



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 8th July 2024.

1. Present: Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Alisdair Lockhart, Ed Strang Steel, Ian King, Grant Kinghorn, David Playfair, Sue Bremner, Al Pattullo, Judith Thompson

Also present: SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane (CC), Elaine Thornton Nicol
4 members of the public

2. Chair's Introduction: AM noted the General Election held on the 4th July and thanked all of the volunteers who attended on the day to enable the democratic process, including CC member AP.

The Chair mentioned the recent Harris Fest music festival held at Selkirk RFC on 22nd June which was so successful the organisers are considering making this an annual event. Also mentioned; the 46 strong party from Selkirk who are visiting Plattling later this month. The group includes 18 Scottish Country Dancers who will be performing in Plattling alongside Riddell Fiddles.

3. Apologies: Leigh Douglas, Kirsty Lovatt

4. Approval of the minutes: IK proposed an amendment to item 15: Selkirk Hill Management Group to read 'Constitution has been updated and circulated to all CC members for approval by the committee'. The amendment was accepted, and the minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by IK.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 18th June and not covered elsewhere in the agenda: AM wrote to Liveborders about maintenance of the Victoria Hall toilets and has received an apology for any slips in standards of service over the busy Common Riding period and assurances that cleaning schedules and practices are under constant review with the aim of maintaining standards.

AP mentioned the poor condition of the Ladies toilet in the cloakroom and CC noted that there needs to be provision for a separate disabled toilet so perhaps the two issues could be addressed together.

6. Community Police Report: not yet received. Will be posted on website when received.

7. Planning Matters: an application for change of use of The Hermitage in Selkirk High Street from commercial to dwelling purposes. No objections were raised.

8. Open Forum: Chair asked SBC members if they held public surgeries where they met with MoPs outside of Community Council meetings. CC replied that Councillors attend the

monthly Farmers' Market where they are all accessible to MoPs.

MoP1 asked if there are any plans for public phone boxes which are no longer in use.

Chair explained that this had come up last year and no one had come forward to propose any uses for the old boxes (one in Bleachfield Road and one on the A7 at Lindean). He has left Welcome To Selkirk brochures at the phone box at St Mary's Loch/Glen Café which has been adopted by Ettrick & Yarrow CC. GK pointed out that there is a published schedule for removal of the boxes. The phone box at The Green is to be retained.

9. Reports from SBC Councillors:

ET-N is a member of the Police Community Action Team and invited MoPs and CC members to email her with any issues which the CAT could deal with which would include issues such as shoplifting, speeding in The Loan and illegal parking.

Reminded everyone additional unclaimed benefits to top up pensions are still available.

Will forward details to AM to publicise.

Announced an exciting new bus service initiative in the Valleys providing a better more frequent service; this was met with approval by all in attendance. Will send details to AM & AP for dissemination.

CC reminded everyone that the next Selkirk & The Valleys meeting is on 11th July. The public was asked for feedback on large ideas boards at the Farmers' Market which met with some success. The boards are displayed at the Tower Street pop up shop. **Action CC/AM**

The Linglie Farm consultation ends on 18th July and members were urged to take part. Programme of Works: CC gave an update on the progress so far. AM will amend the sheet and circulate to members. **Action AM**

CC has suggested purchasing brooms to lend to shopkeepers to encourage them to sweep the pavements in front of their shops. Cost will be about £10 each for perhaps 10 brooms. This was unanimously approved. **Action CC/AM**

10. Treasurer's Report: JT has had meeting with Assistant Treasurer DP and will be contacting bank re adding him as signatory and having access to online facilities Has started to complete Support Grant evaluation and will forward to AM to confirm then submit to SBC

Hill Management Group

No activity

£3,149.88 in account

Community Council

£1,691.95 in account

All contributions for reception paid. Otherwise no activity on account.

Blooming Selkirk

£99.50 raised at Green event – added to COPS funds

£2,340.24 in account

£740 ring-fenced for COPS

£560 ring-fenced for toll planters

Brighter Selkirk

General donations £30

Final sponsorship of railing boxes £50

No further donations for planters or hanging baskets

£4,016.37 in account

Invoice from Philiphaugh £1,900 under discussion.

A £500 donation from MoP will be ring-fenced for the Toll planters.

11. Reports from sub-groups

Hill Management Group: Growth on the Hill described as phenomenal, the strimmer can hardly cope. The Hill is still popular with the public but numbers may be a bit down. IK described conversation with SBC officers re an increase in grant funding. Hasn't heard from SBC since early June and funds urgently required. **Action CC/ET-N**

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk: All the planters, railing boxes and hanging baskets are now coming away nicely and are being tended by volunteers. The Cross Keys space has been planted up mainly thanks to the hard work of the COPS team. Two of the Toll planters have been planted up and are being looked after by a 'Toll Team', the remaining two will be planted up with permanent planting later in the summer. JT requested a public meeting in the Victoria Hall to try and attract more volunteers who are urgently needed if the public planting is to be maintained. It was agreed that the AGM be held on Thursday 25th July in the Hammermen Hall to be followed by a public meeting. **Action JT/AP/CC**

Common Good Fund Working Group: Nothing new to report

PR Committee: Meeting to be held this month re newsletter to be published in August. All contributions gratefully received. **Action AM/GK/DP**

Victoria Park Action Group: SBC meeting on 27th June to discuss future of Liveborders will have implications for Victoria Park. **Action CC**

Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: Nothing new to report

Plattling Twinning Group: As mentioned in Chair's comments a group is visiting Plattling on July 17th.

Selkirk & The Valleys: Already discussed.

SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership: Meeting cancelled due to elections will be re-scheduled. ET-N announced that the Support Fund is now open, and bids are invited for public projects, bids of under £1,500 likely to be fast tracked. Maximum bid request is £10,000.

A7 Action Group: IK reported on Langholm meeting, 28 June. The Group is concerned about the breadth of the impact of wind farms on the A7 corridor and its communities. CC members were solicited on their concerns re the A7, which may include road signage, speeding and speeding signage, road works planning and the possibility of a new roundabout at the southern entrance to the town, at the junction of the A7 and the A699. **Action: IK**

COPS: Green Fair public event 29 June was successful, everyone had a great day. . SB thanked businesses for donations proceeds will go to Children's Educational Workshop. **Action SB**

Selkirk Regeneration: no news on date of next meeting.

1 Tower Street – AM has submitted a report to Selkirk Regeneration on possible eco-friendly exterior render and obtained a quote for painting woodwork (£545). Awaiting response.

Action AM

12. AOCB:

AP proposed creating a plaque to commemorate the former landmark of the Queen's Head Inn in the West Port, where legend has it, Mary Queen of Scots stopped on her way to Jedburgh in 1567. AP has been in discussion with Joy Parker who will create the plaque. Permission will now be sought from the current owners. **Action AP**

E SS noted that despite signage the Corbie Linn car park is subject to overnight car parking and littering. New signage needed to prohibit this.

The 2024 Country and Food Festival will now be postponed until 2025. This will also be the 380th anniversary of the Battle of Philiphaugh so events will be scheduled with the possibility of a re-enactment of the battle. **Action E SS**

AL noted that Sarah Robertson formerly of Selkirk High School, and of the Scotland and Great Britain national hockey Teams, has been selected for Great Britain's hockey squad in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Expressed concern about the changing nature of the High Street's shops, with some closures, although some new shops are also opening. It was remarked that Business Rates are not an issue, and only two properties are owned by the Common Good.

AL is to contact David Deacon of the RBLs to find out about 2025 VE Day commemorative events. **Action AL**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation.

Meeting was closed at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting will be held **Monday 9th September 2024** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.