



# The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chair	Andy Murray	44 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk, TD7 4ND	01750 21008
Vice-chairman	Al Pattullo	12 Victoria Crescent, Selkirk, TD7 5DE	01750 721697
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 10th July 2023.

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

Also present – SBC Councillor Caroline Cochrane; Michelle Ballantyne; 10 members of the public; 1 member of the press.

**2. Chairman's Welcome** – AM introduced himself for the benefit of those who might not already know him. AM thanked all members of the CC and especially AP for all his hard work as chair in previous years. Thanks were also given to the SBC councillors who undertake a huge task in working for our communities.

AM stressed that the role of the CC is to consult and communicate, and put forward the views of our community to the SBC Councillors. AM also noted that the main areas to be improved were communication, making Selkirk an important destination, preservation e.g. Haining Trust and the Heritage Centre, and finally constructive use of time within the CC meetings i.e. if anything needs to be discussed, a report should be prepared and circulated prior to the meeting.

The Royal visit was a great success and credit given to all involved. AM noted that it was unfortunate there was no official press release which made it difficult to know what to tell people.

John Hawkins has tendered his resignation due to his unwillingness to be contacted via email, which councillors ought to be, in order to comply with the Code of Conduct in terms of transparency and accountability. He is still to submit his resignation in writing which, once received, will leave room for a casual vacancy on the CC. AL stated that JH's resignation is a loss to the CC.

**3. Apologies** – Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Leigh Douglas, and Ieuan Chamberlain.

**4. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023** – none.

**5. Approval of the minutes** – Approved by Grant Kinghorn and seconded by Ed Strang-Steel.

**6. Haining Trust Presentation by Michelle Ballantyne** –

MB gave a brief history of the Haining. The Haining Trust is a registered charity founded in 2010, but was relaunched in 2016 by the current Trustees with very few assets.. Repairs to the Haining are in three phases with the following cost to be met:

• Phase 1 (exterior)	£1,424,670
• Phase 2 (interior)	£1,117,298
• Phase 3 (marquee etc)	£1,085,000
• Total cost	<b>£3,626,968</b>

Total funds of £1,988,072 have been raised so far from Historic Scotland, SOSE, AHF, Wolfson Foundation, Pilgrim Trust, Haining Trust, and SBC. This leaves a funding gap of £1,638,896.

Rooms within the building will be available to hire for activities. When asked if the Haining Trust had considered selling off bits of land to raise funds, MB confirmed they had but decided that it was not in the interest of the community to do so.

Current vision is to be 'A place for everyone'. Completed works include stable flats, Dairy Cottage, commercial premises, tree work, driveway and parking spaces, kennels, drains and benches, (picnic benches will be installed soon).

The Main House was in a very poor structural state but planning permission has now been granted to proceed with extensive repairs and alterations, including the erection of a permanent marquee.

The ground floor has a new annexe, plus kitchen, and new stairs and a lift are being installed.

The ground and first floors will have event spaces; the top floor will be given over to offices and storage.

There is a plan for a cycle track access to be put in place but this is not a priority just now.

AL asked if the Trust had received any direct financial support from Selkirk. Other than funds from SBC, no other monies have been received and a public appeal will be launched soon.

AM thanked MB for her presentation.

**7. Community Police Report** – no report available.

**8. Planning Matters** –

**23/00972/LBC - Alterations to reconfigure internal layout of public house. Public house (Town Arms) 1 Market Place, Selkirk TD7 4BT**

Recommend that the CC offer no objection to this with the caveat that the traditional timber windows with frosted glass treatment are to be reinstated.

**23/00938/FUL - Oregon Timber Frame Ltd, TD7 5EB - extension to the existing south factory building, associated infrastructure, external lighting, installation of photo Voltaic panels and extension to the yard hardstanding with new storage.**

**23/ 00940/FUL - Oregon Timber Frame Ltd, TD7 5ED - Demolition of former retail unit, change of use of 'Carrs Billington' retail unit to storage use (Class 6) and external works, extension to the north factory and yard associated infrastructure, installation of Photo voltaic panels, landscaping, parking and external lighting.**

Recommend that the CC offer no objection with the caveat that Oregon are mindful of the site being a gateway into Selkirk.

**9. Open Forum** –

MoP1 advised that the Silver Bridge over the River Etrick is in need of repair. **Action: CC**

MoP2 raised concerns over rumours that the Courthouse Coffee Shop was up for sale despite it being a Common Good asset. CC advised that it is not up for a sale and a suitable new tenant has been found. Repairs needed to the building should be completed within the next few months.

MoP3 had various queries re the Victoria Park:

- Why is it advertised as a campsite
- Renovations carried out without planning permission
- Where is the £150k which was given to the site?

CC clarified that the Victoria Park is for both camping and caravans which is reflected on the website.

However, new signage has been ordered and will be in place soon. The toilets and shower area were refurbished therefore planning permission was not required. CC will check whether permission was required for the ramp. The £150k was given to Live Borders and used to cover the costs of the refurbishment. There is some money left over and the Victoria Park Action Group are in talks with Live Borders about how best to use it. Aiming to have the park's rating improved to 3 star.

MoP4 asked who has access to the new CCTV. CC stated that the recording unit is locked away and only the police have access to it.

GK raised concerns about the tree at the bottom of Clifton Road (this has been reported); railings at Thornfield (being dealt with); and why the Walter Scott statue had not been repainted for the Royal visit.

AL noted that the new paving in front of the Cross Keys space is very dangerous and slippy. CC is aware and confirmed that the paving needs to be power-washed regularly.

## 10. Reports from SBC Councillors

**10.1 CC:** There are two surveys available on the SBC website which CC would encourage everyone to complete. First survey is regards the £60k which has been put aside for renovations at Bog Park and is asking for feedback on proposed designs. The second is about community plan priorities.

CC also asked that everyone remind friends and relatives that the Victoria Park is open for business.

## 11. Treasurer's Report –

### SHMG

£5,465.50 in account

-£130 expenses to Campbell

-£779 cost of new lawn mower

+£749 grant for lawnmower

+£5.24 interest

Campbell's invoice for hours will be submitted later this month.

### Community Council

£2386.33 in account

+£757 from Blooming Selkirk account for new bowser

Otherwise little activity

-£34 hire of lesser Vic for SBs reception

-£40 secretarial

No change to ring-fencing - £1000 for SRT, £300 for fountain

Nothing from SBC re invoice for insurance.

Application for this year's support grant has been completed (thanks to Sue for help with this) and submitted

### Blooming Selkirk

£952 in account

CC account refunded for new bowser

£100 donation to Young Souters for help in building toll planters

£580 ring-fenced for COPS

This will leave about £300 in account. Future planting schemes will probably be managed through Brighter Selkirk.

## 12. Reports from Sub-Groups –

**SHMG** – AGM was held 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and Gordon Edgar is the new chair. IK will circulate the minutes from the AGM. **Action: IK**

**Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk** – RMcN confirmed that planting season will be September/October depending on the weather. Financially secure in terms of everything required for planting.

AP took delivery of the new bowser today. Watering rota will be devised but volunteers still needed.

**COPS** – Still awaiting money for the benches.

**CGFWG** – Meeting held this afternoon. IK agreed with GK that the fencing at the Three Brethren is in need of repair and could benefit from Common Good funds.

**VPAG** – See previous comments. Next meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Visit Scotland will be attending the site soon for an official ratings visit. IK noted that if the VPAG is a sub-group, the CC should be able to see minutes from any meetings. AP will circulate. **Action: AP**

SB asked why there was a 24hr notice for booking and felt that this could be a deterrent to many visitors. CC advised that there have been a few issues with the booking system which are being looked into.

## 13. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –

**Plattling Twinning Group** – All going well a group of school students has already visited and there are still 2 planned visits from Plattling in August. A reception and musical evening will be held for the visit of Plattling mayor and councillors on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

**Selkirk Regeneration** – AGM minutes to be circulated. **Action: AM**

**SBCCN** – Organisation going through a lot of changes at the moment and a report will be given at a later date.

## 14. AOCB

DP asked if there was any progress re the driveway built at the end of Green Terrace. **Action: CC**

With regards to the Heritage Centre, AL suggested that if it did not become part of Selkirk Futures, he would like it to be put back on the CC agenda. AM reminded CC members that for any ideas to be added to the agenda, a written proposal should be submitted first.

AL also praised the Trucks for Ukraine scheme which ESS is a part of. Members of the public who have spare 4x4 vehicles can donate them to the scheme. The vehicles are then driven to Ukraine and given to various organisations. The next trip will be in September (dates to be confirmed).

GK and AM are considering resurrecting Selkirk Sessions and have looked at possible venues – back room at the Fleece, and back room at the Town Arms.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 20:52hrs.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm

