



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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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 12th February 2024.

1. Present – Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Alistair Pattullo (Vice Chair/Secretary), Kirsty Lovatt (Minutes Secretary), Judith Thompson (Treasurer), Ian King, Grant Kinghorn, David Playfair, and Alisdair Lockhart.

Also present – 9 members of the public, and Sue Briggs.

2. Chair's Introduction – AM noted the opening of the Fleece bar, with the restaurant expected to be re-opened around the end of February. The owners of the Hardware store will take over the running of the Post Office from March 31. Cycle Souters will be leaving for Rome on 3rd March. Production of 'Legally Blonde' runs 27th February to 2nd March.

The 'Town Team' meeting was held on Jan 17th and the follow-up meeting will be on Feb 21. The rescheduled Selkirk Session on 1st March has been postponed, due to the lack of available participants. AM thanked AP for his work on Feb 2, writing the questions for the Selkirk Rotary quiz, to benefit of the Mauldsheugh forest school. There is a new lockable Notice Board attach to the Market Place bus stop. Thanks to E T-N and CC for arranging via SBC.

3. Apologies/Declarations of Interest – Apologies were received from Ed Strang Steel, Ieuan Chamberlain, Sue Bremner, Caroline Cochrane, Leigh Douglas, and Elaine Thornton-Nichol.

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

5. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 8th January 2024 and not covered elsewhere – Follow-up meeting re: Councillor Caroline Cochrane's proposed 'Spirit of Selkirk' Awards was held. It was decided to take more time to structure the awards and launch in the Summer. A 3-pronged process was suggested: One sheet with the concept and an outline of initial timetable / Guidelines for nominations / Process document. These could be drawn up and presented to the CC in June 24, with a view to adoption in August 24. Then opening nomination process in October for three months, plus a panel meeting to decide recipient in Feb/March 2025. Then have the Standard Bearer present these at the CC evening with no speeches from recipients, just photos. This will enable a wider publicity for the recipients and is something positive linking the RBSB into the community as originally suggested.

GK and JT disagreed with holding the presentation on the same night as the Standard Bearer's presentation.

6. Community Police Report – received (published on website), and PC John Murray has

reported separately: “Re: the spate of anti-social behaviour occurring in Selkirk over December and January, the latter highlighted in the most recent multi-member ward report:

As a consequence of the December issues, 4 local children were reported by CAT to their school / parents and also Youth Justice for their behaviour. A separate but seemingly connected group were responsible for most issues this month. Private and town CCTV has assisted me in identifying 5 others. These will be dealt with similarly by myself and all have already been spoken to in the presence of parents.

Not wishing to tempt fate, things do appear to have improved - more about immaturity than malice and no formal complaints received from all original complainers.”

AM has reported to PC John Murray 2 additional incidents: despoiling of the War Memorial, as discovered / reported by David Deacon, and vandalism of the newly-planted Crab apple tree in the former Cross Keys space.

- 7. Planning Matters** – replacement windows at Heatherlie Terrace; retrospective planning for off-street parking at Heatherlie Terrace. IK will respond on a standard basis but will report back if there are any issues.

Re the off-street parking, this is an issue which DP has raised on numerous occasions last year. IK to meet with DP to discuss any concerns before submitting a response. **Action IK/DP**

IK also noted that there will be an evening presentation by SBC Planning Department on 29th February. All CC’s are invited but only one representative per CC. IK will ask if this can be extended to DP and, if possible, AM. IK will try to procure copies of the presentation and submit to members of the CC.

- 8. Restoration and protection of Thomas Clapperton statues** – AP presented a case for the restoration of the Fletcher and Mungo Park statues. AP added that the statues are valuable pieces of Selkirk’s heritage and need to be treated as such so as to be preserved for the future. See below for CC update on approaching this.

In response to CC’s notes, AP advised that CC was only talking about the stone statues rather than the bronze. Both AP and JT stressed that the statues must be examined by someone who has expertise in bronze. AM will relay this to CC.

MoP1 suggested that a company in Peebles which had installed the plaque at the Flodden Garden may be worth contacting.

DP asked if Historic Scotland could be approached for funding. IK confirmed that this could be looked into.

- 9. General Store / Sue Briggs: Proposal that Community Council adopts the ‘Welcome to Selkirk’ brochure.** There have been 4 versions so far, with the last one in 2023; 3,000 copies were printed, which lasted a year. Originally started by CC, it was produced last time by the General Store, and more or less breaks even. AM would work with Denis Roberts of the General Store on the next edition. New printers would be Richardson’s of Hawick, who hold all the digital files. Content would be updated, including new photographs.

AL asked if taking responsibility for the brochure also meant taking on any legal obligations. AM stated that this was correct however there have been no issues with previous brochures which will form the basis for the new one.

AL also asked who would be liable for any shortfall in costs. AM advised that he intends to charge slightly more for advertising and that minimal shortfalls could be covered with funds from the CC.

IK asked if content could be increased and, if so, how would this affect costs. AM noted that if sufficient revenue was coming in then more content could be considered but it wouldn't be straightforward.

AM's proposal to take on responsibility for the brochure was seconded by JT and approved unanimously.

10. Open Forum –

AM has updated list of works which he will email to the SBC Councillors. **Action: AM**

Signs to deter dog fouling now in place at the Bield.

IK and GK suggested that it could be the hedge rather than the tree which is causing damage to the wall at Mungo Park.

Stage repairs – AP advised that a truss is now in place for the lights. MoP2 advised that the overall lack of cleanliness at the Victoria Halls also needs to be addressed. AP agreed and advised that a deep clean is required.

11. Reports from SBC Councillors –

Caroline Cochrane – Walter Scott/Mungo Park statues will need to be inspected before taking the project refurbishment forward. We are currently trying to source a cherry picker so that it can be done w/c Feb 19, when Stuart Davidson is back from holiday.

Please note: the Council budget being finalised at SBC Council meeting Feb next week, will be tough times ahead and like the NHS savings will need to be made.

Good news in the result of the BEAR Scotland consultation and thanks to everyone who took part. Key areas for improvement identified:

- 1) Corner at Fleece
- 2) Tower Street/High Street junction
- 3) pavement from High School down Tower Street. More detailed review now to take place.

Town Team meeting Wed 21 Feb in the Fleece. There was a positive meeting on Friday .9 Feb at Philipburn Hotel, with a full Selkirk/Valleys tourism meeting to be arranged shortly. Sarah Macdonald (SSDA) leading on this.

CC will be meeting again with Brian Young from SBC to ask that a public consultation takes place on the possibility of making Back Row, Tower Street and High Street one way.

E T-N and CC will be back doing their monthly surgery at the Farmers' Market from 2nd March.

12. Treasurer's Report – circulated electronically.

11. Reports from sub-groups –

Plattling Twinning Group –

Rob Duff presented latest news in Jan, including 44 Selkirk residents travelling to Plattling in July. AM proposed a donation of £100 from the Community Council to support the Young Scottish Dancers' travel costs. JT suggested increasing the donation to £200. Proposal seconded by JT and approved unanimously.

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group -

Meeting due to be held Feb 7, but postponed until 6th March.

Blooming Selkirk/Brighter Selkirk –

Planters will be delivered on 8th March and workers from Criminal Justice will assist with building them the next day. Awaiting a quote from Philiphaugh re planting. Due to time of year, temporary planting will initially be done followed by permanent planting. AP to liaise with CC re the damaged fencing. **Action: AP**

COPS –

Have done winter maintenance at orchard, including replenishing of compost with new Duke of Edinburgh recruit Mary-Ann Nicholl. Also completed a door to door survey around The Green re: orchard plan. Permissions in place; very favourable response. Applying for same grant as previous, (Eildon Neighbourhood Fund) by Feb 16th. Probably no issues, though tighter turnaround for bareroot planting than last year.

Re: Heatherlie Park site SB has been advised that Community Council would need to apply to land registry to establish ownership which would incur a cost. SB to investigate.

Cross Keys Space has been improved with help from volunteers, Feb 10. It was vandalised that night, though not too seriously.

Common Good Fund Working Group –

No report and next meeting will be held 14th March.

The lease for the bookshop has ended and SBC will be looking for a new tenant. AM suggested that the space be used as a Tourist Information hub in the meantime.

AL queried why maintenance costs are always an issue and why the properties are allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair. AL feels that more flexibility re finances is required. IK noted that the trustees of the properties are the SBC Councillors but they are reliant on the SBC Estates Department. A tour of CG assets and properties was carried out last year however there was no representative from the CC despite IK's request that one be allowed to attend.

AM suggested that the CGFWG meetings could be more transparent and this needs to be addressed. KL suggested submitting an FOI after each meeting. IK advised that it may be more beneficial to write to the Councillors on behalf of the CC urging transparency.

MoP3 also suggested that finances were dependent on the income and expenditure of the three main farms.

Victoria Park Action Group –

AP has received an email from Joyce with an update. To be circulated electronically.

Action: AP

PR Committee

January edition of newsletter produced and distributed. More than 300 visits to CC website to view/download. More copies reprinted and received. Distribution includes High Street, Library and care homes.

AP has received an email from CC in the Valleys asking if they could also contribute to the newsletter. Similarly, AM has received a request to contribute from “Probus”, an organisation in Galashiels to help retired professionals.

Action: AM/GK/DP

13. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –

Selkirk Response / Resilience Team

AP/AM still to have meeting re: Selkirk Resilience Plan and storing essential support items.

Action: AP/AM

Selkirk Future

Already discussed.

SBCCN –

AL reported that the Constitution was still being worked on. There is a possibility of linking up with the Area Partnership.

A7 Action Group –

IK noted that an update is required from all CC's along the A7 corridor re their wants and vision for the A7.

AM circulated report on responses from BEAR Scotland to the recent Selkirk A7 consultation. A more detailed analysis has also been received and will be circulated.

Selkirk Regeneration –

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

Action: IK

No 1 Tower Street's interior is in process of being painted, and a test portion of a new exterior render to be applied in Spring, when the weather improves.

Action: AM

AL noted that he had been advised to take the Heritage Centre proposal to Selkirk Regeneration but was unsure as to where the group sits and asked if it was a sub-group of the CC. AL was advised that it is a stand-alone group.

14. AOCB –

AM mentioned the initiative of a 'Volunteer Fair' to be held in the Market Place, on Sunday May 5th, the day after the Bank Holiday Farmers' Market. Around 20 local societies / organisations might choose to take a stall to publicise their operations, encourage membership, and also offer the opportunity of volunteering. It is hoped that a large group of organisations will show how dynamic this sector is in Selkirk, and how rewarding it can be to volunteer.

Crawford's announced on Friday 9th February that part of its business would go into voluntary liquidation. Work on the new houses at the A7 continued on Monday 12th February so it is hoped that the development will not be affected.

AL felt that the closure of the bookshop is a loss to the town. It was explained that the owner has made this decision as he wants to retire.

AP has received 20mph lamp-post signs from SBC and is looking for suggestions as to where in the town they are most needed.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 8:26 pm.

Member of staff from Rowland's had missed the Open Forum but was given permission to address the CC. Rowland's have received funding to trial a 'Car in the Community' scheme which will be used to advertise various groups from the town and asked if this was something CC might be interested in. Email with all the details to be sent to AM.

Finally, Rowland's has a graffiti artist who is looking at the possibility of utilising the Store Close but they are unsure if it is part of the plan for all the Closes. Advised to speak with Stuart Davidson when he returns from annual leave next week.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting will be held Monday 11th March 2024 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.