



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 Wednesday 10th May 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, Ieuan Chamberlain, Grant Kinghorn, Jim Hawkins, and Ed Strang-Steel.

Also present – SBC Councillors Elaine Thornton-Nicol and Leigh Douglas; 6 members of the public.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Chairman also thanked AM and the volunteers involved with the Coronation concert held in the Cross Keys space as well as the volunteers who assisted with events held over the weekend.

2. Apologies for absence – David Playfair, Reece McNaughton, and Caroline Cochrane.

3. Declarations of Interest – none.

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

Regards Item 10 of previous meeting, AL asked if Euan Jardine had been invited to the CC meeting. Discussion was then had re placemaking and how best to bring forward all the ideas suggested so far. LD will speak to Euan Jardine but felt that the SBC Councillors are there to relay any points he would bring to a meeting and that there is now also assistance in place from Community Engagement Officers who will attend placemaking meeting and provide support for future applications. **Action: LD**

Minutes agreed by ESS and seconded by AM.

5. Matters arising from these Minutes Already discussed under item 4.

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

7. Planning Matters

23/00512/FUL (relates to previous planning application 20/00817/FUL). This application is for the provision of on-site accommodation at a new property in Lindean. No objections with the caveat that the accommodation is only there for the duration of the construction and does not become a permanent fixture.

JH asked for an update re the planning application for new houses behind the tennis court and whether or not natural and environmental impact assessments had been carried out. IK confirmed that construction is due to start soon and that all necessary assessments had been carried out. LD noted that Crawfords are keen to give back to the community and are in talks with the tennis club.

8. Open Forum

MoP1 asked why blister packs are not recyclable. ETN informed her that blister packs are made from mixed materials however SBC are looking at this issue in the long term. AP suggested that

they be taken to the Regeneration Project. Regeneration Project did take them for short period of time when the packs were being donated to the Parish Church but this has now ended. MoP1 also requested an update on the situation with the former Contact Centre. LD advised that she is waiting on an update which she hopes to provide at the next CC meeting.

GK - Barrier on road bridge is still in place. **Action: ETN**

Side gate at Victoria Hall is open all the time and the grass is being ruined with people walking over it. JT suggested putting a path in place rather than chaining the gate shut. **Action: ET** Spar at the end of the footbridge. ETN noted that this has been reported. Bridge specialists need to do an inspection before permanent repairs can be carried out.

Steps at Anderson Road. ETN confirmed that repairs have now been approved.

Graffiti in the Market Place again. CCTV will be installed in the next couple of weeks which should act as a deterrent to any vandals.

9. SBC Councillors Reports –

9.1 ETN:

Parking issues at Knowepark Primary School have been raised again with the CAT team and ETN has provided them with anonymised photographic evidence.

Social Prescribing – a new fund is now available for any volunteer groups which aim to prevent isolation within the community. Funding covers all age groups and is worth a maximum of £5k. ETN will send links to AP.

9.2 LD:

Victoria Park is now open and a few caravans have been on site.

Placemaking – third meeting was held last week and was very successful. It was agreed that as well as putting a steering group with smaller sub-groups in place, areas surrounding Selkirk such as the Valleys should also be included. Follow up meeting to be held in June.

AM noted that he found the meeting to be very confusing. New people attended and were asked their thoughts on the ideas already gathered at the first two meetings. This meeting was a missed opportunity to build on those previous.

AM also questioned the notion of a steering group as this had not been mentioned. LD noted that this had been decided on the basis of responses handed in at the end of the meeting.

AM concerned that plans aren't being taken forward quickly enough and Selkirk would therefore miss out on any available funding. ETN clarified that the placemaking element of monies has been ring-fenced and cannot be used elsewhere.

Discussion was then had as to who would lead a steering group with LD stressing that the groups need to be community led with Councillors and Community Engagement Officers on hand to help when needed.

LD will try to contact those people who didn't attend last week's meeting.

IK encouraged by the enthusiasm of everyone involved and believes that we now have a viable working group who can make things happen in Selkirk. It was previously suggested that Selkirk Regeneration Group take the lead but there was not a big enough membership.

AL noted that on the website for levelling-up funding, it stated that for projects of £250k or less there was no need for Council involvement and asked if this might be the same for larger projects. LD was unsure but stressed that by not involving the Council, prospective projects could be missing out on valuable expertise to assist with funding applications.

Encourages everyone to have a look at the Destination Tweed online. Destination Tweed have secured £24m in investment to be used over the next few years.

Grassy area at Sentry Knowe to be cut.

New activity group at Selkirk Rugby Club aimed at neurodivergent children of primary school age. Group is proving to be very popular and will be extended.

10. Treasurer's Report –

SHMG

£7564.27 in account.

No action on account as waiting for Campbell's latest invoice.

Community Council

£3648.54 in account

Initial accounts for Community Coronation event (rounded figures):

£480 grant

£500 spent

CC will make up difference.

£1300 ring-fenced for Response team and fountain repairs.

Leaves £1800 in general fund.

Blooming Selkirk

£2446.85 in account.

Toll planters invoice - £2130 leaves £370 from grant funding.

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

Approx. £1450 in general fund.

Accounts prepared and with auditor to be ready for AGM.

11. Reports from Sub-Groups

SHMG: Meeting held last week.

Council looking to replace the bin at the 7th tee due to birds pulling out all the rubbish.

A699 – four new 'pedestrian slow' signs in place.

Funding application has been submitted for a new lawnmower. Application goes to panel on May 11th 2023 and unlikely to be refused.

LD had been looking for ideas to boost funds for the SHMG. GK had suggested forming a Friends of Selkirk Hill Group with members making an annual contribution. All agreed that this was a good idea and ETN informed LD that the group could make even more money if it signed up to Gift Aid. LD will try to promote the new group before the next AGM.

AGM to be held 28th June 2023 at 6pm in the Cruickshank Room at the Victoria Halls. New Office Bearer, Chair, and Secretary will sign the constitution.

Blooming Selkirk: £500 donations received from casting associations towards planters (Hammermen and Fleshers still to pay).

£200 sponsorship for railing baskets – still more to come and general appeal to go out soon for remaining baskets.

Jubilee Garden needs a bit of work which AP will do before the Common Riding.

Thanks given to RMcN and the rugby youngsters for installing the planters.

COPS: Stall was in place at the Coronation event.

Benches have arrived.

Started to apply for the Greener Gateways Community Award.

In the 1950's, apple trees had been planted on the roundabout at the entrance to Bannerfield but caused a lot of damage. SB asked if the roundabout could be repaired and COPS could plant three dwarf trees. **Action: ETN**

SB suggested that COPS plant and train a few fruit trees along the wall of the Cross Keys annexe. **Action: ETN**

CGFWG: Next meeting to be held in June.

AL suggested that it would be useful if the CC could be informed of how many applications for funding the CGFWG and how much money is awarded each month. AP advised that this information is available in the minutes which are distributed after each meeting and also online.

Victoria Park Action Group: Next meeting to be held May 24th 2023.

Plattling: Meeting held May 10th 2023. Still two planned visits due – Heidi's Group (August 16th – August 21st 2023), and Stadtrat Group (August 30th – September 4th 2023).

Heritage Centre: AL has approached Live Borders and the Regeneration Company with a view to one of them becoming a corporate partner. The ideal scenario, however, would be that the Heritage Centre is taken forward by the placemaking scheme.

Selkirk Futures: already discussed.

SBCNN: no meetings.

May 8th 2023 Review: email circulated electronically by AM.

12. AOCB

Freedom of the Burgh: Following on from discussion at last meeting, AL could suggest two people to be awarded Freedom of the Burgh but one is not a Souter. AP has so far been unable to find a definitive source outlining criteria for awarding Freedom of the Burgh. ETN noted that the Clerk to the Council will have access to documents which should have all the necessary information. **Action: ETN**

MoP3 advised that conferring of the Freedom of the Burgh had ended when the Town Council was dissolved and unsure if this authority had been passed on to the Community Council. JH added that if the CC do not have the authority, we should still be able to recommend someone.

RBSB Presentation: to be held Thursday 18th May 2023 in the Victoria Halls.

AM – Lochcarron have designed a new tartan for Selkirk. The design can also be used for other items such as mugs.

SB – Asked if there was a date for the start of the Coop development (there isn't as yet), and if there was any update re the Haining development. AP still to invite Michelle Ballantyne to speak at one of the CC meetings. **Action: AP**

GK – Noted that the Town Hall is in need of repair and the Tom Scott paintings are a big miss.

AL – Noted that the empty glass bottles which had been piling up at the back of the old Sainsbury site have now been removed.

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

Next meeting will be held Monday 19th June 2023 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm. AGM will be held prior to this meeting at 6:30pm.