



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chair	Andy Murray	44 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk TD7 4ND	01750 21008
Vice-chair	Ed Strang Steel	2 Priory Park, Selkirk, TD7 5CH	01750 21766
Secretary	Alistair Pattullo	12 Victoria Crescent, Selkirk TD7 5DE	01750 721697
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 December 2024.

1. Present: Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Ed Strang Steel, Judith Thompson, Ian King, Grant Kinghorn, Sue Bremner, and Kirsty Lovatt

Also present: SBC Councillors Leagh Douglas, Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton-Nicol; 3 members of the public; PC John Murray.

2. Chair's Introduction: AM noted the cancellation of the December Christmas Market due to bad weather, though the Pop-up Shop was well attended and Santa at the Fleece and the Scott's Court Room re-enactments went ahead, to much enjoyment. E T-N's Bannerfield & Beyond initiative on Mon 25th Nov was well supported, and hopefully it can become a regular fixture. The Rotary Celebrating Selkirk at Christmas was also a success, with a full hall.

Future seasonal events include the Silver Band's Christmas Show on Dec 21st, the Scouts celebration on Dec. 28 and two separate Hogmanay events, at the Victoria Halls and the Conservative Club.

The Post Office's current management has announced closure of the Post Office on 21st January, though Post Office Ltd. is advertising from prospective licensees. The branch at the SBHA offices on Whinfield Road, Riverside remains open, Mon-Friday.

The Fleece and The County are now open, with the County serving food. The Fleece's restaurant is expected to open at the end of February.

The former Skinny's takeaway in West Port is to become an Italian restaurant, while Lyle & Scott have announced they will take over the former Lochcarron showroom premises on Dunsdale Road.

3. Apologies: Alistair Pattullo, Alisdair Lockhart.

4. Approval of the minutes: Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by IK.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 11th November and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

BT Notice board – AM has been in contact with Naomi Sweeney at SBC, who has promised to get information from Dumfries, who has installed 2 of them. IK raised concerns about the conservation of the Market Place if the board is free-standing.

Victoria Halls Notice board – AM has commissioned Keddies.

Center Parcs – a meeting has been posed by Center Parcs to meet all the local Community Councils in the week commencing 10th Feb. AM and ESS to represent Selkirk.

- 6. Community Police Report:** November Report received and posted on website. PC Murray is awaiting a response from Viv Ross re Black Bob. **Action: AM**
- 7. Planning Matters:** 24/01395/PPP. This is a planning in principal application – IK suggested that the CC do not refuse at this stage of the application.

A company is looking to alter one of the power poles on Selkirk Hill – AM will forward a response on IK's behalf. **Action: AM**

- 8. Selkirk High School playing field signs** re: dog mess. AM proposed that the CC pay for 2 signs advising dog owners that playing fields are not appropriate places for dogs let off the leash to leave mess. NB: it is not legal without signage, either. Proposal agreed by all members.

ETN is still waiting on a response re payment for the other two signs. AM will check the size of the signs, and speak to Mr. Bryson re position/placing of them. **Action: AM**

- 9. Tracker of Works:** completed works to be removed from the list. **Action: AM/CC**

10. Open Forum:

CC clarified for MoP1 which of the pitches is the area of concern for dog fouling.

MoP2 asked if another ATM could be installed in Selkirk. ETN noted that in previous discussions about an extra ATM, she had been advised that Selkirk had enough throughout the town. Now that the PO is closing, ETN has contacted Access to Cash to find out if this stance can now be changed.

CC advised that someone is interested in taking over the PO but it needs to close for 6 months whilst the new owner undertakes the necessary training. AM will draft a letter to the PO highlighting the concerns raised. **Action: AM**

11. Reports from SBC Councillors:

CC – Following on from the discussion about the PO closure, CC suggested that all members of the public and any local businesses affected by this should contact the PO. ETN also suggested calling a public meeting and requesting that a representative of the PO attend. It was agreed that the first week in January would be the best time to hold such a meeting. ETN will forward AM details of Selkirk's demographics. **Action: ETN/AM**

Linglie Farm is now on the open market and advertised through Galbraith Estate Agency. The new tenant will be decided by SBC Officers. [A question was asked about continuing Common Riding access to the land, and ET-N clarified after the meeting: There will be a clause within the lease that the tenant has to allow access over Linglie farm over for the Common Riding. This has been included in the documents that were sent to interested parties and was discussed during the viewing days so all applicants will be of aware of this

requirement.]

ETN – no report.

LD – Cross Border Connection – there will be an online public discussion on Monday 16th December (link on Facebook). LD suggested that all CC's impacted by this should try to converse with each other. AM noted that he has already been in touch with E&Y CC and will follow up. **Action: AM**

SBC Budget – settlement figure will be released on December 12th. LD asks that as many people as possible look at the SBC website and engage with any questionnaires, consultations etc.

Accounts Commission Report – SBC received a great report with regards to its handling of finances.

12. Treasurer's Report:

SHMG

£2,220 Campbell's invoice leaving £6,390 in account.

Community Council

£45 last bill for printing Newsletter leaving £2,957 in account.

Blooming Selkirk

No action on this account £2,830 in account.

Brighter Selkirk

£384 spent on lights leaving £3,310 in account.

13. Reports from sub-groups

SHMG: Heavy snowfall has caused some damage. A tree inspection has been conducted but it only covered a small area of the Hill and is, therefore, not representative of the issues in the whole area. LD will ask why the whole area was not inspected. **Action: LD**

Still awaiting three lots of paperwork from SBC. **Action: LD**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday 5th February 2025.

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:

All Christmas trees and decorations now up in Market Place.

Common Good Fund Working Group: meeting was held 28th November and dates for next meetings will be passed on to IK. CGFWG is still looking at CG assets (full compilation and valuations may be completed within 18 months), as well as continuing to test the painting on the monument.

Selkirk Distillers have taken over the old bookshop premises.

PR Committee:

Latest Newsletter out – 300 copies were printed and all went within a week. There have been 200 views online. Judith Steel has contacted CC to ask if she can write a column for the newsletter. CC will pass on her details to AM. **Action: CC**

Victoria Park Action Group: no update.

14. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: Recommendation re: spending money on equipment – tbc. ETN advised buying a supply of shoe grips. **Action: AM/AP**

Plattling Twinning Group:

3 groups coming to visit next year.

AM still awaiting quote from Keith Riddell for mounting plaques on Post Office sorting office wall, but work may be completed before Christmas. **Action: AM**

Selkirk & The Valleys: First draft of Local Plan in from consultants Ironside Farrar / responses fed back to them. Awaiting date for meeting with S&V team and SBC / Live Borders to align Selkirk strategies with overall SBC/LB strategies. CC chasing.

Action: AM/CC

SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership: Funds were awarded to the following groups:

Selkirk & Ashkirk Parish Church (£8k)

Riddell Fiddles (£3k)

A7 Action Group: Meeting was held on 28th November in Hawick. Claire Ramage is the new chair. Discussion had about the proposed Center Parcs site.

COPS: Permission has been given to use the Glebe as a new site but still waiting to hear about Heatherlie Park. Grant applications have been completed; and winter weeding carried out

Selkirk Regeneration: meeting 29 Nov. Grant now received for feasibility study for solar generation site. 1 Tower Street – quote for exterior painting approved. Will be spring now, or may be superseded by outside render replacement. AM meeting heritage plasterer Jack Worrall re: completely replacing render next year. **Action: AM**

15. AOCB:

ESS – Rowland's have been awarded £20k from the National Lottery Fund.

GK – increase in banners being placed around the town again. CC noted that any banners in place for more than a week need permission. ETN suggested a scheme whereby banners which have been put up without permission, will be removed and the owner charged a fee to collect them.

GK also advised that there is not enough time to arrange the Haggis Hunt for January 2025, but it will go ahead in January 2026.

IK stated that the appearance and upkeep of the Toll should be included in the Town Planning document.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation and wished all safe and happy holidays.

Meeting was closed at 8:31 pm.

Next meeting will be held **Monday 13th January 2024** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.