



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 48th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk & District Community Council held on Monday 17th June 2024 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk

1. Present – Andy Murray (Chair), Alisdair Lockhart (Minute taker for the meeting), Sue Bremner, Ed Strang Steel, Grant Kinghorn, Ian King and David Playfair.

Also present were SBC Cllrs Caroline Cochrane, Leigh Douglas, 6 MoPs.
2. Apologies – Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Judith Thompson, Kirsty Lovatt, Alistair Pattullo.
3. Minutes of 2023 AGM, held on 18th June 2023, had been circulated electronically and approved. unanimously, prior to submission to the SBC. The recommendation to submit these Minutes to SBC was proposed by David Playfair and seconded by Alisdair Lockhart. **Action: Chair.**
4. Chairman's Report – appendix 1.
5. Treasurer's Report – appendix 2. as previously circulated by the Treasurer and commended by Members present.
6. Appointment of Office Bearers-
 - a) Chair – Andy Murray
 - b) Vice-Chair – Ed Strang Steel
 - c) Hon. Treasurer – Judith Thompson
 - d) Hon. Secretary – Al Pattullo
 - e) Hon. Auditor – Viv Ross
 - f) Assistant Treasurer – David PlayfairThe Chairman announced that Judith Thompson has stated that she will stand down as Treasurer at the next AGM.
7. Appointment to Roles
 - a) Planning Spokesperson – Ian King pro tem, with David Playfair as Assistant Planning Spokesperson.
8. Appointment to Sub-Groups –
 - a) Selkirk Hill Management Group – Ian King, Grant Kinghorn. It was noted that the meetings of this Group are open to the community.
 - b) Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk – Ed Strang Steel, Al Pattullo, Judith Thompson
 - c) Selkirk Response Team – Al Pattullo, Andy Murray.
9. Plattling Twinning Group – Al Pattullo and Andy Murray.
10. Appointments to outside bodies –

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- a) Scott's Selkirk – Andy Murray
- b) Selkirk Common Good Fund – Ian King with Alisdair Lockhart as alternative.
- c) A7 Action Group – Ian King
- d) SBCCN – tbc
- e) Eildon Area Committee – Ian King, Andy Murray
- f) Selkirk Futures/Selkirk Regeneration Board – Andy Murray

All current members agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk

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APPENDIX 1

Chair's Report 2024

Welcome to the 48th Annual General Meeting of Selkirk Community Council.

I would like to start by thanking all members for their continuing work for the benefit of the community, as well as participation of our 3 SBC Councillors who are our link to the Scottish Borders Council and petitioners on our behalf. I would also like to thank all of you, and members of the public who attend our meetings, for your continuing patience and very helpful interventions, in my first year as Chair.

In their 'back office' roles I would also like to mention former Chair and current pro tem Secretary Al Pattullo, and Treasurer Judith Thompson for their guidance on the history of both Councils and their expert work in communication and keeping the books straight. Everyone on the current Community Council has something to contribute and I have been very grateful for that in the past year.

It sometimes seems that little changes from one meeting to the next, but over the course of a year, continuity on core projects is more clear. We are making progress on the Closes upgrades; Victoria Park – now with a 2-star certification; Community Orchards; the Toll planters, newly planted in time for the Common Riding; the hanging baskets, (the skooshing season is ready to start with a new bowser); the litter picks, which have attracted favourable comments; the CCTV, which is up and running, and we have revived the Outstanding Works list, which has been a useful guide to which actions of restitution are ongoing.

A couple of landmark events perhaps need mention: on the 6th of July 2023 we had a Royal visit, very ably organised by the Duke of Buccleuch and Councillor Caroline Cochrane, which could not have been more successful, showing the town off to its absolute best, and I know the King and Queen thoroughly enjoyed it. In August we celebrated 25 years of our twinning with Plattling in Bavaria and once again, our guests were visibly moved by the warm and sincere welcome they got from their Selkirk friends. It is through events like this that true community spirit shines through, and it is a source of much pride. Not quite on the same level, but perhaps worth a mention, was our 'Volunteer Fair', where, with the help of the Chamber of Trade, we organised stalls in the Market Place in May for 17 local organisations, plus 2 cross-Borders ones, to show to the public their good works and sign up new volunteers.

Last year, we made better communication with residents one of our goals, and we have made a start. With the invaluable help of Grant Kinghorn and David Playfair, we launched a quarterly newsletter, which has been well received, and many thanks to SBC for printing the hard copies for us. It can't of course be totally up to the minute, but it is made available in the High Street shops in hard copy and online at any time.

The newsletter goes hand in hand with the Community Council website, which we upgraded throughout the year, and which we try to keep relevant and informative. From a base of only a few views per day last year we have just received our highest viewing ever, from people wanting to know details of all the Common Riding events, which I'm very pleased about, since it shows we can be of practical help, and we'll aim to build on that for the future.

Thanks again to Grant and David, but also to Denis Roberts of the General Store, we were able to update the 'Welcome To Selkirk' visitors' brochure, increasing the print run to 3,500, and adding 4 pages to the content. This has also been well received, helping to inform visitors but also highlight what's special about the town to travellers to other parts of Scotland, including Edinburgh.

We have also been involved in communication via the High Street's notice boards. We regularly post events on the Market Place notice board, but our SBC Councillors have kindly installed a weatherproof notice board on the Market Place bus stop, so we are able to post there, as well as in the locked weatherproof standalone notice board installed by the ex-Servicemen Association, just by the Mungo Park statue, so many thanks for access to both of those. In terms of public interaction, SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane and Elaine Thornton-Nicol, as well as myself, meet the public on the first Saturday of each month at the Farmers' Market. I am mostly spared public unhappiness, but I learn a lot from being beside the Councillors as they deal with a wide variety of enquiries.

In terms of looking outwards, we have attended many meetings with organisations such as South of Scotland Enterprise, South of Scotland Destination Alliance, the Borders resilience team and Scottish Community Tourism, to name just a few, and we hope that this will lead to Selkirk being in the running for consideration of any future benefit.

The many active subgroups of the Community Council have risen to the changing challenges of the modern world by being increasingly active, even while suffering from the universal shortage of volunteers. Every week we hear of the latest successes from all our subgroups, so I won't list them here – suffice to say that they are the heart and soul of the work done by the Community Council; often taken for granted, but would be much missed if it ceased.

The Community Council is involved with, but doesn't chair, the 'Selkirk & The Valleys' group, which has the very broad remit of creating suggestions for improving the town that are endorsed by the whole community. Co-Chairs Viv Ross and Caroline Cochrane have taken the group, after many public meetings, to the point where various ideas can now be consulted on by the community and the coming year will see much more coverage of those.

Local successes include the Selkirk Silver Band, who gained promotion – again, plus award-winning local businesses R&L Taxis, The General Store, Cameron's the bakers, and Selkirk Distillers. The inaugural Philiphaugh Country & Food Festival was such a success last year that it is to be extended to 2 days this year. So, despite the countrywide concern for High Street businesses, there is still reason to be hopeful for local companies, who all deserve our continuing support. Meanwhile, our own Graham Coulson, the quiet mainstay of so many Selkirk events, has just been awarded a well-deserved MBE for his services to Scouting. Many congratulations, Graham.

We have just seen another amazing Common Riding week, showing the strength of community feeling and tradition, and I'd like to thank everyone who played a part in the organisation and execution of all the events which occurred enthusiastically but safely, plus all the constituent organisations, who continue to celebrate the town's heritage.

My first year as Chair of Selkirk Community Council has gone in a flash, but it has been an honour and a pleasure. Thank you.

Andy Murray, June 17th 2024

APPENDIX 2

SELKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL - TREASURER'S REPORT

At end of financial year 2023-24

Bank balance stands at	£3,934.79
of which	£926.15 ring-fenced for Response Team
&	£323.45 ring-fenced for repair of fountain
Leaving general funds	£1,140.19

2023-24 INCOME

Grants	£3,053.45
Donations	£ 120.00
Welcome to Selkirk brochure	£1,545.00
Bank Interest	£ 39.09
Transfer in	<u>£3,313.17</u>
	£8,070.71

2022-23 EXPENDITURE

Itemised in audited statement.	£7,230.56
Surplus/ (deficit) for year	£ 840.15
Opening Bank and Cash balance	£3,094.64
Closing balance	£3,934.79