



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 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, Ed Strang Steel, and Alisdair Lockhart.

Also present – 5 members of the public; ET-N.

**2. Chair's Introduction** – AM noted the successful arrival of the Cycling Souters in Rome – an amazing achievement, raising more than £30,000 for charity. The Selkirk Musical Theatre Company Production of 'Legally Blonde' ran until 2<sup>nd</sup> March to much acclaim.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the General Store formally opened its 'Tool Library' / Re-use store, with attendance by MSP Rachael Hamilton and other dignitaries. The follow-up 'Town Team' meeting was held on Feb 21, with break-out meetings from various sub-groups, who will come together again on March 20.

AM congratulated Falconer Grieve on his becoming the new Master of the Selkirk Merchant Company as of 8<sup>th</sup> March. Peter Dallas was appointed Selkirk Merchant Company Standard Bearer for 2024.

The Community Cinema is gaining momentum, with new showings announced for March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and May 25<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, but in Duns, our own Selkirk Theatre company will be presenting 'El Duglas', a new play written by and starring John Nichol. It dramatises the part played by Borderer Sir James de Douglas in expelling the Moors from 14<sup>th</sup> century Spain, including the Battle of Teba, 1330.

**3. Apologies/Declarations of Interest** – Apologies were received from Caroline Cochrane, Leigh Douglas and Sue Bremner.

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

**5. Matters arising from the meeting of the SCC held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and not covered elsewhere.**

### **Restoration and protection of Thomas Clapperton statues.**

Local architect Stuart Davidson supervised a review of the statues, which included the bronzes. Stuart's report was due to be submitted by Fri 8 March. His review did consider the Peebles company which had installed the plaque at the Flodden Garden. The statues also came up at the online Common Good meeting, and SBC Councillors reported that Historic Scotland were looking favourably on the Selkirk statue restoration. SBC personnel are to liaise with Stuart over survey findings and suggestions for restoration.

### **Community Council adopting the 'Welcome to Selkirk' brochure.**

AM, DP and Denis Roberts of the General Store have been working on the next edition, which has been a great success: all advertising space has been sold, including adding an extra 4 pages. Richardson's of Hawick are already working on the artwork and new copy. Content has been updated, including new listings of local organisations and local accommodation, plus new features on James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, and the Valleys. Grant Kinghorn has kindly supplied new updated photographs. Plans are now to meet a publication date of 02 May and print at least 3,500 copies.

### **Volunteer Fair, May 5**

AM showed the leaflet art for the 'Volunteer Fair' to be held in the Market Place, on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Bank Holiday Farmers' Market. Stalls have already been committed to by Go Wild Scotland, The Haining and Sustainable Selkirk.

### **6. Community Police Report – received (published on website).**

As the Report states, anti-social behaviour has continued in Selkirk. AM has contacted PC John Murray to request more detail about the incidents.

### **7. Planning Matters –**

Evening presentation by SBC Planning Department on 29<sup>th</sup> February was well attended. IK is still waiting on copies of the slides used at the event. An important point of interest raised at the meeting was that when a comment on a planning application is submitted on behalf of the CC, it only counts as one regardless of how many members of the CC are in agreement. For future concerns/objections raised, it was suggested that IK include a list of all members present in his comments as well as all members being encouraged to submit their own comments via the online portal.

### **24/00148/LBC – Tait's Hill – no reason to object**

**24/00127/FUL – change of use from retail to taxi office –** AM concerned that the loading bay opposite the Post Office may be misused as parking by the taxi drivers. ET-N advised adding this to any comments submitted by IK. DP also commented that the drivers may take up spaces which should be used by visitors. It was suggested that the entrance to the Haining car park and the delivery office car park could be suitable alternatives.

### **8. August meeting – confirmation or otherwise. Or July meeting. AM asked if members wanted to give themselves a respite over the summer to allow recharging of their batteries. ESS proposed August and JT seconded. All in agreement.**

### **9. Casual Vacancy – Community Council Membership.**

AM pointed out that there is a spare place on the Community Council. The Constitution is a bit unclear, other than that future members can be co-opted to fill spaces. At the moment, there is a pro tem Secretary, a position involving many duties, so it should really be filled by a full-time person.

### **10. Open Forum – GK advised that the hole in the fence by the bus stop at the Toll is in need of repair. GK has sent photos to ET-N and AM. Action: ET-N**

### **11. Reports from SBC Councillors –**

#### **Caroline Cochrane –**

Selkirk statue repair: work ongoing, now they have been inspected.

Spring clean of town – to be held Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Travellers are located down by Selkirk Riverside. Officers are dealing with them.

Ongoing review of Area Partnerships will be coming out for consultation shortly. ET-N advised that all information from previous meetings has been collated and will be discussed at the next meeting. ET-N also noted that the scheme of administration for all CC's will hopefully be completed by May.

CC has arranged a meeting with Brian Young [Network Manager, Scottish Borders Council] to discuss a possible one-way system on Selkirk High Street. This will need a full public consultation.

## **12. Treasurer's Report –**

### Hill Mgt Gp

£5,292.05 in account  
£2,050 Campbell's invoice  
£40 fee for accounts

### Community Council

£3,485.95 in account  
Outgoings  
£30 secretarial  
£40 fee for accounts  
Income  
£1,070 ads for WTS

### Blooming Selkirk

£2,280.05 in account  
£40 fee for accounts  
£691.21 ring-fenced for COPS

### Brighter Selkirk

£2,320.18 in account  
No activity

AL asked for clarification of the figures on the finance report which was provided at a previous meeting.

## **13. Reports from sub-groups –**

### **Plattling Twinning Group –**

Rob Duff passed on some requests from a Plattling journalist, following the very positive review of Selkirk attractions in the Daily Telegraph. AM provided him with various comments on Selkirk's current status and aims for the future.

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

IK – Report on meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March:

Gordon Edgar has stood down, and was thanked for his contribution to the Hill Group and as a Borders Councillor over many years. It was also noted with great regret that John Rathie had passed away. John's interest and voluntary work on the Hill (together with his wife Jean) had been much appreciated.

Matters arising:

- SBC will share direct advice regarding the use of herbicide on the Hill with adjoining house/land holders, in due course.
- formal request to the CG Sub Committee for increase in the annual budget arrangement being dealt with by SBC Legal Dept who are finalising a draft Agreement for a 5-year maintenance programme.

Hill Group Constitution. IK recirculated the 2004 document and urged members to read through and forward any comments for updating.

Treasurer's Report: Pathways grant (£450) paid in; Hill Warden's invoice £1,910. Balance £7,388.

Hill Warden's Report. Hill has been wet/ boggy – now beginning to dry out. Curries Fountain is flowing well. Caulks Well is also full but adjacent ground waterlogged – more gravel needed. Pot Loch – outfall channels maintained to avoid flooding/ work to adjacent footpath now complete. Campbell (Warden) to assess need for more gravel around the Hill and order materials accordingly. No recent sheep grazing on the Hill. Uncertain whether this affects efficiency / purpose of Hill husbandry and agreed to monitor the situation and, if possible, seek to clarify the farmer's intentions. All equipment currently in good working order. Comment that public use of the Hill has declined slightly – since Covid? But there may also be a Haining effect where people now have another choice for local walking etc. No apparent cycle usage or damage. Roe deer/ badgers/ foxes/ hares/ and moles are all present on the Hill. A red kite has also been seen in the area. Barbra Harvie creating an electronic version of the plant list for the Hill.

Golf Club: Norman Purves Esq is new Club Captain. Club working to improve rotten timber sleepers around the 9th tee; IK proposed recycled plastic railway sleepers for future projects.

General:

Drove Road, Buxton is a recognised, historic right of way and part of the Borders Abbeys Way. Steely Brig sits at the foot of the Drove Road and requires repair - work previously sanctioned by Common Good Committee but not carried out. SBC Ranger Service is keen that the structure be maintained in a sound condition, suitable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (no routine agricultural usage). Reappraisal of required work to be conducted, re-costed and reported to the Common Good Committee. Cllr Douglas had agreed to pursue this action and is yet to report.

AOCB: Ian agreed to contact Borders College to clarify whether they run 'educational' training courses which might be appropriate for the Hill – e.g., dry stone dyking.

Haggis Hunt: still general enthusiasm. Informality best, but sponsors/ volunteers difficult to identify. GK agreed to keep sounding out contacts. DP has been in touch with Rowlands and ESS will also raise at the meeting tomorrow.

Community awareness and fund raising: GK to produce poster, also for inclusion on CC website. Public awareness an ongoing challenge; to be discussed at future meetings.

Next meeting 1800 on Wed 3 April 2024, Victoria Halls.

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

Planters delivered on 8<sup>th</sup> March and built on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Awaiting a quote from Philipaugh 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**

ETN will contact SBC re gravel and top soil and report back to AP. **Action: AP**

#### **COPS –**

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. Another orchard has been planted at the Green. Lots of work completed at the Cross Keys site.

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

Meeting was held 14<sup>th</sup> March – LD in Chair. Awaiting report.

AM has posted the previous Monitoring Report (6 months up to 30 Sept 2023) on the Community Council website.

ET-N will contact Democratic Services re the deputy position. AL also asked if he could be sent relevant emails and links for future meetings in the event that IK is unable to attend.

**Action: ET-N**

AL asked if there was some way that members of the public could see all the documents etc which are held by the CGFWG. It was suggested that once all items have been photographed for insurance purposes, an online gallery could be created.

#### **Victoria Park Action Group –**

No further developments since last month. ET-N advised that SBC have requested, amongst other things, better quality photos and for the signage to be improved.

#### **PR Committee -**

Will be holding a meeting to plan the next Newsletter, due in the last week of April. 1<sup>st</sup> 100 copies will be sponsored by SBC via ET-N, as per the Jan edition 2<sup>nd</sup> 100 copies will be billed by SBC at a favourable rate. A sponsor for the next edition to be pursued.

**Action: AM/GK/DP**

### **14. 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 –**

Next meeting will be held Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Hawick Town Hall. IK will thank BEAR for the recent works carried out.

#### **Selkirk Regeneration –**

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

**Action: IK**

No 1 Tower Street's interior has been painted. A test portion of a new exterior render to be applied in Spring, when the weather improves. **Action: AM**

Sustainable Selkirk to contact ET-N re: working alongside Democratic Services.

## **15. AOCB –**

AM still looking for more details from Rowlands re 'Car in the Community'. **Action: ESS**

IK highlighted the increase in wildlife on the Hill (also noted in item 13).

ESS advised that lambing season has now begun and asked that all dog walkers keep their dogs on a leash.

With regards to developing the local economy, AL felt that tourism was an area which SBC should take a lead on. AM directed AL to the South of Scotland Destination Alliance website which has a great deal of information on how tourism is being promoted in the Borders. AL could also contact Sarah MacDonald and Vicki Steel who represent Selkirk and the Valleys in the tourism sub-group of the Town Team. The next Selkirk & The Valleys meeting will be held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Lesser Victoria Hall. ET-N will email AL a copy of the Strategic Development plan.

Standard Bearer presentation night to be held Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. It is customary that Members contribute £10 per head to the cost of refreshments.

CC AGM to be held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm, prior to the main CC meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation. Meeting was closed at 8:25 pm.

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