



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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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 9th September 2024.

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

Also present: SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane (CC), Elaine Thornton-Nicol; PC John Murray; 7 members of the public

2. Chair's Introduction: AM noted a couple of forthcoming events: Sept 25th will be SBC's 'Community Conversations' in Selkirk, led by Euan Jardine, SBC Leader. Venue is Philiphaugh Community Centre, at 6:30pm. It will be a chance to engage with the Council's proposed new budget. IK noted that it is also an opportunity to discuss the future of the Borders.

Selkirk Community Council is now a member of SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations), which may lead to more grant funding sources. Many thanks to Cllr Thornton-Nicol for the connection.

AM announced that the latest play written and performed by local author/actor John Nichol is to be presented at the Victoria Halls. 'El Duglas' will be staged for one night on Friday 1st November. The annual Quiz night is at the Victoria Hall on Sat 14th September, while a fundraising Quiz and Bingo night for the Christmas lights will be held at the Conservative Club on Friday 20th Sept.

AM reminded all that the Community Council meets on the second Monday of each month from November to April and hoped to see everyone there in the coming months.

3. Apologies: Leigh Douglas, Grant Kinghorn.

4. Approval of the minutes: Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by DP.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 18th June and not covered elsewhere in the agenda: AL asked if Sarah Robertson had represented the national hockey team in Paris. Advised that she had and was also the team captain.

6. Community Police Report: attached electronically and on website.

Discussion around youths breaking into disused buildings, and teenage vandalism at the Fleshmarket Steps. Re disused buildings, PC Murray advised that we need to find out who owns these buildings. IK suggested that the police link in with SBC to see if a database of owners already exists or if one can be created which the police can access.

Fleshmarket Steps – some youths have already been identified by CCTV. With regards

to positioning a bench in that area, PC Murray advised putting it in sight of CCTV.

Co-Op – DP suggested that not all thefts are being reported.

Bleachfield Road – continuing issue of cars parking on pavements (also at Raeburn Meadows) and blocking bus stop access which is especially problematic for disabled people.

7. Planning Matters: none.

8. R&L Taxibus. AM asked what the uptake of the service was, and whether a potential additional service to Borders General Hospital might be possible. CC has spoken with Bruce Mercer who had confirmed that the ‘soft launch’ had been more successful than anticipated. The BGH will be added to the list of routes on a trial basis from Monday 16th September.

9. Tracker of Works. As circulated. GK proposed adding various items :

- The pavement/cycle path between the crossroads at the top of the Loan / Golf Club next to the A7 has a large stretch that has never been tarred. When might this happen?
 - Roundabout corner itself was promised to be restored to its former state but looks abandoned.
 - Repeated mention of signage for Victoria Park - very poor signage at all town entrances. CC advised that the responsibility for signage is with Live Borders. Monies left over from funding they received will be used for signage. **Action: CC**
- MoP noted that a caravan has been parked on Buccleuch Road for quite some time now. PC Murray advised that it belongs to a local resident and is parked legally.
- Road works at bottom of Tower Street lasting a long time, causing issues for businesses. Once finished, traffic lights might return within days to fix the pothole / Sink hole between the two current holes.
 - Need to address copious weeds around the town. CC advised that business owners need to be encouraged to tidy up in front of their premises. AM has had agreement to purchase brooms which he can distribute along the High Street. JT also advised that the Rotary Club are doing a litter pick Sunday 15th September with particular focus on the High Street. AM encouraged all CC members to join them. CC will check when SBC last carried out weed-killing in the town. **Action: CC**

10. Spirit of Selkirk Awards. Cllr Cochrane presented a short summary of how the awards would work, which will be circulated to all members.

AM asked how much money the event will cost and CC advised that she is hoping to get sponsorship from local businesses. CC will provide more details at the next meeting.
Action: CC

11. Open Forum:

MoP2 mentioned weeding again which CC has already advised she will follow up.
Action: CC

MoP3 raised concerns of speeding up the Kirk Wynd. PC Murray has had reports of speeding but it would appear that this is down to perception rather than actual speeding. The police do not have the resources to deploy officers with speed guns as they need to concentrate on designated hotspot areas. It was suggested that the SBC Councillors could link in with the Road Safety Group to see if they can help to tackle the issue. Road section

by the Fleece is still being looked at in conjunction with BEAR.

DD gave an update on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November. AM noted that all members of the CC should attend memorial service if possible.

The trees and bushes at the memorial have now gone which has helped to reduce antisocial behaviour.

WWII plaque – a brass lip will be fitted to the top of the plaque which will allow water to be diverted away from it.

VE80 (8th May 2025) – DD has received an email from John Greenwell (SBC's Veterans Champion) re: a meeting to be held in October which DD will attend.

Best Kept War Memorial – joint first regionally with Prestonpans who then went on to win the Nationals.

12. Reports from SBC Councillors:

ET-N – follow-up to Police Community Action Team. AM highlighted issues in the SBC Social Survey report of January 2024, which highlighted shoplifting and antisocial behaviour. All concerns raised so far have been passed to CAT. The importance of always reporting any crime was stressed.

Re: reduction in Winter Fuel Payments, E T-N requested a new campaign to encourage unclaimed benefits to top up pensions. Will forward details to AM to publicise.

CC gave an update on the Christmas lights. Switch-on will be at 5pm on Sat 7th Dec in the Market Place. The new minister for the Parish Church will be inducted on Thursday 12th at 7pm.

LD – attached electronically.

Selkirk & the Valleys group. Consultation on Phase 1 complete. Consultants Ironside Farrar confirmed. AM compiling data to give to Ironside Farrar, who will complete the first Draft of the Local Plan. **Action AM**

CC thanked AM, Barbara Harvie, and Niall Armstrong of Thornfield Care Home for leading on the consultation. There has been lots of public engagement, and good feedback from the High School. IK suggested an annual review in order to maintain current levels of interest and enthusiasm.

13. Treasurer's Report: JT completed Support Grant evaluation and submitted to SBC.

Enquiry from MoP arising from Treasurer's report attached to AGM minutes.

- Query re ref to 2022-23 Expenditure – this of course is a typo, should read 2023-24
- Amount left in general fund appears incorrect - £1545 (WTS income) has to be deducted from totals, as was explained.

DP has been added as signatory to account. Now pursuing his access online.

Hill Mgt Gp

Campbell's July invoices -£2,300

Common Good grant +£10,000

£10,858.78 in account

Community Council

SBC support grant +£1,501.50

£3,198.14 in account

Blooming Selkirk

£500 transferred from Brighter Selkirk – donation to be used for planting at toll

£2,826.82 in account

£740 ring-fenced for COPS

£1,560 ring-fenced for toll planters

Brighter Selkirk

Ex-SBs for planters +£50

Weavers “ “ +£50

Philiphagh summer bedding and baskets -£967

Transfer to CC Blooming Selkirk account -£500

£2,653.97 in account

14. Reports from sub-groups

Hill Management Group: IK reported on recent meeting. Growth on the Hill described as phenomenal. CGFWG have agreed to fund a tree survey.

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:

Christmas trees: wooden Christmas trees for High Street/Market Place decoration – High Street trees would be green, and Market Place white.

Decorations: Souter Stormers have been tasked with knitting large Christmas stockings from decoration, to hang from hanging basket hooks.

Christmas lights: decorations in storage to be assessed – some may not meet current safety specifications. CC to enquire about cost of renovation / rewiring larger pieces. CC to investigate funding possibilities, including refurbishing /replacement of electrical junction boxes to bring them up to current specs. Kevin Campbell will fit new timers and check the boxes. Lights to be brought down Sunday 15th so they can be tested. Quingo Night will be held 20th September and there will also be a coffee morning on 2nd November.

Common Good Fund Working Group: Much of what was discussed at the last meeting was private and cannot be reported. However, there is an ongoing assessment of CG assets and properties. CC advised that money has been allocated to test the paint on the statues and how best to remove the paint.

PR Committee: Newsletter published in the last week of August with 100 copies and online, plus a further 100 now receive from ET-N. Thanks expressed to E T-N for organising printing. Next issue deadline: November 5th. All contributions gratefully received. **Action AM/GK/DP**

Victoria Park Action Group: CC has spoken with Joyce Wright, who advised that she is still waiting on outcomes from Live Borders and advice on how best to move forward with the park. Timetable in place for restructuring of Live Borders with phase 1 to be completed by 1st October 2024; phase 2 is due to go to Council by end of October 2024; no set date for phase 3.

15. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: SBC have kindly donated a Pressure Washer. New training meeting to be held on Sunday 17th November, between 1pm and 4pm, somewhere within the central Borders. **Action: AM/AP**

CC advised that SRT Facebook page is no longer being used as had originally been intended and that it may be a good idea to pause the page.

Plattling Twinning Group: July visit of 46 Selkirk visitors to Plattling was very successful. Rob Duff has announced that 4 groups of Plattling visitors will come to Selkirk in 2025. Plattling donated a metal plaque to the Plattling group and discussions will be held where to most appropriately mount it. Possibly beside the Fleshmarket Steps, to accompany the bronze plaque. CC approaching Royal Mail Sorting office for permission to use their wall. **Action: AM/CC**

Selkirk & The Valleys: Already discussed.

Hawick presented their Town Plans to SBC Council in the week prior to 10th Sept. IK suggested a tracker of developments across the Borders Towns.

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 in November.

A7 Action Group: IK

AGM Friday 20th Sept in Hawick Town Hall Committee Room. Meeting immediately follows. **Action: IK**

COPS: Small crop of apples from the orchard at Bannerfield, lots of weeding required. CC advised that SBHA are looking to establish a community garden – SB to link in with them. Rotary Club have crocuses which they will donate to the orchard at the Green. Did not submit an application for Greener Gateway this year. **Action: SB**

Selkirk Regeneration: no news on date of next meeting.
1 Tower Street – Exterior woodwork now painted.

16. AOCB:

Litter Pick October – already discussed.

Action AM/CC

Victoria Halls Notice Board – costs can be shared with Flodden 500 - £250 each.

Action AM/E T-N

AP – hanging baskets will be coming down soon and need to discuss how to proceed with planters.

SB – noted that the caravan park booking system requires users to check in 24hrs in advance and asked if this is contributing to any lost business. **Action: CC**

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 14th October 2024** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.