretary), Cllr M Douglas, Cllr J Pirone

Apologies and Notices Apologies had been received from Mr Wilcox and Cllr Tatler. No notices.

Open Questions Mr C Trousdell, on behalf of the Development Trust, reported that the Pump Track was close to completion and he hoped that there would be a 'soft' opening for village residents on Saturday 28th July, a fun day for everyone, followed by a more formal opening later in the summer. The Chairman congratulated everyone involved.

Police Business The multi member report had been circulated and there were no questions.

June Minutes The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the Minutes of the 19th June meeting as a true record. Mrs Horsburgh proposed acceptance, seconded by Mr Waller. The Chairman asked the secretary to run through matters arising:

a. Item 5c Park Bench Painting. The secretary reported that the Unpaid Work Team had been contacted and negotiations continued for them to provide the labour whilst WDCC provided the materials.

b. Item 5d Path Repairs in Alexandra Park. Mr Waller reported that he had sought the views of park users who were adamant that heavy rain makes the repaired paths useless. He was still being assured by SBC officers that the repairs were fit for purpose, but he would continue his efforts to get proper repairs made. Use of Back Road when A72 Closed. Mr Wilcox had sent in a report to say that he had had a useful exchange with Ch Insp Fletcher and SBC Roads. If the A72 is closed by the Police they will start a one-way system for a diversion on the back road running west to east from Innerleithen/Walkerburn to the Peel Bridge. SBC will provide manpower to assist as quickly as possible. No further action required until we see the system in operation.

d. Item 5g Path Maintenance Grant. The secretary explained that more work was required before we were

ready to make a grant application though an interest had been registered. The Chairman explained that it looked as if the main effort for Walkerburn would be to cut/clear about 2 miles of path monthly from April to September. He was currently speaking to everyone involved in maintenance between Peebles and Walkerburn. He stated that he would send a short briefing note to members to allow for a discussion at the September meeting.

e. Item 8a Waste Bin at Recycling Point. Mr Waller reported that he had been in discussion with SBC; the bin had been damaged so had been removed. There was already a waste bin close by but the situation at the Recycling Point would be monitored since the removed waste bin had been used to hold bags/cardboard used by residents to carry bottles to the Recycling Point.

f. Item 8b Overgrowing Vegetation on A72 Galashiels Road Pavement. The Secretary reported that the problem of bushes hanging over the pavement at the top of the allotments and the Dev Trust field remained a concern. The Development Trust was currently undergoing changes in the management team. After some discussion, Ms Sedgwick undertook along with Ms Jones and Ms Daykin, to set up a clearance session from the Allotments to the end of the field using Allotment holders and Dev Trust workers/equipment.

g. Items 8c, e and f SBHA Issues. Mr Waller reported a useful exchange with SBHA which seems to have resulted in some action on Caberston Road but he would chase the issue of the messy ground on Park Avenue and alert them to the pile of rubble which suddenly appeared beside the garages on Caberston Road.

h. Item 8d Hedge on Caberston Road. Cllr Pirone reported that she would continue to chase for options.

Correspondence The list had been circulated and there were no questions.

Planning Mr Thornton reported that there were no issues at present.

The Chairman asked Cllr Douglas if he could give any indication as to when SBC might respond to the ECU on the Scawd Law windfarm application. Cllr Douglas responded by reminding everyone that SBC was only a consultee on this application but that they had requested further information/reports from the applicant and he did not yet know when the Planning Committee would consider it. He went on to give a short briefing on the Planning Committee's decision to refuse the Wull Muir Wind Farm application (3km NW of Heriot) although he reminded members that the developer might appeal the decision. This was of great interest in view of some similarities with the Scawd Law application and members will read the Planning Committee's decision carefully when it is released.

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024

The Chairman welcomed Mr Duncan Machell who would be taking the lead in organising the parade at the War Memorial and in setting up the display in the Public Hall. Members had been sent the outline planning document and he hoped that they had read it and understood the work involved. He noted that the secretary would not be available over that

weekend. After some discussion the following was agreed:

a The secretary will deal with all SBC application paperwork and will contact the Hall booking secretary and treasurer to agree rates for the Hall from midday on Saturday 9th November to 5pm on Sunday 10th November.

b The secretary will order and pay for the wreaths and give bill to Treasurer.

c The secretary will prepare notices for website, Burning Issues etc and check drafts with Parade Commander.

d Mr Thornton will contact the Lord Lieutenant to ascertain who will lay his wreath.

e Mr and Mrs Thornton will set up liaison with the clergy and clear details with the secretary. (Initial action completed by end August full programme details confirmed later).

f The secretary will book the piper and the bugler and contact Mr Bremner to ask him to take photographs on the day. She will liaise with Mr Machell to ensure press coverage.

g At the September meeting decisions on the format of the event at the Hall after the ceremony will be finalised. All agreed to consider the idea proposed by Mrs Thornton that refreshments should be coffee, tea, soft drinks, cakes and biscuits rather than a full lunch. (Decision to be made at September meeting).

h A budget of £300 plus Hall costs was agreed for the event.

i Mrs Thornton will check wreath arrangements with the youth organisations and ensure that names are provided to the secretary.

j Members must decide who will act as Head Steward and who will act as stewards. (Decisions at September meeting).

k The secretary will prepare a report for the September meeting.

l Mr Machell will be copied into all planning correspondence.

SBC Review There were 2 parts to this item which were discussed separately.

a SBC Review of Non-Financial Support for Community Councils. The Chairman reminded members that help had been offered by WDCC for this review and then asked the secretary to run through the existing arrangements. Existing support includes a small cash grant and the useful ability to use the SBC Democratic Services Team for advice and help.

After discussion the feeling of the meeting was that there was room for considerable improvement in the

technical support given to Community Councils. One idea, which was well received, was that CCs should have consistent email addresses, hosted in some form by SBC, which would also allow the CC network to pass information/ideas easily. Such a system would: get rid of the need to keep changing CC emails as office holders changed; give CCs the opportunity to post public information on their own 'page'; allow SBC to post general information centrally rather than sending out individual emails. Other concerns raised included the time and work involved in CC business and the need to educate the public to make more use of existing SBC contact systems.

Everyone agreed that training for community councillors and prospective community councillors was essential. Online training had occasionally been offered but take-up from WDCC had been poor and there was a general feeling that a better and more effective approach was to arrange training sessions locally, in the evening and in decent accommodation. Some members felt there might be merit in having short bursts of information, possibly delivered remotely and screened before a CC meeting, eg a short brief on how village and town boundaries are established and changed or how SBC liaises with Police Scotland.

Given the number of ideas being shared the Chairman directed the secretary to send round a note to members asking them to consider a variety of thoughts, add their own and try to set some priority. The secretary would then collate responses and report back to Members.

Review of Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN). The role of SBCCN and the methodology followed to keep individual community councils informed and involved has been brought into question hence the decision taken to widen the non-financial review to include a review of SBCCN.

The secretary apologised for the lack of a briefing note and quickly explained the background to the formation of SBCCN. She had reviewed the files handed over by Mrs Thornton without finding much from SBCCN and nothing in the past 5 years. In answering the survey she had found herself saying 'No' to every question which was not helpful. Ms Daykin noted that she had been a Tweeddale representative at SBCCN some years ago and had found the work informative and interesting. The problem is that no action is recorded as a result of any SBCCN meetings so there is no way of knowing how useful or not the organisation has been. The secretary noted that Berwickshire was the only area which seemed to have a lively, working system for community councils to share information etc. All agreed that it would be worthwhile finding out more.

In discussion, there was some agreement that a possible way forward might be to follow the pattern of the Flood Group and set up a sub-committee of the Tweeddale Area Partnership with one member from each community council. Meetings could be arranged before Area Partnership meetings. The group could elect their own chair and secretary and terms of reference would have to be agreed by all community councils and the Chair of the Area Partnership. This would have the double advantage of allowing for informal exchanges of information between community councils and also provide the Area Partnership with a formal note of matters of general concern. It was agreed that more work should be done to develop this idea.

(Initial action by secretary to provide a discussion note to members).

Support for Secretary. The Chairman explained that, in recent years, this had been taken in private but, with the agreement of the secretary, he had decided to present the issue publicly. Both he and the secretary were only committed to serve in their roles for one year. In the circumstances the secretary felt most comfortable with claiming actual stationery expenses rather than receiving a lump sum. Cllr Douglas reminded members that if they formally employed a secretary this came with considerable tax and cost implications and all agreed that this was not affordable, however, everyone also agreed that the role was becoming very time consuming because of the level of correspondence to be dealt with. The problem of how to reimburse secretaries at a fair rate was common to all community councils and this might be another problem to present to the non-financial review. In the meantime, all agreed that the secretary would be reimbursed on presentation of invoices.

Reports by Members

A number of complaints had been received by members regarding speeding on Tweedholm Avenue and speed bumps had been proposed. It was pointed out that these were out of favour because of noise nuisance, damage to vehicles and the problems caused for parking. The speeding cars belong to local residents and it might be a case of neighbours asking the drivers to take more care or they will be reported to the police. It was agreed that the Chairman should discuss with roads the possibility of having a presentation/discuss at a future meeting on what has already been considered and the problems arising, e.g. chicanes have been discussed several times, as has removing the flower beds to make more room, but the consequent effect on an already immense parking problem have always meant that the ideas have been shelved.

a A resident had complained that entrance to a driveway was frequently blocked by parked cars. Members were reminded that in such instances the resident should telephone the police giving the car registration and make/model. The police will very quickly take action to contact the owner and demand removal of the vehicle or it will be towed. This is proving to be successful in other places but the person whose drive is blocked must make the call.

b As a result of a number of questions arising in reference to verge cutting, bus shelter damage, broken bike pump, it was agreed that Ms Daykin would put a simple note out on Facebook and Burning Issues asking

residents to report such matters directly to SBC and alert WDCC that they have done so. Unfortunately, if only one person raises a complaint, e.g. WDCC secretary, there may be no action but if a number of residents raise the same issue it is likely to get further up the 'to do' lists.

c A resident had reported to the Police and SBC an incident involving a forestry HGV tearing apart the protecting barriers around the stone wall rebuild at the corner of Caberston Road and the A72. Fortunately, the resident could give an accurate time and a partial registration number as well as some photographs of the damage caused. The secretary has passed on the information to Timber Transport Operations. SBC has already contacted the resident. There have been a number of other incidents reported involving the small minority of forestry HGV drivers who are being careless and these are being reported.

6 Reports by SBC Councillors.

Cllr Douglas noted that he had already reported on the Wull Muir Wind Farm application. He was delighted that Mr Trousdell had run through the programme for opening the pump track and reiterated the point already made that the first opening on 28th July was for residents rather than dignitaries although a formal opening was being scheduled.

a Cllr Pirone reported that problems with the mechanism for loading bins onto waste lorries meant that there was more manual handling which would slow bin emptying leading to some delays and changes to the usual timings. The Tour of Britain opening stage (Tuesday 3rd September) is to be hosted by Kelso and this would bring a welcome boost not just to Kelso but to the whole Borders.

Date of Next Meeting The next meeting is on Wednesday 17th September at 7pm in the Public Hall.

AUGUST WILDSIDE

As I mentioned last month, we have the Perseids meteor shower on August 11th through to August 12th.

It is one of the best meteor showers to watch, with up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. The moon will block out some of the fainter meteors but it sets just after midnight so, if you're up in the wee small hours, it's worth having a look. The full moon is on August 19th and is a blue moon. A blue moon is the third of four full moons in the season. This rare calendar event only happens once every few years, giving rise to the term, "once in a blue moon". There are normally only three full moons in each season of the year. But since full moons occur every 29.53 days, occasionally a season will contain 4 full moons. The extra full moon of the season is known as a blue moon. Blue moons occur on average once every 2.7 years.

This is usually a busy time for wasps. Like them or loathe them, they are an important part of our ecosystem and help keep away garden pests. But experts say their numbers have dwindled in 2024, and it isn't good news. Colder and wetter weather at the start of the summer season combined with climate change have had an impact on wasp numbers

Global experts say that normal tracking of bugs across the year has shown declining numbers. Insect conservation charity 'Buglife' said this is across the whole of the UK. It told the BBC this was "*almost certainly a direct consequence of the wet weather*", winter flooding and general dampness leading to mould growth and impacting the winter survival rate. Many wasp nests are created in the ground and will also have been severely impacted by the further flooding across the country in spring and early summer.

A loss of wasps will impact us in a number of ways. It leads to reduced pollination and, without wasps, our plants are more likely to be eaten by insect larvae otherwise controlled by wasps.

Without wasps, we may be overrun with other insects and spiders. Which do you prefer?!

We've seen a few butterflies in the garden, mainly whites now, and just as the buddleia comes into full bloom! Fortunately, there are still lots of flowers to satisfy the insects and our nasturtiums and lavender, in particular, are alive with bees happily buzzing about. We're just approaching conker season and those of us that are a certain age will remember playing conkers - despite the Health and Safety risks! The Scottish Conker Championship used to be held in Peebles until 2020, when a shortage of conkers and the loss of many chestnut trees to disease put a halt to it. We found an interesting article recently saying that you can crush chestnut leaves up and rub vigorously into your hands to clean them. In the kitchen, you can even use them to make your own antibacterial handwash.

It is another good year for fruiting shrubs and trees. I'm enjoying watching the blackbirds in our rowan tree gorging themselves on the orange berries. No doubt they'll soon start on the other berried shrubs too although there's still a bit of ripening to do. Some visiting birds are away back to winter quarters. The swifts were the first to leave, followed by the martins and some swallows are leaving just now. By mid September, we'll be looking out for redwings and the like coming in for the winter.

They'll enjoy the berries, if the blackbirds leave any!

WALKERBURN PUBLIC HALL AGM

The Walkerburn Public Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the hall at 7pm on Thursday 26th September 2024. All residents are welcome and we hope that as many as possible will attend.

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**Burning Issues Contributors: Please note:
Remember to submit any articles, letters or other
material for the September issue by the end of
August**



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