



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 11th November 2024.

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

Also present: SBC Councillors Leagh Douglas, Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton-Nicol; 8 members of the public; 1 member of the press; PC John Murray; 3 representatives from Center Parcs.

2. Chair's Introduction: AM thanked David Deacon, the bands and organisers of the Remembrance Parade, which was as well-organised and moving as ever, as well as the Parish Church service, presided over by Reverend Kwame Ahaligah.

At the last meeting, AM offered to clean Halliwell's Close with the pressure washer and to do some weeding, and did so, though noted that the cobbles make weeding quite difficult.

AM mentioned the new Bannerfield & Beyond initiative on Mon 25th Nov, headed by Elaine Thornton-Nicol. Philiphaugh Community Centre, 3:30pm-6:30pm.

3. Apologies: Alisdair Lockhart.

4. Approval of the minutes: Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by GK (initially seconded by IK but MoP pointed out later that IK was not present at the last meeting).

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 9th September and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

Victoria Hall Noticeboard – no progress as yet. **Action: AM**

6. Community Police Report: September Report received. PC John Murray attendee and reported on vandalism, including the Black Bob stell at Philiphaugh (AP/AM to forward Viv Ross' email to PC Murray).

AM asked how police were able to identify vehicles without insurance. PC Murray advised that the police receive calls from members of the public, and police cars are also fitted cameras which will alert them if a car is on the road with no insurance.

CC asked if anything could be done about the caravan parked at the swimming pool which is causing an obstruction at the corner of the junction. PC Murray advised that the caravan is not parked illegally but could look into possible bylaw regulations which the caravan may be in breach of.

7. Planning Matters: none.

8. Center Parcs. A presentation was made by Colin McKinlay, Chief Executive Officer, and Raj Singh-Dehal, Chief Corporate Officer, Center Parcs, plus Gary McQueen, Media

House International. A discussion was held after the presentation with the following points made/clarified:

- Sewage water can be dealt with on site with waste water treatment plants. If such a plant is not viable for this site, talks will be held with SBC re existing infrastructure.
- Marketing for the site will showcase whole of the Borders and campaign will start 12 – 15 months prior to opening.
- Further discussions will be held to look at implementation of long term economic benefits; housing issues for extra employees; mitigation of extra pressure on current health provision (most sites have a medical centre but level of provision varies from site to site).
- Local produce will be used as much as possible.
- Engagement with schools, colleges, and SBC re employment will begin very early on in the process and Colin McKinlay is keen to work with SBC's Employment Support Service.
- 3.5k visitors can be expected at any one time.
- No provision for residents of surrounding area to be able to access the site on a daily basis, although the spa will be.
- Center Parcs undertook thorough research of the Borders before settling on the chosen location.
- Going forward a full engagement plan will be in place and more meetings with CC's and the public will be held.

9. SPEN pylons in Ettrick & Yarrow Valleys

AM outlined the position as known. The consultation has been extended to the end of November. LD encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation. IK concerned that it is a 'done deal' and views of the public will be ignored.

10. Tracker of Works.

Victoria Park signage.

Weeds around the town.

Handrail from Tower Street to Croft Terrace will be added.

ETN will report back to AM by Friday 15th re notice board at Victoria Halls, and signs for the High School/Pringle Park.

Bryan Hoggan's noticeboard – waiting to find out if planning permission is required. CC suggested contacting SBHA to enquire if they would place the noticeboard. **Action: CC**

11. Open Forum:

MoP1 advised that the bushes at the Toll Banking are overgrown and encroaching on the path. **Action: LD**

Bus stop at Viewfield Lane – the kerb has been raised. **Action: ETN**

David Scott stated that he finds it difficult to access full minutes of the CC meetings. He was advised that although SBC do not publish the full minutes, they are available on the CC website. AM will look again at the CC website to ensure that the minutes are accessible. Hard copies of the minutes are held at the Selkirk Library.

12. Reports from SBC Councillors:

ET-N – Signs: Victoria Hall railings / Selkirk High School Playing Fields / Riverside Station Road. ETN will report back to AM by Friday 15th re notice board at Victoria Halls and signs for the High School/Pringle Park.

Market Place bus stops will be fully restored in March 2025, and thereafter they can be maintained by the CC.

Christmas Parade will be held on November 25th at the Philiphaugh Community Centre. ETN asked that as many members of the CC as possible be in attendance. GK suggested holding at least one CC meeting in Bannerfield. AP advised that this has been tried previously but no one attended.

CC – BEAR consultation – next stage will be to look at implementing a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Tower Street and also at the corner of the Fleece. Further investigation re a one-way system is needed and will hopefully be completed by March 2025.

Looking for volunteers to help put up the Christmas lights on Sunday 24th November.

LD – Kirk Wynd – see appendix A.

Follow up to Brian Clarkson's question in October re Mill Street parking – officers attended the site over a period of a few weeks. Cannot explicitly define parking spaces but they can make it so that no parking is allowed at all.

13. Treasurer's Report:

No activity on CC accounts.

SHMG

£8,606.62 in account

Community Council

£3,029.74 in account

Blooming Selkirk

£2,827.37 in account

Brighter Selkirk

Coffee morning +£460

Hire of hall still to come

3,693.89 in account

14. Reports from sub-groups

Hill Management Group: Site visit / Hill walk 11th November. Hill in good condition and no issues with the machinery. White blackbird spotted by the fountain. Sadly, Allan McGhee has passed away.

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:

Coffee morning on 2nd November in Victoria Halls very successful.
Wooden Christmas trees now painted.
Large Christmas tree ordered.

Planters on High Street and Market Place have been planted.
Christmas Lights switch on in Market Place, 5pm, 7 Dec.

Common Good Fund Working Group: next meeting will be held 28th November.

PR Committee:

Next issue due in November. GK has submitted some great material. **Action AM/GK/DP**

Victoria Park Action Group:

Discussions underway with Live Borders re: amending booking system for instant access, as opposed to 24 hours' notice.

Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: New training meeting to be held on Sunday 17th November, between 1pm and 4pm, at SBC HQ.

Action: AM/AP

Plattling Twinning Group:

3 groups coming to visit next year.

AM awaiting quote from Keith Riddell for mounting plaques on Post Office sorting office wall.

Action: AM

Selkirk & The Valleys: First draft of Local Plan in from consultants Ironside Farrar. To be updated at 14 November meeting. Date to be set for meeting with S&V team and SBC / Live Borders. CC chasing.

Action: AM/CC

SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership:

Ongoing discussions with regards to the group being locality based rather than Borders-wide. A working group is still to be established and the next meeting will be held 14th November.

A7 Action Group: Next meeting: Thursday 28th November at 7pm in the Committee Room within Hawick Town Hall.

COPS: Application completed for next site. Weeding and maintenance to be completed at all other sites.

Selkirk Regeneration: next meeting 29 Nov. 1 Tower Street – Quote for exterior painting approved. Possibly week commencing 18 Nov. AM in touch with heritage plasterer re: completely replacing render next year.

Action: AM

15. AOCB:

SB advised that Alan Walker is taking on the old bookshop to extend Tibbie's. He has noted that the retaining wall at the back of the court building needs repairs. **Action: CC**

IK attended a Drivewise event at the weekend - an initiative which is aimed at drivers aged 17 – 25. AM will raise awareness of the event if IK forwards details. **Action: IK/AM**

DP advised that one of the bus stops on Linglie Road needs tidied. **Action: ETN**

Appendix A

Observations/concerns shared:

1. There is no proper junction between West Port and Kirk Wynd. It is treated as a bend in the road.

@LD update: The junction layout is unusual but is necessary to allow vehicles to manoeuvre. We'd not design a new junction layout like this, but we have many junctions that are engineered due to pretty ancient and historic infrastructure and the layout here limits any other redesign.

2. The kerb is dropped and is flush with the road, giving the appearance of a pedestrian area.

@LD update: The road layout at the junction is unusual, however this is to allow vehicles to manoeuvre in and out of the car park and a kerbed upstand would reduce this, so not a measure we can support.

3. Pedestrians coming out of the Post Office or Halliwell's Close have to jump back to avoid being hit (They are typically coming from the car park of the museum).

@LD update: From the speed compliance tool that average speeds are less than 20mph from the junction to beyond the royal mail delivery office. From the junction to the Close average speeds are closer to 11mph. That is not to say that there are 'some' drivers breach the 20mph. Sadly always the case at times everywhere and yes, we are always keen to mitigate this in any ways we can.

Proposed Improvements:

1. Construct a raised walkway from the Market Place to Halliwell's Close, which will act as a speed retardant (Sleeping Policeman) slows down vehicles.

@LD update: Options for the design of Market Place were discussed through at length with the Community Stakeholder Group back in 2016. – there were 13 meeting in total and these were attended by various groups in the town.

The shared space that was eventually agreed for the section of the Kirk Wynd is on a raised table delineated by the setts (road already ramps up onto the shared space) so that vehicles note/appreciate the 'shared aspect'.

2. Reduce the speed limit from 20mph to 10mph or 5mph.

@LD update: We are not legally permitted to reduce the speed limit to 5mph here, it is not a legal option open to us, we have the minimum speed limit in place that we can at 20mph.

Put in place a sign "Access Only"

@LD update: 'No access' signing actually means the prohibition of motor vehicles due to environmental reasons and in theory it may be a possibility here the reality is that a restriction like this is fraught with problems. We'd struggle to support a 'no access' restriction as there is a distinguishable footway for pedestrians and drivers to identify and use, unlike many other shared surfaces. Officers have advised that there is very small chance of any enforcement by Police Scotland, from experience elsewhere, where we have no access signing where there are no distinguishable footways. This can lead to an unrealistic expectation of enforcement, increased complaints due to non-compliance, increased disgruntlement from residents and overall be ineffective. We have one or two in Duns where the road is extremely narrow with no footways and we have told residents repeatedly that we cannot carry out any enforcement and it is for Police to decide where they deploy their resources.

Further query:

Why are there 2 speed bumps further up at the Loan – where the road is wide. Pavements are wide and no pedestrians and there is a good view?? (*)

@LD update: The road used to be sped down frequently by motorists coming off the A7.

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

Meeting was closed at 8:57 pm.

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