



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chair	Andy Murray	44 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk TD7 4ND	01750 21008
Vice-chair	Alistair 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 Tuesday 14th November 2023.

1. Present – Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Alistair Pattullo (Vice Chair), Kirsty Lovatt (Minutes Secretary), Judith Thompson (Treasurer), Sue Bremner (Assistant Treasurer), Ian King, Ieuan Chamberlain, and Grant Kinghorn.

Also present – SBC Councillor Caroline Cochrane; 11 members of the public.

2. Chairman's Welcome – AM congratulated the Selkirk Silver Band again, who hosted the day-long Scottish Borders Entertainment Contest, Nov 4th coming 5th themselves. AM thanked all involved in the October Litter Pick, as well as all winners in the High School musical awards, co-hosted by Ieuan Chamberlain. He thanked also David Deacon and the British Legion for the organisation of the moving Remembrance Day events, as well as the poppy decorations on the High Street. Another winner was Cameron's Bakery, who were crowned Best Independent Bakery in Scotland in the Scotlands Business Awards. Number One restaurant was also voted Best in its class.

The newsletter was launched, so thanks to Grant Kinghorn and David Playfair for their efforts with that. The next one will be published in mid-January. Other recent events included the update on the Haining restoration and fundraising.

Future events include 'Celebrate Selkirk' at the Victoria Halls during the day of Saturday 25th November, the 'Town Team' establishment meeting on 29 Nov at Victoria Halls, 6pm, and the relaunched Selkirk Session at the Cricket Club on Friday 8th December. Not to forget the panto on 28th/29th December.

3. Apologies/Declarations of Interest – Apologies were received from Ed Strang Steel, Alisdair Lockhart, David Playfair, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, and Leigh Douglas.

4. Approval of the minutes – Approved by GK and seconded by IK.

5. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 9th October 2023 and not covered elsewhere –

Responsible Parking posters were installed on the High Street, Bleachfield Road and opposite the Post Office. Initial public response was positive, and vehicles were initially persuaded to park elsewhere, but drivers seem now to be returning to their previous habits. Perhaps larger posters could be considered. GK asked if funding could be made available for permanent posters.

CC has spoken to Brian Young re the possibility of a one-way system in the town centre. There needs to be a public consultation which CC has asked to be brought forward again.

CC also noted that Dumfries & Galloway Council are in the process of decriminalising parking, ie controlled via Traffic Wardens, as opposed to by Police. SBC Councillors plan to review effectiveness re: possible adoption in Scottish Borders.

6. Motion to Co-opt Kirsty Lovatt – on hold pro tem.

7. Community Police Report – received and online.

Selkirk offences listed include one assault, 7 issues of Anti-social Behaviour, 4 of vandalism, one of housebreaking, 2 of theft, and 2 of road safety.

8. Planning Matters – 23/01575/FUL – erection of garden office.

Agreed in principle with the suggestion that an alternative to uPVC be used.

9. Councillor Caroline Cochrane Proposal for Community Awards

Spirit of Selkirk Awards 2024 - Draft Proposal

Spirit of Selkirk awards - develop to honour persons who are making significant contributions to the Selkirk community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. The Community Council's opportunity to thank people who have done something special for the community and will honour those individuals and community groups who have gone above and beyond to support residents throughout Selkirk in the year.

Spirit of Selkirk Special Recognition Award - to an individual who regularly puts others before themselves and are generous with their time to support an individual or group. The chance to recognise people who dedicate a significant proportion of their lives to helping others, receiving no financial reward.

Volunteer of the year - to recognise an individual volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to Selkirk and its residents. The person will have demonstrated exceptional commitment to an unpaid activity.

Young person of the year – to recognise the great Selkirk young people volunteering and contributing their time and skills to benefit others within community. Individual volunteers under 18.

Good neighbour of the year - for someone proved to be an asset to their immediate neighbourhood or to their neighbours, through regular good deeds, or just someone who brightens a neighbour's day.

Community Group of the Year - recognises a community group making an exceptional contribution to the Selkirk. The not-for-profit work will have involved local people, whilst promoting equality, inclusion and working together. All groups of any size considered re: their value to the community.

Nominations to open Jan 01- Feb 28. Awards in May, combined with Standard Bearer evening.

Requests for further detail such as impartiality, eligibility rules, process of receiving votes, etc. were submitted by members of the CC.

AM proposed, agreed by all, that CC should come back to the next meeting with a detailed proposal that could then be voted upon.

Action: CC

10. Open Forum –

David Deacon of the British Legion reported re: Poppy Appeal & Remembrance Sunday – thanks given to all for attending. Always looking for fundraising ideas and more volunteers. Thanks also given to the Guides, Scouts, and Cadets for collecting monies. 200-300 people attended at the War Memorial. Knitted poppies will be removed by Saturday 18th November.

War Memorial and Walter Scott statue were lit up in red which was part of a UK-wide strategy.

Royal Regiment of Scotland Band are holding a concert in the Victoria Halls on Friday 8th December 2023. Tickets are now available online or at the Post Office and Turnbull's.

DD raised £1,160 by shaving off his beard. Collecting tins are always available for volunteers wishing to help collect donations.

IK also thanked the High School for their assembly, held on Friday 10th November.

MoP2 asked if the banners left at the Toll advertising various businesses could be time limited. Legal rules are a bit vague, allowing banners to be put up for a 'reasonable' time only. It was agreed that banners advertising an event should be removed the day after the event but banners advertising a business should not be allowed at all. Management of this would be down to the CC – AM and CC agreed to liaise. CC happy to store banners at the Post Office and AM happy to communicate to owners that their advertising banners could be collected from there.

David Deacon also noted that banners should be removed responsibly including any rubbish and cable ties, and that obtruding cable ties on approved banners should be trimmed to avoid contact with the public.

MoP3 asked if there had been any further discussion re the contact centre (noted that roofers are there clearing out the gutters). CC advised that there is still a Live Borders review ongoing. It is hoped that the new Town Team will look at possible roles for the building.

11. Reports from SBC Councillors (Caroline Cochrane only in attendance) –

SBC budget is in the process of being prepared and awaiting to find out the settlement figure from Scottish Government on 19th December 2023. A public consultation will be available soon for views on where SBC should prioritise its spending.

CC funding review has been completed with a 10% increase agreed for CC budgets. CC's insurance will now be covered by SBC (see also SBCCN).

A7 meeting – questionnaire now online until 10th December 2023.

Town Team – next meeting to be held 29th November 2023 at 6pm in the Victoria Halls with a view to establishing the Town Team in January 2024.

AM requested that, as Executive Member for Community Engagement, CC should feed back to SBC that their surveys lack robustness in balance and plain English. There is also often a lack of sufficient space for nuanced comments. **Action: CC**

Area Partnership meeting will be held Thursday 16th November 2023 via Zoom (link available on the SBC website).

Items to be added to LIMP – trees at BT building, Three Brethren fencing, and salt bins without lids. Other items raised were the wall down from the High School, and the wall at the Health Centre. **Action: AM to update Report for SBC Cllrs' action**

New playground at Bog Park is almost completed and will be officially opened in Spring 2024.

Tracker of Works

Steps - Anderson Rd to Knowepark Primary playground - CC reported Jul-23
Steps - top of Stae Brae - CC reported Jul-23
Market Place bus stop - Cleaned', but needs a complete overhaul, including the broken sign board. - E T-N / CC reported Jul-23
Railings at Thornfield - being dealt with Aug-23
Driveway built at the end of Green Terrace - CC reported Aug-23
Plattling Plaque - Still requires cleaning Aug-23
Streetlights War memorial permanently on CC following up – awaiting parts Aug-23
Ettrickhaugh burned-out flats CC reported/ dealt with by SBHA Insurance Aug-23
Weeds all over town - CC to report Aug-23

12. Treasurer's Report – Judith Thompson presented

Community Council

£3,020 in account

Outgoings - £33 (British Legion wreath)

Blooming Selkirk

£1,680.94 in account

£757 received from SBC for new bowser.

Brighter Selkirk

£2,924.19 in account

Another generous donation from Souter Stormers – our thanks to them
£407.89 spent on new lights.

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group

£9,025.20 in account

Outgoings – Campbell's hours and expenses (£2,260)

13. Reports from sub-groups –

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group -

The Hill Management Group met for monthly conversation

The next maintenance grant has been received from SBC.

Report: IK

Next conversation – 06 Dec at Victoria Halls, 18:00 tbc.

IK also notified the CC that John Rathie, a long-standing member of the SHMG has sadly died.

Blooming Selkirk/Brighter Selkirk –

The High Street, Market Place, and Toll planters now emptied and planted up for the winter; E SS will probably bring the new Gardener to the December meeting. The baskets will be stored at Philiphaugh gardens. One hanging basket left to come down.

Toll planters – driver's insurance have accepted responsibility and SBC will make contact re payment.

Xmas lights will go up at 12 noon on Saturday 18th December 2023. SBC will decorate the tree.

COPS – The Rotary Club donated some orchid bulbs which have now been planted.

Questions over ownership at Heatherlie Park currently ongoing. SB also asked if it would be possible for COPS to play a part in tidying up the old Cross Keys site. Advised to contact ESS for any free bulbs he may be able to donate.

Common Good Fund Working Group –

Next meeting 29th November.

Future of the Courthouse Coffee Shop has been decided and an announcement from the new owners will be made later this week.

IK – still to follow up Town Arms pub replacement windows

Action: IK

Victoria Park Action Group –

Minutes attached and circulated electronically. Also available on CC website.

PR Committee

Newsletter published and available as a PDF on the Community Council website.

Proposal to print more copies to distribute to care homes.

Action: AM/GK

13. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –

Selkirk Response / Resilience Team

AP reported on recent Borders-wide resilience preparation and possible plans for Selkirk. Further proposals to be made re: a Selkirk Resilience Plan and where to store essential support items.

Action: AP/AM

Plattling Twinning Group –

AP advised re: recent meeting. Discussion re: the organised visit to Plattling in July for the Nibelungenmarkt event; planning is underway for that, with the hope that more people who have not visited Plattling will take part.

Selkirk Future

Next step in the 'Selkirk Future' plan will be a 'Town Team' meeting at the Victoria Halls on Nov 29 at 6pm, with a view to creating a priority list for short-term, medium-term and long-term works, which can then be actioned by application for various grants.

Action: AM/CC

SBCCN –

Online meeting of Core Group (including IK & AL) 13 Oct.

Report: IK

Recommendations of Community Council were presented to SBC on 14 Nov.

Recommendations included increasing the annual support grant by 10% and current insurance costs all to be covered. Cover for any new assets or events added from 2024 to be met by CC. Local Community Path Maintenance Grant to increase from £450 to £600. Support grant to be reviewed every 3 years.

Only 50% of all CC's take part in the SBCCN. It would be more beneficial to have locality based meetings throughout the year with one main Borders meeting to be held annually.

A7 Action Group –

Joint A7 Group/BEAR Scotland 'Pedestrian Review' public meeting at the Victoria Halls on 2 Nov. Survey still online at <https://walka7selkirk.commonplace.is> till 10 Dec. **Report: IK**

Selkirk Regeneration –

Board meeting was held 03 Nov. Grant applied for re: repairs to 1 Tower Street.

4 new Energy Advisers posts now filled. More funds/plans required for storage of e-bikes.

IK will do a survey of all business properties in the High Street / Market Place to provide data for future actions. **Action: IK**

14. AOCB –

IK – Footpath at the Pot Loch belongs to Borders Abbey Way rather than the SHMG. However, with CC approval, would like to apply for the paths grant to enable improvements. Submission to be made to SBC.

SB – well done to all involved with the newsletter.

GK – complaints have been made re the ongoing roadworks within the town especially where no work appears to be happening. CC noted that roadworks and closures are co-ordinated to the best of SBC's ability, but any feedback is welcome.

AP – Selkirk Community Cinema is now up and running. First screening will be 'Mary Poppins' and will be held on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 2:30pm in the Parish Church. This group will work closely with the old Selkirk Film Club to enable screenings of films for all age groups. Funding will be through ticket sales with the hope of being able to save some monies as well.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 8:52pm.

Next meeting will be held Monday 11th December 2023 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.