



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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Treasurer	Judith Thompson	12 Victoria Crescent, Selkirk TD7 5DE	01750 721697

Minutes of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2023.

1. Present – Community Councillors: Al Pattullo (Chair), Andy Murray (Vice-Chairman), Judith Thompson (Treasurer), Sue Bremner (Assistant Treasurer), Kirsty Lovatt (Minutes Secretary), Alisdair Lockhart, Ian King, David Playfair, Reece McNaughton, Grant Kinghorn, and Ed Strang-Steel.

Also present – SBC Councillor Caroline Cochrane and Leagh Douglas, and 7 members of the public. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies for absence – Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Ieuan Chamberlain.

3. Declarations of Interest – none.

4. Minutes of meeting of the SCC held on Monday 13th March 2023

Minutes agreed by AL and seconded by ESS. Chair thanked AM for taking the minutes at short notice.

5. Matters arising from these Minutes IK asked if there was an update re the discussion had about Haining Support. AP confirmed that a collective letter was sent on behalf of the CC and one from himself. So far, the Haining Support have received 99 letters. AP has asked Michelle Ballantyne if she would speak at a future CC meeting.

6. Community Police Report – report circulated electronically and available on CC website. **7. Planning Matters**

23/00392/FUL & 23/00478/LBC – change of premise – no objections

23/00378/FUL & 23/00379/LBC – Town Arms' windows to be replaced – no objections

AM asked if Town Arms would be obliged to reinstall the previous etched glass windows, and was assured that they would.

23/00379/AMC – property at Buxton – concerns re lack of contingency plans for emergency services, waste etc. LD will discuss application with Planning Department. CC suggested that SHMG could issue an invoice for access to have the works carried out – this would be a matter for the CGFWG. IK will go back to SBC with objections previously raised and will respond on behalf of SHMG.

8. Proposal for Selkirk Community Newsletter Update – AP has now received information about electronic noticeboards. The board in Melrose has been removed due to difficulty in trying to find someone to keep the board updated on a regular basis. CC noted that people have been using the noticeboard next to Scoop Gelato and would like to see this continue. CC also suggested looking at the possibility of implementing a freestanding cash machine. AP will forward info to CC. **Action: AP**

9. Review of Community Council and Selkirk Means Business Websites – AP & AM have met with Sarah MacDonald since the last CC meeting. Still need to speak with the website builders re upgrading the site but should be quite simple. Explore Selkirk was great for its previous purpose but not flexible enough for the CC. Explore Selkirk can be kept for tourist/heritage information, and the CC website for local news. RMcN noted that it was important the tourist page is mobile friendly. AP suggested that QR codes be used more widely (e.g. bus stops).

10. Levelling Up – A meeting was held with Ewan Jackson and it was confirmed that no levelling up projects have been approved in the Borders. LD and CC advised that only one application had been received which covered 7 different projects. In order to be successful, need to look at bigger and more meaningful projects. Also require proof of community engagement which was not obvious on the application received from Selkirk. Placemaking is community led so should help to make progress with any plans going forward. AL suggested that Ewan Jackson be invited to a future CC meeting. **Action: AP**

CC agreed that once placemaking is complete and a Town Team is in place, can then look at public consultation for various projects. Could also expand current plans for the Haining – café, tourist hub etc. The current plans are very disjointed. The next placemaking meeting will be held Thursday 4th May 2023 at 6:30, Venue tbc.

IK noted that Selkirk Vision will spawn groups and objectives which will also help to draw together all ideas/projects.

11. Open Forum –

GK raised concerns re part of the ground at the south end of the town being ruined due to wind turbine works (will be repaired); Ettrickhaugh Road (has been reported); railing on the Stone Bridge (work underway); and the collapsing wall by the steps at Ettrick Mill (need to find out who owns that stretch of wall. **Action: CC**).

DD asked about an email he has sent on several occasions covering items such as white lines, car parks. He noted that although some items have been dealt with, many still remain. LD has taken the email to the Chief Executive of SBC who will look at it and give updates for each point raised. Services are thinly spread across the Borders and every area reports the same issues.

DD has sent a further email with regard to the Auld Kirkyard where a bin has been dragged to a water point and filled up. There is also vandalism on the small outbuilding. All of this has been reported to the police.

DD then informed the CC of a Best Kept War Memorial competition which he will be entering Selkirk into – CC has agreed to be the contact from SBC. Next year Selkirk can then compete in a new category, Most Improved War Memorial. In May the name plaques will be repaired and more repairs will be needed on the memorial statue, benches, and beds. Access to the memorial is also required via a ramp.

The noticeboard from St. Mary's is currently in DD's possession however Keith Riddle is going to put it in place at the Municipal building. Need to check with Planning Department to ensure approval has been given.

MoP1 asked for an update on the situation at the contact centre and was informed that John Currie is reviewing it. MoP1 also noted that the fire brigade were at the building last week due to another member of the public reporting the fire alarm had gone off. There was no sound from the alarm. CC advised that the alarm is linked to a control room so no concerns re whether or not the alarm makes a noise.

MoP2 raised concerns about the coping stones on the wall at the side of Court Lane. This has been reported before but the stones are now on the ground. CC will report again but noted that there is confusion as to who owns the wall (SBC or SBHA). **Action: CC**

RMcN spoke on behalf of a member of the public who advised that the bus stops throughout the town are all filthy, in particular the two main stops. CC has asked for them to be cleaned and for the flowerbeds to be power washed. RMcN asked if it would be permissible for someone he knows to clean the stops free of charge. CC confirmed that this would be agreeable.

12. Reports from Community Councillors -

CC – Thanks to all who attended the big clean up. Some areas were not as bad as last time so slightly fewer bags filled. Scouts are doing a clean up in May so CC will suggest the Fleshmarket Steps and entrances to the town. Thanks also given to Sheila Lockie and Heather Beggs for providing coffee and traybakes.

BIDS finished 31st March 2023 and only two directors remain in place to oversee the installation of CCTV. A great deal has been accomplished over the last five years and many thanks go to Sarah Macdonald for leading the team.

LD – The Flood Defence sign at the entrance to Victoria Park has now been removed and it has been suggested that it be replaced with Mauldsheugh Wood signage. Complaints have been received re fly-tipping at Ettrickhaugh Road – everyone reminded to report to 101.

CC & LD – Both attended an archives visit at St. Mary's Mill. The archive team are compiling an online catalogue but only five part-time members of staff are working on this so any extra help would be appreciated. With regard to items put in the skip outside the contact centre, everything was taken to the General Store and only one item was of significant interest. GK asked if the Tom Scott paintings from the Town Hall were at the Mill. CC confirmed that they were probably at the Heritage Hub and in need of extensive repair. The Mill take groups of five for tours – if anyone interested in going they should contact AP.

13. Treasurer's Report –

SHMG

£7558.37 in account - grant from CGF paid, £500 owed to Blooming Selkirk account repaid, Hill Warden's invoice paid.

IK reported to last Hill Group meeting and suggested they should consider their finances going forward. In essence, the group needs to increase its income if its function is to continue as at present.

Community Council

Minimal activity - some stationery and secretarial expenses. £1771 in general fund
£1000 Response team
£300 fountain repair

Reminder to councillors who haven't paid - £10 contribution to the Standard Bearers reception. Blooming Selkirk

£2500 for Toll planters (will cover cost of 3 planters plus part of cost of drainage material and soil)
£580 for COPS (from £1242 grant) benches will cost £600 – JT proposes top up from general fund (some of materials bought will be of use in next venture) approx. £50 to cover benches and give the project a small startup. £1430 would then remain in general fund.

14. Report from Sub-Groups –

SHMG – As discussed previously, current financial situation is not sustainable. Looking at fundraising ideas and will discuss at the next meeting. Application in for monies for a grass cutter – funds should be in by 19th May 2023.

Cycling Group have not yet been on the Hill and a meeting will be held soon to discuss when the pilot will be. IK, LD, and Campbell to attend.

Shrubbery on A699 has been cut back by SBC due to ongoing wind turbine works. Going forward, neither SBC nor the Golf Club are taking responsibility. Bin at the car park will be replaced with one which has a lid to prevent birds picking out and dropping litter.

Thanks to prolific mole activity, there is now an unexpected source of top soil on the Hill.

Brighter Selkirk – The COPS event was a success and there was a lot of involvement from local children. Thanks to all local businesses who donated and to Philiphaugh for the apple juice. Bannerfield Buskers were also well received. SB noted that it was unfortunate there was a lack of interest from the press and that the benches should have been in place before the event. Pilot went slightly over budget due to badges and prize giving. The next event will be a promo stall at the Bank Holiday Cross Keys Space event on Monday 8th May 2023. Going forward, SB will submit permissions for four different sites

which should help to fast-track future funding applications. CC noted that the site at Elm Park may be worth looking at.

Toll Planters are sitting at Philiphaugh waiting to be built, filled, and planted. RMcN will take planters to the site but needs a lot of volunteers. Posts between planters need to be repainted. Agreed a date of Sunday 30th April at 11am – CC will contact Andrew Johnstone and arrange volunteers. Cost for materials from Border Aggregates should be approx. £515 (inc. VAT).

RMcN will email CC re hanging baskets. Cost of plants is very expensive at the moment and RMcN is concerned that there may not be enough finance to cover costs. CC and RMcN suggested that the Christmas lights be brought down on the same day the baskets are being put up.

Town planters – donations received from ex-SBs, CRT, Merchant Co, ex-Soldiers & Colonials

Bowser is at the Community Shed undergoing repairs to panels and being repainted.

Jubilee garden – has been weeded, feeded, and mown.

Vic Hall railings – sponsorship still coming. JT has spoken to some of previous sponsors who have said they'll let her know if they would like to sponsor again this year. JT will do a big appeal next month.

CGFWG – next meeting to be held June 7th 2023.

Victoria Park Action Group - Meeting held Wednesday 5th April 2023. Work has begun on the site and Joyce and Colin Anderson have taken back a list of issues to be looked at. Play equipment and railings are to be repainted and new signage will be put in place. John Hawkins is the current rep. but, as there is no way of contacting him at the moment, AP will attend future meetings. Opening date will probably be beginning of May rather than 23rd April.

Plattling – Report from AM circulated to all CC members, 3 groups are coming from Plattling this year culminating in visit from the Mayor and Council at the end of August. AP has had letter from the Consul General at the German Consulate in Edinburgh congratulating Selkirk on the 25th anniversary of the twinning.

Heritage Centre - no report. **BIDS** – already discussed.

SBCCN – Meeting held via zoom. Underlying support for conference, and IK suggested zonal groups for CC's.

A7 Action Group - Meeting held and constitution has now been agreed. Will attempt to contact new Transport Minister. Local BEAR manager has provided update on all works due to be carried out along the A7. IK has the list if anyone would like a copy. Please note that although works are listed, funds are limited so there is no exact timeframe for when the works will be carried out.

15. AOCB

AP distributed James Hogg Poetry Trail book to all CC members. A James Hogg dinner may be held in the future.

AL asked if the double yellow lines along the High Street could be implemented as far along as Sainsbury site in order to alleviate traffic issues. General consensus was that this would not help.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 2057hrs .

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm