



# 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**1. Present** – Community Councillors: Andy Murray (Chair), Alistair Pattullo (Vice Chair/Secretary), Judith Thompson (Treasurer), Ian King, Grant Kinghorn, David Playfair, Ed Strang Steel, Sue Bremner, and Alisdair Lockhart.

Also present – 6 members of the public; SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane (CC), Elaine Thornton-Nicol (ET-N).

**2. Chair's Introduction** – AM congratulated Mathew Stanners on his appointment as Royal Burgh of Selkirk Standard Bearer for 2024, Derek Easson for the Hammermen, Les Ruthven for the Weavers, Colin Sandilands for the Fleshers, Nicholas Renwick Buttner for the Colonial Society, Peter Dallas for the Merchant Company and Bruce Mercer for the ex-Soldiers Association.

The 9<sup>th</sup> May reception for the Common Riding representatives and Community Council members was a very enjoyable and hospitable evening, as usual. This year we welcomed a new Honorary Provost, Rodney Pow, who will serve until 2027. Many thanks to Graham Coulson for the refreshments and to Al Pattullo for the organisation, the silver hipflask, and especially for help with the speech.

Al Pattullo is also the producer and co-owner with John Nichol of Hot Trod Theatre Company, who presented the debut of their play 'El Douglas' in Duns on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. It was excellent, and hopefully will be touring soon.

AM thanked everyone involved in the Town Spring clean on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Plattling visits were, as usual, well organised and enjoyed by our guests from the Realschule and the East Bavarian Highlanders.

The latest Selkirk newsletter was published on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks again to Elaine Thornton-Nicol and Scottish Borders Council for the very speedy printing – much appreciated. The same day saw the launch of the new edition of 'Welcome To Selkirk' – increased by 4 pages to 36 pages, and an additional 500 printed, 3,500 in all. There have been early positive reactions to both.

AM congratulated Selkirk for triumphing at the Selkirk Sevens on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – well done all concerned.

A couple of notifications: there is a new consultation about the decriminalisation of parking, which means, in effect, that SBC would be free to raise funds with paid for parking, or possibly contracting parking wardens to control illegal parking. The consultation is on the SBC website, with a link on the Community Council website, and it closes on May 31.

A further consultation is on Tues 21 May at the SBHA Head office, from 4 to 7pm. It concerns a proposed 25 new affordable homes at Linglie Road. More details are on the Community Council website.

There are lots of events coming up, so they can't all be mentioned, but the Silver Band concert on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> is worth noting.

3. **Apologies** – Kirsty Lovatt (Minutes Secretary), SBC Councillor Leigh Douglas.
4. **Approval of the minutes** – Approved by E SS 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.**
6. **Community Police Report** – not yet received, but will be published on website.
7. **Planning Matters** – None
8. **High Street Statues.**  
Stuart Davidson has prepared a report after discussion with various experts, but is also preparing costings. SBC Councillors to advise details when received. **Action: CC/E T-N**
9. **Volunteer Fair, May 4, was successful, so thanks to all who organised, presented and supported.** 19 Stalls presented, including 2 from across the Borders, plus Buddy the pony attend with Stable Life. Volunteers are still in short supply, and in particular the Common Riding Trust has requested some volunteer help with the marshalling the Common Riding traffic and rides. No additional volunteers came forward, but it was noted that AP is already a foot marshal.
10. **Bannerfield paths drainage.** 3 paths now reported, including those by Linglie Road. CC has reported, and some drainage work has already been done. AL also mentioned A7 gullies needing clearance; it was noted that there is less A7 clearance work than previously. However, it was stressed that all such works need to be reported when they require remedy.
11. **AGM Mon 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm.**  
  
AM reminded everyone about the AGM, at 6:30pm, prior to the next meeting, June 17<sup>th</sup>. All Executive positions are available for re-election, including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, plus representatives on sub-committees and related bodies. Viv Ross has confirmed she is happy to remain as the Independent Examiner of accounts.
12. **Open Forum** –  
**MoP 1** requested more detail about the proposed 1-way system in the High Street. CC reported that the consultation will be carried out in the Autumn, and will be fully detailed. CC is meeting John Main on May 31 for further discussion. **Action: CC**

**GK** reported that the Toll Bus Stop still required remedial work.

**Action: ET-N**

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

#### **Caroline Cochrane –**

CC announced a consultation on the sell-off of public toilets across the Borders, including the Scott's Place toilet in Selkirk. Communities will have some rights to acquire these properties under the Community Empowerment Act.

The 'Selkirk & The Valleys' break-out meetings from the various sub-groups were held, and the main meeting came together again on April 17. 5 themes now decided, with many ideas under each heading. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May to settle these and move to public consultation on them. Large boards for public feedback have been prepared – just awaiting confirmation of the different actions under 5 headings. Plan to launch these at the 1 June Farmers' Market.

**Action: CC/AM**

#### **Elaine Thornton-Nicol –**

Next Eildon Area Partnership Meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6 pm, at the SBHA HQ & Teams. It was felt that there should be more engagement from members of the public: perhaps themed meetings might help encourage this.

**Action: ET-N**

### **14. Treasurer's Report –**

#### SHMG

Invoice from the Hill Warden leaves £3,141.39 in account  
AGM took place and accounts presented

#### Community Council

Monies all received for Welcome to Selkirk brochure. £20 profit.  
SB reception – catering and gift £450 + £60 – contributions from councillors £70.  
£1,865.43 in account

#### Blooming Selkirk

£2,235.50 in account  
£641.21 ring-fenced for COPS  
£560 ring-fenced for toll planters

#### Brighter Selkirk

Donations for planters from Colonial Society and Merchant Company.  
1 railing box sponsorship so far.  
Nothing from businesses towards baskets  
£2,554.19 in account  
Viv Ross has done Brighter Selkirk accounts

CC AGM scheduled, after which accounts will be submitted to SBC and support grant applied for.

### **15. Reports from sub-groups –**

### **Plattling Twinning Group –**

Realschule visited from 22 April onwards. Photos in Newsletter.

East Bavarian Highlanders visit 29 April to 6 May. Very successful, and included a musical evening.

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

In process of submitting request for next maintenance grant (including an increase). IK to liaise with JT. **Action IK, JT**

Constitution still requires updating: circulated to all group members with a view to approving them at the next meeting.

AGM 01 May - only one officer appointed: Ian King as Vice-Chair/ pro tem Chair.

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

The railing boxes and hanging baskets need c. £2,000 of support: CC to speak to businesses re: possible sponsorship, and AP will put out appeals on Social Media

**CC/AP**

Date to be set for basket hanging.

AGM organised for Thurs May 30, 7pm, Hammermen Hall.

**JT/AP**

### **COPS –**

Green Fair public event announced for Sat 29 June, 1-4pm.

**Action: SB**

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

IK suggested that the next meeting should consider the whole CG portfolio. IK proposed that SBC produce a 'use & condition' report on all Common Good properties.

**Action: CC**

### **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 is meeting Liam soon re: Marketing.

**Action: CC**

### **PR Committee -**

Welcome to Selkirk brochure published 04 May - 3,500 copies.

Newsletter published, 04 May. Thanks to SBC for printing. 200 hard copies distributed, plus 290 views on the website.

Oregon was pursued for sponsorship but they did not respond.

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

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

AP has received a number of leaflets about Resilience teams, which are to be distributed around town.

**Action: AP**

### **Selkirk Future**

Already discussed.

**SBCCN / Eildon Area Partnership –** there has been a draft proposal to bring these groups

much closer together.

Next Eildon Area Partnership meeting: Thurs 6th June - at 6pm in SBHA HQ/Teams

**Action: E T-N**

#### **A7 Action Group –**

IK gave update. Positive developments include a meeting with SBC in St. Boswells re: arranging more support for the group.

#### **Selkirk Regeneration –**

AGM to be held 14 May.

**Action: AM**

#### **15. AOCB –**

King's Portrait. This has now been received, and all agreed to hang it in the Town Hall. AP to liaise with Live Borders.

**Action: AP**

MoP2 requested information on the whereabouts of the many Plattling plaques owned by the town. (This should have been raised in the Open Forum but the Chair allowed it). AM advised that all Plattling items are currently safe in his garage, with a view to eventually being mounted on the west side of the Town Hall, close to the plaque.

AL requested that the CC raise concerns about the reduction of GPs in the Selkirk Health Centre. CC to forward to AM the letter written by the LAM CC

**Action: CC/AM**

DP has been a victim of a road traffic incident. ET-N to follow up.

**Action: E T-N**

SB requested more information on the ownership of Heatherlie Park.

**Action: E T-N.**

GK expressed concern about the current state of the Sir Walter Scott statue, especially for the Common Riding. CC to check out the possibility of power washing.

**Action: CC**

GK asked when the Christmas lights would finally come down. CC said her son was going to organise the take down; AP volunteered to help out.

**Action: CC, AP**

IK raised the condition of the Market Place bus shelter again. As well as a proper derusting and repainting of the shelter, IK suggested a regular maintenance contract. E T-N to investigate and report.

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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm, after the AGM.