

The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chairman Vice-chairman Secretary Hon. Treasurer Bob Kerr Dr. Lindsay Neil David Bethune Tom Combe 15 Cannon Street, Selkirk, TD7 5BP 46 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk, TD7 4ND 5 Marion Crescent, Selkirk, TD7 4LY 68 Back Row, Selkirk, TD7 4AG 01750 722658 01750 720841 01750 721703 01750 720921

Minute: Meeting held in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk on Monday 12th January, 2009

1) Present: Community Councillors Bob Kerr (Chair), David Bethune (Secretary), Tom Combe (Treasurer) (from 8pm), Caroline Cruikshank, Jim Gibson, John Howie, Ian King, Alistair Pattullo, Norman Roxburgh and Murray Smail and Scottish Borders Councillor Vicky Davidson.

[also in attendance: PC Lesley Shiell (until end of item 6), Atholl Innes of the Border Telegraph and 3 members of the public]

- 2) Apologies: were received from Community Councillor Dr. Lindsay Neil (Vice-chair), and Scottish Borders Councillors Kenneth Gunn and Carolyn Riddell-Carre.
- 3) The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December were approved (proposed: C. Cruikshank, seconded: J. Howie).
- 4) Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda:
 - I. King confirmed he had written to SBC expressing the Council's concerns about the proposed traffic management scheme around Knowepark School, which had been raised at the previous meeting [Open Forum, item(a)]
- 5) Declarations of interest none
- 6) Lothian and Borders Police

PC Lesley Shiell reported on 18 recorded crimes, and 15 crimes solved during December. These included cases of vandalism, assault, house-breaking, and culpable and reckless conduct. The last of these involved the detonation of explosive devices, for which 2 males have been charged. Some travellers were present during the month, but have now moved on to the designated site at Tweedbank.

- 7) Reports from Organisations working with young people in Selkirk
 - (a) Jan Gordon of Impact was not present
- 8) Planning:
 - (a) Planning applications considered:

	application	applicant	action / comments
1.	08/02122/FUL – Riverside Healthcare	Mr. Arthur	Application newly received, so decision
	Centre – alterations and extension to care	McLean	deferred to sub-group or to next meeting
	home		

(b) Report on Local Plan Amendment:

i. I. King reported on the proposed variations which affect Selkirk, as proposed in the current Local Plan Amendment, and their potential implications.

These included 2 housing development sites at Philiphaugh Farm. Comments were made on the designations of Philipburn Mill (the former fish farm site - currently housing) — which should be altered to include an allowance for future allotments, Forest Mill (currently mixed, should remain so) and St. Mary's West Church (which would benefit from a design brief). The planning subgroup will formulate a response based on the opinions expressed by Councillors.

- ii. **Longer Term issues: By-Pass corridor:** I. King reported that the Amended Plan showed the line of the by-pass, although it has been omitted from the Government's current list of strategic transport developments. The Council agreed to maintain pressure for the by-pass by (a) inviting SBC Cllr. D. Parker and SBC Chief Executive D. Hume to a meeting, (b) composing a photographic dossier of traffic incidents in the town centre, and (c) writing to Hawick Community Council inviting them to confirm their support for a Selkirk by-pass.
- iii. **Other issues:** Support was expressed for (a) a proposal to restore the designation of prime retail frontage to the Market Place and High Street; (b) the Borders crematorium to be developed at Lindean; and (c) the need to identify a site for a replacement for Knowepark PS. It was also agreed to include a copy of the Selkirk 'Issues List' with the Council's response to this consultation.
- (c) Other planning matters: none

OPEN FORUM (taken at 7.50pm, between items 8(b)(i) and 8(b)(ii), and extended after item 8(b)(ii))

- (a) G. Edgar expressed his disgust at the proposal for a sculpture of Charlie the Cockerel, and suggested that the Council should withdraw their approval to consider this idea. It was agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting, when L. Neil was present.
- **(b)** G. Edgar noted that there was still a precariously attached Christmas tree on the Town Hall, and that the bollard at the Toll Bridge has not yet been repaired. B. Kerr agreed to follow these up.
- (c) J. Howie asked that the Council send an invitation to the Buccleuch Hunt for January 2010. Agreed.
- (d) D. Heatlie reported drainage problems caused by the speed bumps in Kirk Wynd, and damage to the footway on the silver bridge. B. Kerr agreed to follow these up.
- (e) D. Heatlie reported that he was organising repair and repainting of the vandalised trig. point at the Three Brethren. He was thanked for this offer.
- (f) The Council joined D. Heatlie in expressing thanks to Jim Hay and Hilda Bannister, for their excellent services as public toilet attendants, whose employment in this role finished this month.

9) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Davidson:

- (i) commented on SBC's new policy re public toilets, which are to be improved and free, but no longer permanently manned with an unfortunate disadvantage for disabled users. (G. Edgar noted that the disabled toilet in the Market Place had been vandalised last weekend, but had now been repaired);
- (ii) suggested the area opposite Philiphaugh PS might be considered as a possible allotment site;
- (iii) reported that the proposed road traffic regulations are likely to be approved at the Eildon Area Committee on Monday (19th January), except for those involving roads around Knowepark PS, where a revised plan, without one-way system, but with extended parking restrictions, is likely to be put forward for further consultation;
- (iv) reported that SBC is trying to save some employment at Heather Mills;
- (v) suggested the need to develop some tourist trails, and possible "art town" designation for Selkirk;
- (vi) agreed to arrange for the signage at the Riverside industrial area to be brought up-to-date. In response to questions from J. Howie,
- (vii) will recommend to SBC that trees to be removed from Bannerfield Drive because of pavement damage, should be appropriately replaced to maintain/improve local amenity;
- (viii) will follow-up the repair/replacement of railings at Corbie Terrace, installation of bus shelter lighting at Bannerfield and Lindean, and installation of street lighting at Lindean;
- (ix) commented that the cost to householders of flood sacks is a subsidised one.
- **(b)** Councillor Riddell-Carre: (not present) (written report received subsequently, and circulated to members)
- (c) Councillor Gunn: (not present)

10) Common Good Fund Operation (no report)

11) Community Council Website

A. Pattullo described the options available for setting up a Community Council website. It was agreed that he should set up and maintain a website within the community-council.org.uk portal, with its own domain name, at an overall total cost of c£40 per year.

12) Correspondence

The only item of correspondence was a letter of resignation received from Community Councillor Jenna Agate. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Agate (in her absence) for her contributions, particularly in connection with the Plastic Bag Free Selkirk campaign. The Secretary will write conveying the thanks and good wishes of the Council.

13) Reports from "Sub-groups"

- (a) Selkirk Hill Management Group no meeting has so far taken place this year.
- **(b) Plattling Twinning Group** L. Neil sent a report stating that the Stadtfest had broken even financially.
- **(c)** Evening Study groups T. Combe reported that the Computing group would not run (insufficient enrolments), but that a new Upholstery group was starting.

14) Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Provision for Play Areas Jason Hedley (SBC) was unable to attend, so nothing to report.
- **(b)** Scott's Selkirk review meeting to take place tomorrow (13th January)

15) Other business

- (a) Environmental Issues N. Roxburgh is liaising with Selkirk High School regarding Community Council input to the "Big Issues Day" in February. A group of students from Heriot-Watt University will be involved, and may become involved in environmental projects in the town. The wind farm feasibility report is expected soon. D. Bethune reported that Rowland's was in the process of installing photovoltaic cells on its roof, and that we might consider working towards Selkirk becoming a "zero-carbon" town.
- **(b) Allotments** B. Kerr is progressing this project; the next stage is to have the area surveyed and get professional plans drawn up; he will apply to the Common Good Fund for this.
- **(c) Howden treatment works** The Council supported L. Neil's intention to write to Scottish Water requesting that the new treatment works be painted green, rather than the current stark white.

Next scheduled meeting of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council: Monday 9th February, 2009 at 7.00 p.m. in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk.

Adoption of minutes:	
Proposed:	Seconded:
Signed:	(chairman) Date: