



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**1. Present** – Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Alisdair Lockhart (scribe for the meeting), Ed Strang Steel, Ian King, Grant Kinghorn, David Playfair, Sue Bremner.

Also present – 8 members of the public; SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane (CC), Leagh Douglas (LD).

**2. Chair's Introduction** – AM congratulated all those associated with the organisation of the 2024 Common Riding on another successful series of events. He congratulated Graham Coulson on being awarded an MBE in the King's Honours List for services to Scouting, while noting that Graham is also the unsung organiser behind the scenes for many local events, particularly those in the Victoria Halls involving catering, as well as being a mainstay of the Selkirk Musical Theatre Company.

AM mentioned two ceremonies organised by David Deacon of the Selkirk & Etrick Forest branch of the RBLs to commemorate D-Day: a 'D-Day 80' Beacon was lit at dusk on 5<sup>th</sup> June at the War Memorial, commemorating the night before the Normandy landings, and a separate short service was held at the War Memorial on the morning on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by a piped lament. AM said he would like to see the full Community Council represented at some events throughout the year, and perhaps one of these could be the Remembrance Sunday march on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10:40am. AL reminded AM that the SCC had been well represented at these events in previous years.

Notifications: there is a new consultation about the transfer of two small cottages and an 0.82 acre field on the Linglie Farm estate to the current tenant, who wishes to retire. A tenant is entitled to a payment at the end of a tenancy, referred to as a relinquishment payment, and this transfer would substitute for that. The consultation is on the SBC website, with a link on the Community Council website, and it closes on July 18.

AM reminded all about the 'Harris Fest' music festival at Selkirk RFC ground on Sat 22 June at 1:30pm. Headliners will be Frightened Rabbit's Billy Kennedy's new band Haiver and the event is to showcase young local talent.

AM announced that the speed camera installed on Hillside Terrace is now operational.

AM reminded all that registration for voting in the July 4<sup>th</sup> General Election closed on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 11:59pm. SBC website has details of voter registration and how to check.

**3. Apologies** – Alistair Pattullo, Judith Thompson, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Kirsty Lovatt

**4. Approval of the minutes** – proposed by E S S, seconded by DP and approved

unanimously.

**5. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and not covered elsewhere.**

AM asked about progress on the High Street statues report. CC reported that further requests had been made for relevant costings, including insurance, so the full report would not be available for a couple of months. **Action: CC**

AM reported on follow up to query about current and future Selkirk Health provision. Current Practice Manager Lorna Fyfe is moving to NHS Lanarkshire in early July, but GP Partners will respond more fully. Meanwhile the Partners have engaged 2 GP Locums, and appointed a salaried GP, starting in September. Selkirk is also to become a host practice for the NHS Borders GP Fellow initiative, offering opportunities over 12 months to newly qualified GPs; this 'placement' will start in early August, with a GP joining the team 2 days per week.

**6. Community Police Report –**

not yet received, but the May report was received late in the month and is on website. Considerable concern was raised about continued shoplifting at the Co-op, and possible threat of harm to employees. AM agreed to write to the police, requesting information about ongoing strategy to counter the above. **Action: AM**

**7. Brighter Selkirk Mini orchard proposal –**

Map of the proposal received from SBC, although SB reported that COPS was committed to consulting with local residents before formally proposing the idea to the CC. **Action: SB**

**8. Adoption of Scott's Place Public Toilet**

AM has registered an interest on behalf of the Community, and two other organisations have also expressed an interest. Communities will have some rights to acquire these properties under the Community Empowerment Act.

**9. Planning Matters – None**

**10. Open Forum –**

MOP 1 enquired about the proposed One-way High Street system. CC responded that there would be a full public consultation in the Autumn.

MOP 2 enquired about the possibility of General Election hustings. AM was not aware of any SBC hustings. LD to follow up. **Action: LD**

MOP 3 requested a further update on footpath and section of the road near the garages in Bannerfield (reported 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024). CC advised that it can be difficult to determine exactly when work is to be carried out, but she will enquire again. **Action: CC**

MOP 4 returned to the issue of public toilets in the town. AM stated that SBC was under no legal obligation to keep all toilets open, and they are quite expensive to maintain [*Minute Update: Scott's Place toilets cost £7,800 per year to maintain when open*]. AM stated that provision for members of the public to have access to toilets was and would be part of the scrutiny of the new Co-op, due to open on Scott's Place.

MOP 5 raised the issue of speeding vehicles up Kirk Wynd. CC and LD have both raised the matter with the police, and LD will bring it up again. **Action: LD**

MOP 6 proposed that the CC should make their own presentation to Graham Coulson to celebrate his MBE; all agreed that this was a good idea. **Action: AM**

## 11. Reports from SBC Councillors –

### Caroline Cochrane –

The 'Selkirk & The Valleys' next meeting 20<sup>h</sup> June to move forward on showing large ideas boards to Selkirk & Valleys communities for public feedback. (Launched at the 1 June Farmers' Market). **Action: CC/AM**

CC gave more information on the Linglie Farm consultation, as above. IK noted concern at the possible reduction of Common Good properties. AM reminded all that the consultation closes on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and the next CC meeting is on July 8. AM urged all to read all the consultation detail in advance of July 8. **Action: All**

Programme of Works: CC gave a verbal update on status. AM will amend the Programme of Works sheet and circulate to CC members. **Action: AM**

Follow-up: AM to write to Live Borders about maintenance of Victoria Hall toilets **Action: AM**

### Leagh Douglas –

LD reported that the SBC Education Sub-committee had proposed the mothballing of St. Joseph's School, due to low attendance figures.

## 14. Treasurer's Report –

### SHMG

£3,146.38 in account

### Community Council

£1,680.08 in account

### Blooming Selkirk

£2,238.25 in account (no change)

£641.21 still ring-fenced for COPS

£560 still ring-fenced for toll planters

### Brighter Selkirk

Donations for planters from Colonial Society, Merchant Company and Hammermen so far. All railing boxes now sponsored.

Donations for baskets from: McFarlane's opticians, Peony Rose, Brown & Muir, The General Store, Lindsay & Gilmour, The 3 Hills, Tweedside Financials and Heard Hamilton, plus general donations of £118.

£3,947.19 in account

The SCC Annual Accounts will be submitted to SBC, with the application for the annual support grant.

## **15. Reports from sub-groups –**

### **Selkirk Hill Mgt Group -**

Recent meeting included only 2 members. Constitution has been updated and circulated to all CC members for comment. IK liaising with JT re: submitting request for next maintenance grant (including an increase). **Action IK, JT**

### **Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk –**

Railing boxes and hanging baskets mounted  
AGM tbc, Hammermen Hall.

**Action JT/AP/CC**

### **Common Good Fund Working Group –**

IK reported on Zoom meeting Thurs Jun 13th. IK reported that insurance of all CG assets was an ongoing issue, as was the outstanding request for documentation of all assets.

**Action: CC/IK**

### **PR Committee -**

Next Newsletter to be published in August. All contributions gratefully received.

**Action: AM/GK/DP**

### **Victoria Park Action Group –**

No report, but CC has had meetings with parties, including details of gym improvements. A person is being lined up for outdoor event organisation, and CC has met Liam re: Marketing. 3 new picnic benches are planned, and there will be a meeting at SBC on 27 June.

**Action: CC**

## **14. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies –**

### **Selkirk Response / Resilience Team**

AP has received a number of leaflets about Resilience teams, which have been distributed around town.

**Action: AP/AM**

### **Plattling Twinning Group –**

No news on the next meeting, but 44 people still scheduled to fly to Plattling in July. There will be a rehearsal of the dancers at The Bield on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Selkirk & The Valleys**

Already discussed.

### **SBCCN / Eildon Area Partnership –**

Meeting: Thurs 6th June – E T-N to report.

**Action: E T-N**

### **A7 Action Group –**

IK advised no current news; next meeting to be in Langholm, 28 June. **Action: IK**

### **COPS –**

Green Fair public event announced for Sat 29 June, 1:30-4pm. There will be music, plus honey etc. on sale. Proceeds to Children's Educational Workshop. **Action: SB**

## **Selkirk Regeneration – AGM held 14 May.**

1 Tower Street – A M reported on various aspects of finding a suitable render to experiment on the exterior. It was agreed to get a quotation to repair and repaint the external woodwork. Discussions continuing with Local Energy Scotland re: the Community Solar project.

Sustainable Selkirk:

- Redress project on target with 328 home energy visits to date. Approximately 250 LEAP visits have been completed.
- 3 new e-bikes now received. There has been much interest in the bike scheme and SS will be using a booking system called Bike Manager once the scheme is fully set up.
- Recycling: zero waste boxes received; 7 full boxes of blister packs now collected and ready to be sent away to Terracycle. MOP advised that SS has to pay to recycle blister packs, so it is appreciated if person offering blister packs for recycling could offer a contribution.

Next Steps:

- Advisors are completing their Domestic Energy Assessor and Retrofit Assessor qualifications with the intention of offering EPCs and whole house energy assessments.
- Recruit a Community Engagement Officer to support Sustainable Selkirk engagement activities.
- Host a series of e-bike Come and Try Events.
- Explore opportunities to develop a retrofit agency, to offer specialised free and impartial support to homeowners

## **15. AOCB –**

DP reported an abandoned car on Green Terrace. DP to contact police. **Action: DP**

AL commented on the successful and impressive 80th anniversary celebration of the military success of the D-Day Landing and the commemoration of all who fought in this campaign, some failing to return. While D-day was the “beginning of the end” as Churchill had described it, AL suggested that of more importance was VE Day, when hostilities stopped on the European continent. AL asked whether similar 80th commemorations of VE Day were planned for 2025 and it was agreed that he should make appropriate enquiries.

**Action: AL**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation.  
Meeting was closed at 8:38 pm.

Next meeting will be held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.