



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 13th March 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, and Ed Strang-Steel.

Also present – SBC Councillor Caroline Cochrane, 4 members of the public, and 1 member of the press.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Apologies for absence** – Grant Kinghorn, Leagh Douglas, Ieuan Chamberlain, John Hawkins, and Elaine Thornton-Nicol.

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

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

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

5. **Matters arising from these Minutes**

None

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

7. **Planning Matters**

No planning matters but DP raised concerns about work being carried out by a neighbour to create a parking space. IK advised that this wasn't a planning matter but something which the Roads Department could possibly look at. **Action: CC**

8. **Support for Haining Trust funding grants** – AM circulated letter templates Sunday 12th March. AP will send a letter on behalf of the CC but encouraged everyone to send in their own letters of support.

CC noted that the levelling up fund did not materialise which left the Trust with a shortfall of £320k but the total needed may be closer to £500k.

AM asked if it would be useful to know of any other grants which could be applied for. CC advised that once prices and plans were in place, could then look at specific grants.

AL advised that there is a directory that lists all Trusts which could be approached for funds (if relevant to the works/repairs required at the Haining. AL will discuss with Michelle Ballantyne. **Action: AL**

CC has shared a post on Facebook asking all members of the public to submit letters of support.

9. Proposal for Selkirk community newsletter update –

The proposal will take a lot more work than initially thought. AP has taken on board a lot of advice and is making sure that the proposal is thorough. AP gave a brief overview as to why a newsletter would be beneficial to the residents of Selkirk.

CC suggested using a digital noticeboard (cost approx. £5,700) which could be placed at the site of the old Cross Keys. All information would be stored on a USB which could then be uploaded onto the noticeboard. CC also noted that the previous publications were paid for by advertisements but businesses may not be so keen to do that now. IK asked if there had been any feedback from the use of digital noticeboards in Melrose – no feedback as yet.

SB suggested a monthly town crier at the Farmers Market, and RMcN noted that some level of advertising could still be viable on the noticeboard.

10. Community Council Website – AP and AM to meet with Sarah McDonald re transfer of website and a joint website may now be considered. Explore Selkirk website needs to be altered slightly to ensure all businesses are listed. CC suggested using a hyperlink which would direct people to the businesses on Facebook. From there, people could ask for contact details which would avoid any accidental non-GDPR compliance.

Info@selkirkcommunitycouncil.com is now available for use.

11. Open Forum –

- MoP1 asked if any money from the Common Good Fund could be used for repairs at the Haining. CC advised that this could not happen as farm repairs was a priority for the CGF.
- MoP2 raised concerns re the condition of the former SBC contact centre opposite the old Sainsbury site. The building is in complete disrepair and the walls are wet.

CC confirmed that the building was being emptied but that had now been stopped to prevent the loss of any important artefacts. It also has dry rot. Contact centres are currently being reviewed by SBC and some buildings may be sold off. The adjoining old fire station could be used as storage for the trishaws. CC would like the building to be used as an Artists' Studio but a lot of work needs to be done. CC will contact John Currie and Jenni Craig. **Action: CC**

MoP2 questioned why the skip was still in place whilst everything was on hold as this must be very expensive. CC agreed.

MoP3 noted that the contact centre is a Historic Scotland B listed building and asked why they were not also involved. Unfortunately, Historic Scotland is closing a lot of buildings due to the increasing cost of repairs.

AL asked when the centre was originally built and whether or not it should have been transferred to Common Good. IK also noted that the building had been on the minor repairs list but nothing ever happened.

- MoP4 raised concerns re the most recent Farmers Market - fewer stalls; disappointing turn out; Galashiels' Farmers Market is also held on the same day. CC has already spoken with the organisers in Galashiels but there is no flexibility with dates or times. CC will speak with Alan Walker again re the layout of the stalls and lack local produce sellers. It should also be noted that local community groups are missing out on funds due to the lack

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of stalls. AM advised against moving the date of the market as existing stallholders will have prior commitments which would lead to fewer stalls. AL asked who regulated the markets (SBC), and why SBC had not picked up that the two markets were on the same day. CC doubted that SBC could have denied Galashiels a Market day on that basis.

- DP – banking opposite Sue Elliot’s building is even more eroded now after the bad weather; only half the lights on Bannerfield Bridge are working. **Action: CC**
- Black Bob Trail – funding required from SHMG for grass-cutting.
- RMcN – issues re parking on Yarrow Terrace whilst works are ongoing. Cars should not be parked there and it causes a gridlock.

12. SBC Councillors Reports – CC:

- Next clean-up will be Sunday 26th March from 10am – 12 noon. Bags and pickers will be provided, as will tea and cake afterwards.
- Community Council Network – emails sent regarding seminars and CC suggested all Community Councils should get involved. The purpose is to try and improve communications between SBC and CC’s. AM stated that there was a big difference in how each CC reports back from their meetings and use their website. The seminar will probably be held at the end of May so CC asked that all notes of interest be submitted by 22nd March 2023. AL reiterated that there are too many CC’s and it would make sense to break them down into regions.
(19:56 – GK arrived)
- Placemaking Workshops held Nov. 22 & Jan. 23 – 2nd round of workshops now underway. Hawick workshop was 2 weeks ago; trying to map community groups for the whole of the TD7 area; Eyemouth struggling to enlist people to take the workshops forward; report from Selkirk workshops due soon.
- Eildon Area Partnership – next meeting to be held Thursday 23rd March 2023; all monies have now been used; some people have objected to funds being used for the Coronation (£500 per community).

13. Treasurer’s Report -

SHMG:

£9 in account

£500 owed to Blooming Selkirk account

£2000 due to Campbell - all requested details have been passed to Robbie Hogg, Payment Support Officer, and he has asked the “relevant team” to begin payment process. CC will also follow up with SBC Chief Executive, David Robertson. **Action: CC**

2 concerns:

- Will this award be dated from now or backdated to December so that the renewal date will fall at the end of this year?
- What are the terms of the grant? For how many years? Does it need another application and can SHMG agree who will submit it?
- JT will compile accounts for 2022-23 – has discussed with Viv Ross who agreed we should bring date forward to end of March (previously end of April) to bring them in line with the other CC accounts.

CC – no activity - £1650 in general account.

Reminder to councillors - £10 contribution to the Standard Bearers reception please.

Blooming Selkirk:

- £1000 in general account
- £2500 toll planters
- £720 community orchard.

Coronation – AM noted that SBC have encouraged communities to use the £500 to combat loneliness and aid with post-covid recovery. AM suggested that this could be an opportunity to showcase the space at the old Cross Keys site – a small group of stalls could be set up, with free tea and cake for the over 60's. Cameron's Bakery have created a 'Selkirk Tart' which will be launched at the Coronation weekend. CC asked that any proposals consider whether or not the full £500 is needed and noted that all application forms must be submitted by 14th April 2023. SB asked if a lot of volunteers would be required to assist with the logistics of so many different acts on the stage. AM plans to keep the stage as basic as possible and acts would need to be able to set up within 5 minutes. SB suggested that the £500 could be used to provide refreshments for all who attend. AM will need help with planning.

14. SHMG – Hill is in reasonable condition. Insurance issues have now been resolved. Any machines needing repaired will be discussed at the next meeting. Awaiting quotations from the Golf Club re Caulk's Well. LD is awaiting details from the cycle group re a small trial. Roads Department have confirmed that more signage is required at both crossings by the golf course road. Litter pick initiative suggested which could possibly tie in with the clean up on 26th March.

Brighter Selkirk – 3 planters have been ordered but still need to discuss construction, planting, and filling. RMcN suggested that everything be sorted out closer to delivery date but assembling at the farm may be a better option.

Community shed will repaint the bowser and check the tyres.

Victoria Hall Railings – may be a good idea to contact people who donated last year to see if they would like to do the same this year. Any spare can be advertised on Facebook. Selkirk Merchant Company will donate £100.

Hanging Baskets – Different towns take different approaches to their baskets e.g. some towns stress test the brackets whilst others don't. Need to look at grants/funding as the cost of replacing all the baskets would cost in the region of £1500. Reservoir baskets require less watering and it is easy to know when they have enough water (black would be the cheapest option).

COPS – New logo has been designed and will go on badges for children. Digging on Friday was delayed due to the bad weather but the trees are in storage and area has been cordoned off. Launch day will be 1st April 2023 at 11am.

CGFWG - Selkirk Regeneration have received a letter from SBC in support of the solar panel initiative.

Victoria Park Action Group – Work is underway on the toilets and the electric boxes. 1st May 2023 is the date for reopening and a feasibility study will be the next stage. Communications team will announce the reopening of the site. A new gate is in place, railings to be repainted, new signage to be put in place, and the path which runs alongside the park needs to be cut back.

Heritage Centre – Discussions have been had with Selkirk Regeneration but still need to speak with Euan Jackson as the next stages are to form a legal entity and put in place a charitable company. Person responsible for setting up the company has not yet been decided. Feasibility study is required to find funds to pay someone for a year – CC suggested this could come under the town plans.

Selkirk Regeneration Company – Although IK tries to communicate as much information as possible from these meetings, it might be useful to also see the minutes. Not all members are receiving invitations to the meetings – IK to discuss with David Bethune. AGM will be held in May. **Action: IK**

Selkirk Means Business/BIDS/Selkirk Futures – already covered.

SBCCN – next meeting will be Wednesday 22nd March 2023 via zoom.

15. AOCB –

Date of CC meeting in May needs to be changed due to Coronation Bank Holiday – all agreed Wednesday 10th May at 7pm.

JT is preparing end of year accounts so please advise of any expenses which need to be paid back as soon as possible.

AL – at a previous meeting, JS talked about an old custom of conferring the Freedom of the Burgh. AI asked if this was something which could be brought back. AP agreed that it could be looked at and the last confer was in the 1960's.

AM – bollard at Pringle Park needs repaired. CC confirmed that this will be done by April 2023.

AM – report sent to all members of the CC regards a Community Tourism Seminar.

AM – report sent to all members of the CC regards a Cycling Route Seminar. Selkirk is a destination for only one of the routes but AM is going to speak to Sarah McDonald and find out if this can be amended. Cycle repair station needs repaired and the town needs more bicycle hoops – specifically in the Square, opposite cafes, and outside certain shops. RMcN noted that some funding may be available in order to make premises more cycle friendly. AL will ask Peter Laing to contact AM (**Action: AL**). RMcN suggested that routes could be linked to Strava. He also noted that ebikes can be charged in Selkirk and water can be refilled at the Pant Well although DP suggested that this could be better advertised.

The Chair congratulated Selkirk Silver Band on becoming Scottish Champions.

IK – next meeting of the A7 Action Group to be held Friday 24th March 2023 with the redrafting of the constitution the main topic.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 21:16hrs.

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