



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chair	Andy Murray	44Hillside Terrace, Selkirk, TD7 4ND	01750 721008
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 19th June 2023.

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

Also present – SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton Nicol and Leah Douglas; Sue Briggs; and 6 members of the public.

Meeting chaired by Al Pattullo.

2. Apologies for absence – Sue Bremner and Ed Strang-Steel.

3. Declarations of Interest – none.

4. Minutes of meeting of the SCC held on Monday 10th May 2023

Discussion had re inviting Ewan Jackson to a CC meeting. **Action: AL**

Minutes agreed by AM and seconded by RMcN.

5. Matters arising from these Minutes See Item 4.

6. Presentation by Sue Briggs –

Sue Briggs is CEO of the General Store in Selkirk and spoke to the CC re plans for a Tool Library with the hope of securing funds to purchase a few items. Sue explained that although many items will be donated, it would make sense to buy a few initial items and would therefore request funding of up to £1K.

JT advised that the CC wasn't in a position to donate such a large amount and anything over £50 has to be evaluated and cleared by SBC.

AP suggested that it might be a better idea if Sue were to write to the CC with all the necessary details and costings. The CC could then respond and signpost to different suitable grant applications.

7. Community Police Report – circulated electronically and available on CC website.

8. Planning Matters – 23/00874/FUL & 23/00875/LBC. This planning application for the expansion of Douglas Gilmour premises has previously been approved by the CC and IK advised that there is nothing contentious in the amendments. AM asked if there was a timeline for repairs to be carried out. No definite timeline but may take a few months.

9. Open Forum – GK raised the following issues:

- Rail on steps by Anderson Road – this is being dealt with

- Properties with overhanging tress – CC/SBC have made contact with some owners
- Road along Chapel Street is in need of repair
- Steps leading from Anderson Road into Knowepark Primary playground are dangerous – CC is in contact with John Currie and Leslie Monroe
- Update re Tom Scott paintings – CC confirmed that these are currently held in the museum and that one of the paintings has previously been damaged by the light. CC also noted that there are currently at least 50 items on the CGF list which need to be professionally valued.

KL asked when the bins at the top of the town would be emptied. ETN explained that 4 bin lorries had broken down last week but SBC were confident the bins would be emptied in the coming days.

DP asked what was happening with the rotting tree at the cemetery. CC advised that Parks & Environment were dealing with it. DP also noted that there was less rubbish at Lindean Loch when he visited earlier today but there were no swans.

JH noted that the top step of the Stae Brae has broken away.

IK suggested that, in light of the number of repair issues being raised at the open forum recently, it might be a good idea to reprise the LIMPs list. CC agreed. AM offered to work on creating a document and LD will assist with converting some sections of the document into excel. **Action: AM & LD**

10. Reports from SBC Councillors

10.1 LD:

- Dealing with lots of grass-cutting requests

10.2 ETN:

- Blister pack recycling – there is a company called Terracycle which can provide boxes for residents to deposit their blister packs. A small box costs £92 each time it is used/emptied. ETN will pass the details on to AP. AM suggested that it might be helpful for to organize a visit to Galashiels Recycling Plant to gain a better understanding of the recycling process.
- Bus stop has been cleaned but can't be moved again due to the costs involved.
- Side gate at the Victoria Halls to be locked. JT would prefer a path be put in place and suggested using the remaining monies which were ring-fenced for the fountain.
- CAT are dealing with the issues arising from the school run at Knowepark Primary School.
- Freedom of the Burgh – in the process of finding out more information.

10.3 CC:

- Trees on banking opposite Thornfield Nursing Home have been cut down due to safety issues. Manager of the nursing home is trying to find ways to make the banking more user friendly and had asked if it might be a suitable location for another Community Orchard. **Action: AP to pass details to SB.**
- Extra bins will be put in place for next year's Common Riding.

AL asked for more information re the possibility of SBC losing its charitable status. ETN explained that when OSCAR was initially formed, everyone registered for it including Councils with CGF's. Audit Scotland and OSCAR are in the process of looking at all registered charities within Local Authorities and the NHS. Once decisions have been made public, ETN will relay back to the CC. **Action: ETN**

11. Treasurer's Report – SHMG

£5,624.38 in account.

About to pay £800 for new lawn mower plus £130 expenses to Campbell
Campbell's invoice for hours will be submitted next month.

Community Council

£1701.09 in account.

Expenses - Coronation event, SBs reception, website, and new bowser. It was agreed that Blooming Selkirk should pay for this – JT will transfer the money.

£1300 ring-fenced for Response team and fountain repairs – review this?

Insurance – AP has confirmed with SBC that we are insured – policy is being updated and we will receive invoice in due course

Blooming Selkirk

£1806.64 in account.

Oregon grant spent plus extra £170 for topsoil.

Old bowser given a service which should keep us going till new one arrives. Also purchased battery charger and there are some minor expenses for cable ties etc.

£580 left in COPS – benches still to be invoiced.

12. Reports from Sub-Groups –

SHMG – AGM to be held 28th June 2023.

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk - Town planters and hanging baskets are in place. Toll planters full of soil and awaiting plants. AP will start a 'watering rota' for the baskets but more volunteers are needed.

COPS – With the help of a couple of volunteers, weeded edge has been watered, clipped and raked. The grass around the site is very high. A meeting was held with SBC grass-cutters who have now clipped short the left-side of the site in line with requests from residents. A swathe of meadow on the right has been retained for biodiversity. Volunteers are required for raking out the cut grass as this service is not provided by SBC.

CGFWG – No recent meeting. A previous query raised by IK re management of CGF items/land has been misinterpreted by the Legal Department. IK will put this issue to the wider CC network and see what type of response is given.

VPAG – A meeting was held recently which was generally positive. A substantial amount of money has been spent on the caravan site. Rather than having to consult Live Borders/SBC about anything pertaining to the park, JH would prefer that the VPAG be allowed to take ownership of the site. CC noted that there is a review of other sites ongoing and looking to adopt any of their best practices. CC encouraged all present to remind others that the site is open.

13. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –

Plattling – Next meeting to be held Thursday 22nd June 2023. AP will attend.

Heritage Centre – no report.

Selkirk Futures – AM attended Selkirk Regeneration board meeting. Selkirk Regeneration are happy to

work alongside SBC re place-making.

SBCCN – Next meeting to be held Wednesday 21st June 2023.

Freedom of the Burgh – already discussed (item 10.2).

A7 Action Group – IK will report at next CC meeting.

14. AOCB

DP raised the issue of speeding on Mill Street. **Action: CC**

AL suggested that, in line with other towns throughout the Borders, Selkirk should have its own festival. AP noted that various festivals and events have been tried over the years but the effort required to keep these events going often becomes too great for the number of volunteers available. AM said that a proposal including details of costings, timing, and venues would be needed before discussing these ideas. ESS is arranging a food festival to be held at Philiphaugh which has been a very costly and time-consuming exercise. The festival will be a one day event this year, moving to three days next year.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 20:36hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 10th July 2023 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.

www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk