



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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Minutes of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025.

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

Also present: SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane, Leagh Douglas, and Elaine Thornton-Nicol; 5 members of the public

2. **Chair's Introduction:**

AM noted the success of Graham Coulson's MBE investiture by The Duke of Buccleuch on 25th March, and the 'Song And Dance for MS' event on 5th April.

AM apologised for neglecting to honour the Selkirk Rugby Football Team at the 10th March meeting for having won the Borders League. Selkirk RFC also finished 5th in the Arnold Clark Scottish Premiership.

AM noted the Community Litter Pick of Sunday 6th April and thanked all involved.

Selkirk will play at Hawick Sevens this Saturday, and Berwick on Sunday as the spring leg of the Kings of the Sevens circuit gets underway.

Selkirk Youth Club Sevens is on Saturday 26th of April at Philiphaugh with U-16 & U-18 tournaments.

Selkirk Sevens is on Saturday 10th of May.

Selkirk's two bowling clubs opened for the season on Saturday. 2025 will be Ettrick Forest Bowling Club's 150th Anniversary.

AM congratulated newly appointed Hammermen Standard Bearer Lewis Sanders.

Standard Bearers of the Fleshers, the Weavers and the Ex-Soldiers societies will be picked in the forthcoming weekend of April 18th onwards.

Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Appointment Night is Friday 25th of April.

3. **Apologies:** Sue Bremner.

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

5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 10th March 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:** none.

6. **Community Police Report:** March report received and posted online. ETN will relay outcome of meeting which will be held in two weeks to discuss future of CAT. **Action:** ETN

7. **Adopting Scott's Place Telephone Box**

After an MOP suggested looking into the adoption of the phone box, which is due for decommissioning by BT, AM duly registered an interest on behalf of the CC. Subsequently,

Penguin Books has announced the creation of 90 'Little Book Stops' for book exchange, across the UK. Sue Briggs of the General Store is keen to pursue one, and will apply, under the aegis of Scott's Selkirk. IK asked if there would be an issue in relocating the box should someone take over the contact centre. AM stated that there would be costs involved.

Action: AM

8. Borders Walking Festival 2026

SBC has been in touch to enquire whether Selkirk would be interested in hosting the Scottish Borders Walking Festival in 2025, 2026 or 2027. The Festival typically is held during September and SBC can assist with the organisation and mapping of routes. The 2019 Selkirk-hosted week of events was a big success. All agreed to apply to host in 2026 and it was confirmed that the Valleys would also be involved.

Action:

AM

- 9. Planning** – no applications received. IK gave a reminder that no objections had been raised by the CC re the Linglie Road development, and no objections for Flower Expressions taking over the former PO premises.

Tracker of Works: CC will follow up on the issues with Fleshmarket Steps; Ettrickhaugh Road; lighting at the Cross Keys; lighting at Walter Scott statue; and path leading to the Scout Hall. **Action: CC**

GK raised the issue of trees blocking the riverside path between Bannerfield bridges. To be investigated.

CC confirmed that the broken lamppost at Station Road has been reported, and the stonework at the Court House has been repaired.

10. Open Forum:

MoP1 asked when the Christmas lights would be taken down as the bunting for Common Riding is due to be installed. CC advised that she is in need of volunteers to help with the lights. AM suggested that, as per the Farmers Market, a donation could be given to any local groups who would help. CC noted that there are no available funds to make such donations.

11. SBC Councillors' Reports:

CC:

Cashline provision – report received but CC is querying some of the details, including distances between ATMs and relevant bus fares, and has requested a review of the assessment.

Live Borders Review due shortly. Budget has been set for the next 6 months and the report will be presented to SBC on Thursday 24th April. A new chair of the board is now in place.

ET-N - Leave Pawprints Only initiative update – not launched as yet due to budget issues. Update will be provided at next CC meeting.

Eildon Area Partnership has now disbanded. AM asked if there was any monies leftover but any underspend has been clawed back by SBC. There will be a new Neighbourhood

Fund with criteria still to be confirmed. BCA can help with funding bids as well as sourcing other funding streams.

R&L Taxi service to end April 30th – confirmed that there is no exit strategy but there will be a meeting this week at SBC to discuss.

Riverside Notice Board – ET-N has ordered, pending approval. Cost to come from Small Schemes budget. CC suggested placing the board on the railings at the swimming pool.

Action: ET-N

LD – SPEN update – consultation period has been extended. LD submitted a motion to SBC put in place a real time map. Motion supported. A discussion was had regarding pros and cons of underground cables – DP noted that underground cables are more difficult and costly to repair than overhead cables, LD argued that underground cables need repaired less frequently. GK asked why the existing route was not being used. LD advised that SPEN have reported that legislation has changed since the route was first instated.

LD is in conversation with Border Buses re concerns that buses are not always stopping at their designated stops.

12. Treasurer's Report:

CC's financial year ended 31/3/25. JT and DP will prepare accounts for auditor then present them at the AGM in June. JT will complete the support grant evaluation with AM then submit the accounts along with the evaluation to SBC. At that point JT will retire from post.

SHMG

Increase to Common Good grant – LD to confirm. **Action: LD**

£2,735 in account.

Local Community Paths Maintenance Grant received.

Hill Warden expenses paid.

Community Council

£2,050 in account

Some upcoming expenditure

£660 for new notice board – Flodden 500 have paid half – thanks to them

£98 hire of WS Courtroom for Plattling reception – Plattling group will make a contribution.

SB's reception & gift, usually around £500 – CC members were asked to contribute £10 each.

Ringfenced £300 fountain, £900 response team – all agreed to reallocate some of the funds,

Blooming Selkirk

Grant from Tweed Forum received.

£2,820 in account - £500 ringfenced for toll planters, £600 for COPS.

Upcoming expenditure – gravel and topsoil for toll, extra plants for toll.

Brighter Selkirk

£2,410 in account

Appeal gone out to Casting associations for planters - donations received so far from

Colonial and Merchant Companies.

One railing box already sponsored – JT will offer previous sponsors the chance to sponsor again before putting out general appeal.

13. Reports from Sub-Groups:

SHMG: Last meeting held two weeks ago. IK noted that the Hill is in good condition but the presence of litter at the shelter is raising concerns re possible wildfires. **Action: LD**

Letter re pesticides use was finalised on 3rd April and should now have been sent to residents of Buxton. **Action: LD**

Concerns raised re disrepair of Steely Brig and the Drove Road. ETN advised that these concerns have been added to the agenda for the next CGFWG meeting.

There was some confusion whether budget monies approved were for the whole Common Good or just Selkirk Hill. To be clarified at next meeting.

AGM delayed until August 2025 (date tbc).

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk: Four planters at the Toll have been filled with drainage and topsoil. Scott McColm has taken responsibility for them once they have been planted and looking at encouraging sponsorship for each of the planters. Planters in town need work but looking for volunteers to assist with this. An individual has contacted CC and offered to powerwash the planters.

Hanging baskets – it was agreed that CC will contact all businesses along the High Street (only those with brackets on their premises) and ask if they would like to purchase a hanging basket at the cost of £50 per basket. **Action: CC**

Common Good Fund Working Group: Linglie Farm lease being prepared and finalised.

PR Committee: no report.

Victoria Park Action Group: no update.

14. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: no report.

Plattling Twinning Group:

Reception on Tuesday 29th April for the East Bavarian Highlanders in Sir Walter Scott's Court Room. **Action: AM/John Nichol**

Selkirk & The Valleys: Meeting with consultants Ironside Farrar on 1st April – latest draft Place Plan submitted. Comments deadline of 15th April, after which final first draft will be completed, then subject to public presentation, feedback and comment. **Action: AM/CC**

SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership: already discussed.

A7 Action Group: New action plan being considered. IK advised that the barriers opposite the Toll are in place due to possible subsidence.

COPS: As planned 19 heritage pear, apple and plum trees were planted by local residents and volunteers on the Glebe on 22nd March. Maintenance and weeding of the second orchard on the Green was undertaken the week after and the pilot orchard down in Bannerfield will be attended to on April 15.

Selkirk Regeneration: no report. AM still chasing quote for replacing render on No. 1 Tower Street.
Action: AM

15. AOCB:

AM mentioned various future events:

- Selkirk Camera Club are having a meeting in the High Street Club rooms, on Wed 23rd April @ 7.15pm to discuss as to whether the club continues, due to lack of members. More details on 07810 446734
- The Selkirk cycling Gravel Classic Event will occur on 31st May, and the following roads will be closed to traffic between the hours of 9:55 and 10:30 for the event: Ettrickhaugh Road, Linglie Road, Buccleuch Road, Dunsdale Road, Dunsdale Haugh and the A7 from Dunsdale Haugh to Lindean.
- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is undertaking a Service-wide review of operations and delivery, involving engaging with our stakeholders and members of the public. Part of this involves a meeting this month to decide which options to take to formal public consultation later this year. As a 'thank you' for taking part, they are **offering members of the public a gratuity of £150.00, plus travel expenses.**

This in-person meeting will take place on **Tuesday 29th April from 9.30am-4.30pm at the Stirling Court Hotel.** Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Also, in recognition of the distance involved and a **9.30am start**, we are offering **overnight hotel accommodation on 28 April** to a member of the public travelling from Scottish Borders.

Participants might also benefit from attending a **short online information / educative session on w/b 14 April (exact dates and times tbc)** to give background information and ensure there is an understanding of the task involved in scoring and weighting the evaluation criteria.

They are keen to have representation from the Scottish Borders and hope this is something that the Community Council may be able to assist with.

- Common Riding Ball tickets will be on sale on 3rd May in Victoria Halls:
10-11am Casting Associations
11-12 General Public.

AP – MoP has reported that an unknown individual has been felling trees with an axe in Nettle Wood which is CG land. Reported to SBC Estates. Action: CC

ESS – Center Parcs meeting will be held at the Rugby Club from 14:00 - 19:00 on Thursday

24th April.

CC suggested installing a plaque under the Souter monument on Back Row as well as a plaque under the Marriage Stone. CC will report back with costings. **Action: CC**

CC highlighted a video she had created to publicise the latest progress on The Haining, which is expected to open to the public in June.

GK asked for an update on his previous query about the flood defence, Walter Scott monument, and the Victoria Park signage. AM volunteered to get an update from Stuart Davidson on the latest plans on the High Street statues. **Action: ETN, CC, AM**

IK noted that a tree has been cut down at the new co-op site and advised that, in the planning stages, it was agreed that a new site would be found for planting a replacement tree. ETN will provide contact details for the area manager, who may be able to provide clarification on this. **Action: ETN**

IK also thanked all those involved in running the Film Club which has ended its current season.

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

Meeting was closed at 8:44pm.

Next meeting will be held **Monday 12th May 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.