



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 Monday 8th January 2024.

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

Also present – SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Leigh Douglas; 5 members of the public, and Rob Duff.

2. Chair's Introduction – AM thanked the CoT and all involved in the Silver Band performance on New Year's Day, plus of course the Band's Christmas Eve performance. AM gave a short review of 2023, mentioning events and activities throughout the year, including: the Toll planters installed, the Community Orchard project launched, Community Council website updated, Victoria Park upgraded to 2 Star status, pedestrian crossing warnings installed on the St Boswells Road, new High Street hanging baskets purchased, CC TV installed, May Bank Holiday Cross Keys space event, July Royal visit, 3 successful Plattling group visits in July / August, and the September Philiphaugh Country Food Festival. In October the new quarterly newsletter was published.

Awards were won by Brighter Selkirk, No. 1 restaurant, Cameron's Bakers and the Selkirk Silver Band. The General Store opened a new 'reusable item' shop and tool rental facility and were featured on the BBC website and Borders TV.

December events included the panto and the Hogmanay Ceilidh dance.

Although the Scoop food & drink outlet closed, a new tenant is expected soon. New wine bar/restaurant Tibbie's opened in the former Courthouse Café premises, and a new tenant of The Fleece restaurant & bar is expected to be re-opening the premises shortly.

Future events include two rescheduled events: the 'Town Team' meeting, which will be on Jan 17th at 6pm, and the rescheduled Selkirk Session at the Cricket Club, now on Friday 1st March.

3. Apologies/Declarations of Interest – Apologies were received from Ieuan Chamberlain, and Sue Bremner.

4. Approval of the minutes – Approved by ESS and seconded by AL.

5. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 12th December 2023 and not covered elsewhere – Councillor Caroline Cochrane's proposed 'Spirit of Selkirk' Awards (email distributed prior to meeting).

IK suggested that members of the CC email AM with any points of discussion arriving from the proposal by 3pm on Friday 12th January, when AM and CC would hold a meeting to clarify details in order to move the idea forward.

AM raised concerns re costings and CC suggested that he contact Holmes' Glass re: possible award. **Action: AM**

ETN suggested including an 'older person award' which CC stated she would be willing to do.

MoP1 raised concerns re item 10, para. 3 which related to AM's proposal to reduce the numbers of Community Councilors. MoP1 stated that such a vote would not be binding under the CC constitution. AM confirmed that that would have been correct, but that it had only been an indicative vote on a suggestion that he would have reported to SBC legal should it have been supported. In addition, an Extraordinary Meeting, or inclusion at the AGM would have had to happen, with appropriate notice, as well as subsequent approval by SBC. Agreed that the minutes will be amended to reflect this. **Action: AM**

6. Community Police Report – not yet received.

7. Planning Matters – none to report.

8. Open Forum – MoP2 queried the lack of ATM's in the town. This issue has been raised at previous meetings and CC explained that not only are there insufficient places to install another ATM, there is nobody who could take on full responsibility of it. The ATM at the Co-Op will not be replaced and will remain in place until the Co-Op moves to the old Sainsbury site.

ETN has been in contact with Link Services (company which makes decision on installation of ATM's) who have deemed that the number of ATM's within the town is sufficient for Selkirk. ETN has received another email and will report back to the CC. **Action: ETN**

GK has been notified by residents of various different repairs needed throughout the town –

- Riverside walkway is overgrown
- Asked for an update re the trees at Clifton Road
- Dog fouling at the Bield (especially problematic on New Year's Day). CC suggested that the Bield could report this issue and be provided with a dog warden
- Fencing down at Riverside - old Heather mills site
- Problems with stages in the Victoria Halls (CC advised that Live Borders are dealing with this).

GK will send CC an email detailing all of the above. **Action: GK**

9. Reports from SBC Councillors –

Caroline Cochrane – Meeting with Jenni Craig on Friday 12th January to discuss ongoing review of Area Partnership.

Elaine Thornton-Nicol – Pension Credit campaign has started and ETN encourages everyone to check that they are receiving all funds which they are entitled to. £3.1m unclaimed in the Borders. ETN will email AM with information to be included in the next newsletter.

Action: ETN

Leagh Douglas – Budget consultation is still ongoing. Live Borders is going through significant changes – urges everyone to take advantage of membership offers currently available (LD will send link to AM). **Action: LD**

10. Treasurer's Report – Judith Thompson presented

Hill Mgt Gp

£8,899.75 in account

£150 to Campbell for work and equipment at Pot Loch – still awaiting £450 from Local Community Paths Maintenance fund.

Community Council

£2,759.33 in account

£30 secretarial

£28.73 website

Blooming Selkirk

£1,684.64 in account

Brighter Selkirk

£2,320.18 in account

£515.08 for safety testing

11. Reports from sub-groups –

Plattling Twinning Group –

See attached email from Rob Duff.

Selkirk Hill Mgt Group -

Forthcoming meeting - first Wednesday in February.

Blooming Selkirk/Brighter Selkirk –

AP reported that all quotes for replacement planters have now been sent to the insurer who are in the process of paying out almost £2k. There should be a total of 4 planters when repairs are completed. Bollards and chains need to be repaired – CC advised that Andrew Johnstone may be able to help with this.

COPS –

Have done some winter maintenance down at the orchard including replenishing of compost to the trees and fruit bushes with new Duke of Edinburgh recruit Mary-Ann Nicholl: welcome to Mary-Ann. Also completed a door to door survey around The Green in lieu of the next orchard plan, permissions now being in place, with a very favourable response to the project. Applying for the same grant as the last time, The Eildon Neighbourhood Fund; grant submission cut off February 16th. Do not anticipate any issues although it will give a tighter turnaround for bareroot planting than last year. However this can't be helped as the December deadline was missed, due to delays in permissions. With regard to the other site on Heatherlie Park, SB has been advised that the Community Council would need to apply to land registry to establish ownership which would incur a cost. SB will chase this up

further. It is slightly confusing as there was a public play park there before which would suggest Council ownership.

Still to tackle the prettification of the Cross Keys Space and have compost to get it started. Ideas would be to ask the Rotary Club and other Brighter Selkirk volunteers to add their ideas and help along with any other recruits. SB has examined the space and there are two semi planted rectangular planting areas at pavement level and an L shaped raised narrow trough area along the back up the steps. The semi planted area could do with weeding, soil replenishment and some new planting. The troughs need filled with soil and compost so a wee bit of topsoil would be a good addition and then planting up. All thoughts welcome.

Common Good Fund Working Group –

No report and no confirmed date for next meeting in March.

Victoria Park Action Group –

No meeting since December. Will be added to agenda for Town Team.

PR Committee

January edition of newsletter to be produced. Proposal to print more copies this time, including distribution to care homes.

Action: AM/GK/DP

CC asked if any consideration had been given to future funding streams to maintain publication of the newsletter. AM advised that he is concentrating on increasing readership at the moment but will look at funding options.

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 –

AM proposed to make a £50 contribution to the group which was seconded by IK.

Action: JT

IK noted that an update is required from all CC's along the A7 corridor re their wants and vision for the A7. AM committed to pursuing report on responses from BEAR Scotland to the recent Selkirk A7 consultation.

Action: AM

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 to be painted inside in mid- Jan, and a test portion of a new exterior render to be applied in Spring, when the weather improves. **Action: AM**

14. AOCB –

AM announced that all 2024 meetings of the Community Council will be in the second Monday of the month, except for June, which will be on the third Monday – 17th.

CC advised that all Closes are to be tidied in the Spring (no completion date). Photos and details of the closes can be found on the BIDS website.

ESS reported that a new head gardener will be in post from 1st February 2024 and he will attend the March CC meeting. ESS confirmed that the gardener will still be able to help with the toll planters. Plans to use the Walled Garden as a wedding venue. Country Food Festival will be held on 21/22 September 2024.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting will be held Monday 12th February 2024 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.