



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chair	Andy Murray	44 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk TD7 4ND	01750 721008
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 Monday 9th October 2023.

1. Present – Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Sue Bremner (Assistant Treasurer), Alisdair Lockhart, Ian King, Ed Strang-Steel, Ieuan Chamberlain, Reece McNaughton and Grant Kinghorn.

Also present – SBC Councillor Caroline Cochrane; 9 members of the public.

2. Chairman's – AM advised that Reece McNaughton has formally announced his resignation, due to relocation. AM gave him many thanks for all his work with planting, hanging baskets and much more. Reece always went above and beyond the call of duty, and will be much missed. More detail in the Brighter Selkirk report. AM congratulated the Selkirk Silver Band, who beat 92 competitors to come 6th in the Third Section of the National Brass band Championships of Great Britain. The band are now to host the day-long Scottish Borders Entertainment Contest at Victoria Halls on Saturday November 4th. AM mentioned the successful inaugural Philiphaugh Country & Food Festival on 23rd September, with the 2024 event already being planned. AM reminded all about the Litter Pick on Sunday. AP will collect all the litter picking equipment from the Victoria Hall garage and will bring. Rendezvous 10am in the Market Place.

3. Apologies/Declarations of Interest – Apologies were received from Alistair Pattullo, Judith Thompson, Kirsty Lovatt, Elaine Thornton-Nicol and Leigh Douglas.

4. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 11th September 2023 – None.

5. Approval of the minutes – Approved by Ed Strang Steel and seconded by Alisdair Lockhart.

6. Community Police Report – received and online.

The meeting was attended by CPO John Murray, who presented the Report (published online). Selkirk is regarded as a low crime area, although there have been issues of vandalism and one housebreaking, into an empty insecure dwelling. There were also unconnected thefts – one to an insecure property and one in an outside garden area. There were 2 incidents of shoplifting from Selkirk Co-op in September (and one on the day of the meeting), but Selkirk's new CCTV has been installed. Parking was discussed at length. Ticketing is not effective, because it can only be a snapshot of contraventions at that time, so is not a deterrent. PC Murray approved of the proposed poster scheme to encourage responsible parking, due to be started in the High Street, Bleachfield Road and The Loan in the week ending 14 Oct.

Questions from members of the public included queries on road signage, Anti-social Behaviour close to the Fire Station, and Traffic speeds on the A7 (See Open Forum). Damage to the War Memorial area on the day of the meeting will be investigated, with the relevant CCTV footage central to progress, in the absence of witnesses.

7. Planning Matters – none.

8. Rowlands Presentation -

Susan Law gave an update. The team has grown, and now has 132 members. Their efforts to collect excess food are so successful that they often have a surplus, so they plan to work with Selkirk Food Bank to deal with this.

They were seeking a new large fridge, which a member of the public in attendance was able to promise to supply.

Their AGM is on 14 Nov, 7-8:30 – all welcome (although also date of the next Community Council meeting). They will be calling for more Trustees, of which E SS is already one.

Open Forum –

MoP1 raised the issue of speeding on the A7, northbound from the petrol station and past the proposed junction with the new housing development. PC Murray had previously advised that Transport Scotland do not consider that traffic speed is excessive on this stretch, although residents disagree. AM suggested that a more effective place to have the 20 mph signs (instead of beside the tennis courts) would be just after the flashing speed sign between the petrol station and the first of 3 corners. They could then work in conjunction with the flashing sign, rather than several hundred yards later and out of sight.

IK mentioned the forthcoming BEAR/A7 Action Group public meeting on 02 Nov (see A7AG notes), where this could be discussed.

9. Reports from SBC Councillors (CC only in attendance) –

9.1 CC: CC is continuing to source a stonemason for the Marriage Stone in Back Row. This may now entail the works being completed in the Spring. **Action: CC**

CC confirmed that, since Selkirk had had to fund its own CCTV, she would be seeking a contribution from SBC funds, after SBC announced a plan for Borders-wide, centralised CCTV. **Action: CC**

CC has just returned from leave, so will liaise with AM re: the outstanding Works List **Action: CC/AM**

CC summarised action on Responsible Parking posters: 2 completed and a further 2 to be printed/laminated. Endorsed by Police and supported by Crossing Guard, the aim is to put them up w/e Oct 14. **Action: CC/AM**

MOP 2 enquired about the status of the pavement at the A7/Loan junction. CC stated that there are still wind turbines being routed through that area, hence the pavement will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

10. Treasurer – Sue Bremner (Assistant Treasurer)

Community Council
£3,049.56 in account

Outgoings - £224 to SBC for insurance
£74 litter pick equipment

Blooming Selkirk

£922.77 in account

PO for bowser money received 2 weeks ago but no payment yet. Carol Cooke (away till 16 Oct) was chasing.

Action: JT

Brighter Selkirk

£3,230 in account

Inc. very generous donations (Patty Alexander and Selkirk Musical Theatre Co.)

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group

£11,268.03 in account

Income r e c - SBC grant £10,000

Outgoings - C a m p b e l l ' s h o u r - ~~£2,150~~ d e x p e n s e s

11. PR Committee

Newsletter nearly finished. Due to be printed and distributed in 2nd week of Oct.

It will require some printing aid (c. 25 copies / 14 pages) from SBC for High Street distribution, then will be available as a PDF on the Community Council website.

Action: CC/AM

12. Reports from sub-groups -

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group -

The Hill Management Group has met for its regular monthly conversation and the following issues were noted:

The Hill is in good condition and the warden is working between rain showers to trim paths etc before winter.

Research is continuing regarding the current legislation pertaining to the use of pesticides/ weedkillers.

Details of the existing grazing arrangements are still being confirmed.

Laminated signs have been prepared to warn community users during grazing times.

The next maintenance grant has been received from SBC.

Blooming Selkirk/Brighter Selkirk -

Hanging baskets came down Thurs 05 Oct - thanks to Grant Kinghorn and Reece McNaughton for help. Baskets have lasted well; thanks were expressed to the volunteers watering all summer and enormous gratitude to The County Hotel for storing bowser and supplying water (at 60-80 litres per day, virtually every day since June).

Grateful thanks also to Morris Manson for watering the railing baskets at the Victoria Halls over the summer, and to the Souter Stormers for their knitted baskets, which were fun and really helped brighten up the High Street.

The High Street, Market Place and Toll planters to be emptied and planted up for the winter; helpers to meet at 10am, Sat 14 Oct. at the Pantwell. R McN supervising.

Many congratulations to the COPS team for their Greener Gateways successes - all certificates exhibited in the Cruickshank Room.

E SS restated that the new Head Gardener of Philiphaugh will take care of the contract in future. E SS will probably bring the new Gardener to the December meeting (Nov meeting clashes with Rowlands AGM). The baskets will be stored at Philiphaugh gardens.

Common Good Fund Working Group –

Next meeting 29th November.

The render on 1 Tower Street Pop-up shop owned by Selkirk Regeneration is deteriorating and requires remedial action. AM asked if some funds might be an appropriate request from the Common Good Fund. IK stated that he would require a lot of detail re: the potential works in order to form an opinion.

Action: AM

As per previous Minutes, the Town Arms pub has committed to replacing the original windows, but it wasn't clear what **Action: IK** i m e s c a l e

Victoria Park Action Group –

The next meeting is pending liaison with SoSE. CC to advise.

Action: CC

13. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –

Plattling Twinning Group –

Meetings already held about 2024. Agreed to support the 'Nibelungenmarkt' 18-21 July, 2024. Plattling keen for musicians to visit.

Bunting and banners were used of the recent 'Okt'

There has been a drive to reinstate monthly donations to refill the coffers of the twinning group. Next meeting: Wed 17th Oct at the Hammermen's Hall.

Selkirk Regeneration –

Board meeting was held 29 Sept. Grant to be pursued for the various improvements to 1 Tower Street, the Pop-up shop. Next step in the 'Selkirk Future' short list of 3rd party coordinators to streamline all the data collected by the 3 Placemaking meetings held so far with a view to creating a priority list of works, which can then be actioned by application for various grants.

Co-ordinators should be decided by 20 Oct.

Action: AM

SBCCN –

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

Action: IK, AL

A7 Action Group –

Meeting w/e Oct 08. IK to circulate notes.

Action: IK

There will be a joint A7 Group/BEAR Scotland 'Pedestrian Review' public Victoria Halls on 2 Nov. Public views and feedback are sought on all aspects of pedestrian interface with the A7 including safety / speeding / parking / signs (positioning, visibility and type) / footpaths (widths, blockages, restrictions).

AL reminded all re: previous concerns about extending double yellow lines from War Memorial past the Law Courts.

The 'vision' for the A7 with the herod house seed improved details / publicity when confirmed.

Action: IK

14. AOCB –

Litter Pick – Arranged for Sunday 15th October, as above.

Volunteers – A discussion was held on encouraging more volunteers, which, it was noted, every organisation in Selkirk is keen to attract. It was suggested that possibly some sort of reward scheme could be set up. IC said that he is part of a High School team dealing with volunteers so perhaps could help in suggesting organisations for students to help.

A question was raised about the possibility of a further Crossing Guard for the Back Row / A7 crossing. CC explained that suitable staff were very hard to find, and no-one had been found so far.

E SS gave a summation of the Country & Food Fair on 23rd Sept., which was a great success. 3,000 people attended, with the biggest attractions being the live bands and the Kitchen Theatre. 100 vendors are already expected for the 2024 event, which will take place in August or September – exact date to be decided.

GK announced the restoration of the Selkirk Sessions, with a first event booked on 08 Dec at Selkirk Cricket Club, starting 7:30. All musical contributions welcome, particularly younger players.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 20:48hrs.

Next meeting will be held **Tuesday 14th November** 2023 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.