



# The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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Vice-chairman	Andy Murray	44 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk TD7 4ND	01750 721008
Minutes Secretary	Kirsty Lovatt	15, Ladylands Terrace Selkirk TD7 4BB	
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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 .

**1. Those Present** – Community Councillors: Al Pattullo (Chair), Andy Murray (Vice-Chair), Judith Thompson (Treasurer), Sue Bremner (Assistant Treasurer) Ieuan Chamberlain, David Playfair, John Hawkins, Ian King, Grant Kinghorn and Ed Strang Steel.

Also present – SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane, and Leigh Douglas, plus 7 members of the public.

**2. Apologies for absence** – Alisdair Lockhart, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Kirsty Lovatt (Minutes Secretary) Reece McNaughton

**3. Declarations of Interest** – there were none.

**4. Minutes of meeting of the SCC held on Monday, 11th July 2022** were proposed by AM and seconded by ESS and were approved *nem con*.

**5. Matters arising from these Minutes** – there were none.

**6. Community Police Report** – AP to check receipt and will circulate to members of the Council when received – **ACTION: AP.**

**7. Planning Matters** – IK reported an application from 1 Loanside, Selkirk, which would in principle be acceptable. The only possible contentious issue might be with natural springs, but if access was not affected, then this should not be a problem.

### **8. Feasibility of Selkirk Community newspaper / electronic Newsletter**

AP informed the Council that, prompted by the ‘Selkirk’s Future’ meetings, in which the lack of communication across Selkirk was highlighted, AM and himself had had a meeting with Lisa Cowan, creator of ‘Newstead News’. It is published as an 8-page magazine 3 times per year, by 8 contributors. 80 hard copies are produced, although this would not necessarily be a model for Selkirk, which could be a physical or online publication. Or both.

AP proposed a feasibility study, funded by the current year’s Eildon Partnership budget (expires end of March). A discussion was held, centring on physical v. online limitations / cost of a feasibility study vs. funding a pilot ‘issue’ / use of ‘paper-oriented’ noticeboards / need for a working group / potential staffers.

Current year Eildon Partnership funding must be applied for before Feb 23, so it was **agreed** that AP would complete a detailed application for review, such review intended to discuss and resolve the above issues. **ACTION: AP.**

**9. Websites Update** – AM updated the Council on the current situation on the Community Council website: it has now been upgraded to the slightly more expensive ‘Spanglefish 3.0’ operating system, which allows better quality photos and both ‘News’ and ‘Calendar’ items on the front page. Members were reminded again that photographs of all Members are still required.

The Council is due to receive curation of the ‘exploreselkirk.co.uk’ website after 01 March, and the intention is to run the Council website up to the point where the two sites can be merged. The Council contract renews on 08 June, and it may be possible to effect all changes on the ‘Explore Selkirk’ website by then. It uses WordPress software and was designed by Strive Digital in Berwick. **ACTION: AM.**

## **10. Open Forum**

10.1 MOP1 reported a tree which had been blown over in Shawpark Cemetery had been partially cut back but is still messy. Some cutting back is required.

AP requested that SBC Councillors look into the matter. **Action: LD/CC**

10.2 GK expressed concern at the state of Scott’s Place, road and carpark (See Item 11.6).

**Action: LD/CC**

10.3 GK expressed concern at the state of the barriers on the stone bridge

**Action: CC**

10.4 **E T-N** was not present, but had previously committed to dealing with the handrails between Thornfield Avenue and Anderson Road, so an update will be due (See Item 11.6).

## **11. SBC Councillors’ Reports**

11.1 CC reported that the plastic bottles with anti-dog fouling bags are now in stock. 8 were collected in the week prior to the meeting.

CC reported also on damage to the Market Place steps by skateboarders and vandalism to the War Memorial.

11.2 IK requested an update on the CCTV scheme, which CC assured would be covered in the report to the Common Good meeting of 15 Feb. CC reported that John Murray of local Police is completely supportive.

11.3 IK stated more information / feedback was need from the Community Planning Strategic Board, especially context, and proposed to add it to the Community Council Meetings Agenda. CC announced that there will be a dedicated seminar in May.

11.4 LD reported on the recent meeting re: Victoria Park, suggesting that £150,000 will be made available for Phase 1 of the caravan park, bringing it up to a 2 Star status. A Working Group was suggested, including the SBC Chief Executive as well as the CEO of Live Borders.

It was noted that the Victoria Park improvement is integral to plans for future Selkirk tourism and economic development.

11.5 LD announced that SBC funds (£500 per town) were being made available to support free events for the King's Coronation on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May (Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday). There will be events in the Victoria Halls and the Conservative Club.

The Council expressed broad support for events, including street parties, plus acquisition of extra bunting and lights, but no agreement was reached on a specific funding item request. The fund is to hopefully enable communities to stage free events, in the context of pressures, including financial straits and loneliness. Applications must be in by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

11.6 E T-N had reported to the Chair on various points:

- PC John Murray has been advised of all Council meeting dates and will endeavour to attend.
- E T-N is checking ownership of the Police car Park (with a view to creating a car park fit for coaches in Scott's Place). (See Item 10.2).
- E T-N has in hand the matter of the handrail between Thornfield Avenue and Anderson Road (See Item 10.4).
- The High Street parking congestion issue is ongoing.
- E T-N is enquiring re: possible traffic control restrictions around the installation of the proposed Toll planters.

11.7 AP has received communication from D Purves: drain on road at bottom of 100 steps is still blocked: lights on Bannerfield footbridge only half of them are switched on: is concerned about the effect of the Contact Centre closure on local residents who now have to travel to Gala to access SBC services. **Action CC**

**12. Treasurer's Report** - JT reported on funds held as follows:

- Selkirk Hill Management Group – JT inquired about progress with the grant (see Item 13.1).
- Community Council general fund – no change.
- Blooming Selkirk - £4,377.27 in account.
- Community Orchard – Grant of £1,242 received. Trees have been ordered and benches are to come.

### **13. Reports From Sub-Groups**

13.1 Selkirk Hill Management Group – some confusion was expressed re: protocol: audited accounts are required for future grants, which had not been previously requested or required. JT to consult Viv Ross on 14 Feb, with a view to obtaining accounts sufficient to sign off for the year ending March 2023. JT starts involvement in accounts from April 2023 onwards.

IK reported that the hill is in reasonable condition, and has forwarded comments to SBC re: the Pot Loch path. The issues of wet ground surrounding the Caulks Well area are being dealt with jointly with the Golf Club, who would apply for any funds necessary.

Sight lines on the St. Boswell's road have been improved, although electric vehicles may still prove a risk, so advance notices of pedestrians crossing may be required. **Action – SBC Councillors.**

13.2 Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk – JT reported on the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> February:

- It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of 5 Toll planters.
- Reece McNaughton will co-ordinate storage, bringing to site, and construction.

**Action: R McN.**

CC to explore supply of drainage material and soil via SBC, to save over £800. **Action: CC.**  
Possibly aim to have summer bedding display this season then fundraise for permanent planting in autumn.

- Hanging baskets

New baskets planned, to include a water reservoir, improving ease/frequency of watering. R McN looking into starting to replace new baskets for old.

**Action: R McN.**

AP organising servicing of bowser. **Action: AP.**

CC to approach businesses to fund baskets (c. £50 per business/basket).

**Action: CC.**

- Town planters

CC to contact trust and casting associations for funding. **Action: CC.**

- Victoria Halls railings

JT to manage continuing sponsorship of these.

13.3 Community Orchard – SB announced the site visit of 14th of February. Grant has been received (see Item 12). The trees should arrive before 6th March, with the benches due. **Action: SB.**

13.3 Common Good Fund Working Group – Next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Action: IK.**

13.4 Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

13.4a Victoria Park Action Group – recent successful meeting reported (see Item 11.4)

**Action: JH.**

13.4b Heritage Centre - much concern expressed at the way the building is being cleared, with possible Selkirk heritage artefacts being discarded. E T-N had previously committed to investigating this, and will continue to do so. **Action: E T-N.**

13.4c BIDS / Selkirk Means Business – BIDS finishes 01 March come up but the company will continue, solely to supervise the CCTV hard drive management.

13.4d Selkirk's Future – CC will circulate a follow-up report on the recent very positive meetings, and plans to set up a meeting re the institution of the Selkirk 'Town Team', in line with those already in the SBC Plan for Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh. **Action: CC.**

## 14. Any Other Business

14.1 - Standard Bearer Presentation – AP announced that this will be on Thursday 18th May, upstairs at the Victoria Halls. Councillors will be contributing £10 per head towards the gift to the SB.

14.2 – Community Council AGM. AP announced that this is due to occur on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

14.3 – SB expressed concern about the state of the rugby field alongside Selkirk Bridge. **Action: CC.**

14.4 – GK noted the current works on the Galashiels Rd., and expressed concern about a possible weight limit, which would restrict movements of large vehicular traffic necessary for commerce.

14.5 – E SS expressed concern about the state of the Corby Linn car park.

14.6 – E SS announced the date of the Philiphaugh Country Food Festival: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, in the field beside the Waterwheel Café.

14.7 – AM expressed concern about the Draft Plan just published by SBC, in that its 26 pages contain only two references to Selkirk, ie, under 'Environmental and biodiversity improvements' is '... progress biodiversity improvements to ... Greenspace Regeneration Selkirk, and the Mauldsheugh Wood Nature Trail'.

LD explained that the Council's Plan is more or less 'advisory', and that there had been previous plans for funding for Selkirk, but they had been dependent on UK Government 'Levelling Up' budgets, which ultimately were not granted. IK contended that the Plan is not in effect discretionary and LD conceded that this was more or less the case, but that planned spend is based on submissions / strategies submitted to SBC up to 12 months previously, so there should still be scope for project funding as 2023 progresses. The final SBC Plan, when published, will be made available on the Community Council website.

There being no further business for the SCC, the Chairman thanked all for their participation and closed the meeting at 21.05 hrs.

**15. The Date Of The Next Meeting** will be Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Victoria Rooms, commencing at 19.00 hrs.