



## 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 10th February 2025.

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

Also present: SBC Councillors Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton-Nicol;  
9 members of the public

- 2. Chair's Introduction:** AM noted that the Jazrose café had closed, but it has been sold to an entrepreneur, who is keen to let it out as soon as possible.  
The Lyle & Scott café/showroom in the former Lochcarron premises on Dunsdale Road will open in mid-March.  
Selkirk Musical Theatre's next production is Cry-Baby The Musical, presented at the Victoria Halls for 5 days from 25<sup>th</sup> February.  
Selkirk Farmers' Market restarts on Saturday 1st March.  
A new shop in Galashiels called The Signal Box aims to raise funds for the Borders Community Rail Partnership. It will be run by volunteers, and will also act as the headquarters for the Borders Railway Community Partnership, as well as selling a range of second-hand books, toys, etc., and in future, train sets and a jigsaw rental.  
Opening hours are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10-4.
- 3. Apologies:** Cllr Leagh Douglas.
- 4. Approval of the minutes:** Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by GK.
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:**

Notice board for High School playing fields – now installed.

Victoria Halls Notice board – awaiting info from SBC re: supplier of bus stop notice board in order that Keddie & Co. can order similar. **Action: ETN**

From January Minutes – ETN to forward photos of cycle hoops to CC. **Action: ETN**

Community Councils' use of websites - AM was contacted by West Linton CC, wishing to emulate Selkirk CC website.

- 6. Community Police Report:** January Report received and posted on website. 'Your Police' survey available via <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025/> til 31 March.

7. **Dog fouling / Litter measures.** AM outlined history of CC supplying anti-fouling signs on the High School playing fields – now in situ. CC pressure washer has been used to clean up some Closes, but public really need to report dog mess via the SBC website. Persistent offenders can be reported anonymously to the Dog Control Officer via the SBC website at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/xfp/form/665>

ETN informed the meeting about the “Dog Friendly Newtown” initiative which was very successful and there was an 88% reduction of dog mess in 5 months. ETN will provide AM with Responsible Dog Ownership leaflets as well as information for the Green Dog Walker pledge. **Action: AM**

All agreed to use CC funds to purchase bags, grabbers etc.

**Action: AM**

MoP1 asked if more CCTV would be an option but was advised that this was unlikely due to costs. AM also noted that, for the CCTV footage to be used as evidence, the incident needs to be reported as soon as possible otherwise the footage will be lost.

8. **Community Council consultation.** SBC has put its revised version of their proposed Community Council Constitutional changes out to the public – without including submissions from Selkirk CC, or explaining why they weren’t adopted. They would also like to reduce the term of Councils from 4 years, as in Selkirk, to 3 years. AM noted that Scottish Community Councils were instituted in an act of Parliament in 1973.

AM has contacted Democratic Services to ascertain why our suggested amendments were dismissed.

9. **Planning Matters:** SBHA Development, Linglie Road:

**24/01120/FUL** - a Planning application from SBHA to develop land at the north end of Linglie Road, Bannerfield was discussed.

The Community Council noted the proposals for 26 residential units comply with the current Local Plan and offered no objection provided these proposals -

- Include landscaping to the bund at the end of Cannon Street to help integrate the neighbouring sites
- Conform to all the relevant Building Standards and Roads Authority requirements, particularly regarding public safety and access.

However, the CC noted with regret the loss of greenfield land and unanimously agreed that, as a matter of principle, the redevelopment of ‘brownfield’ sites should be considered in advance of any greenfield sites. Brownfield sites within Selkirk are already blighting the adjoining communities in which they exist – blighting local aspiration, amenity and economic growth.

10. **Tracker of Works:** completed works to be removed from the list. **Action: AM/CC**

11. **Open Forum:** MoP” reported a mess in her neighbour’s garden which is so bad there are now rats. **Action: CC**

12. **SBC Councillor’s Report:**

**CC:** White lines at the end of Bridgelands will be repainted before the end of the financial year. CC asked that we message her directly with any other lines which also need to be repainted.

Community Engagement Conversations – 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the initiative and dates for further meetings are to be confirmed. CC has suggested a podcast which can be held with different SBC Service Directors who will answer questions from the public.

Center Parcs – next consultation meeting will be held at the rugby club from 14:00 – 19:00 on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Live Borders – report due to be completed in March.

Budget to be set February 20<sup>th</sup>.

MoP had asked CC if the Cross Keys space will be renamed. It was agreed that a final use for the space needs to be determined before thinking about renaming.

**ETN** – Budget papers are now available on SBC website. ETN will relay AM's comments about the budget consultation and its structure.

MoP3 praised ETN for her interview on ITV news.

Audit Scotland – focusses on digital inclusion/exclusion and includes a number of initiatives to tackle low levels of digital engagement, including social tariffs, which are discounted broadband and mobile deals for people on Universal Credit and other benefits.

### **13. Treasurer's Report:**

#### SHMG

£4,440 in account – Campbell's hours and expenses last month £2,000.

#### Community Council

£2,750 in account.

#### Blooming Selkirk

£2,830 in account.

#### Brighter Selkirk

£2,190 in account

Hire of hall for coffee morning £82.

Maintenance and repair of lights £1,045.

£900 from SBC Small Schemes fund paid - £500 to cricket club, £400 to school choir.

### **14. Reports from Sub-Groups:**

**SHMG:** Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Not too much damage caused by the storm. Wildlife is flourishing on the Hill. Issue about the recent tree survey is still ongoing. Awaiting a letter from the Estates department for the residents of Buxton advising them to not use pesticides. Looking at ways to raise public support for the Hill.

**Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:**

£1060 ring-fenced for completion and planting of toll planters but will probably cost more due to inflation.

Need volunteers and people who can take on certain responsibilities within the group. AM will add to April newsletter. **Action: AM**

**Common Good Fund Working Group:** Meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 11:30.

**PR Committee:**

Next Newsletter will be mid-February.

**Victoria Park Action Group:** no update.

**15. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:**

**Selkirk Response/Resilience Team:** no report.

**Plattling Twinning Group:**

5 groups coming to visit this year: East Bavarian Highlanders in April, Realschule in May, a group of 12 led by Peter Lochmarr, Chair of Plattling's Twinning Committee, in August, Heidi's Dance Group in September, and a personal visit for 12 days by Angelika of Heidi's dance group – her third.

Riddell's have now mounted plaques on Post Office sorting office wall.

**Selkirk & The Valleys:** Nothing can happen until meeting with S&V team and SBC / Live Borders to align Selkirk strategies with overall SBC/LB strategies, which had been promised by Feb 7 latest. CC chasing. **Action: CC**

**SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership:** no report.

**A7 Action Group:** no report.

**COPS:** no report.

**Selkirk Regeneration:** Jan meeting. AM had to report the sad death of Jack Peers, longtime member of SR. **Action: AM**

**16. AOCB:**

AM: R&L Taxis suggesting a change to the taxibus schedule to Ettrickbridge – current schedule underused. Has requested that SBC Councillors support a change to the schedule, to allow an early evening visit to the Cross Keys, Ettrickbridge and return to Selkirk.

Funding an issue – new schedule can't be instituted until mid-May, but funding ceases at end of April. ETN will contact Passenger Transport. **Action: ETN**

AM to ask Bruce Mercer what likely cost would be.

**Action: AM**

Enhancement Group Networking Event & Litter Management Workshop

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, 10am - 12pm.

Presentations of Scottish Borders events, 10-11am, then Keep Scotland Beautiful

Community Litter Workshop 11am-12pm.  
Please RSVP to on or before the 24<sup>th</sup> of February  
to [Neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk)

AL: Emergency services couldn't access High Street due to parking issues. AL will liaise with David Deacon re VE Day celebrations. AL also noted that he will stand down at the next election, highlighting the need for more CC members.

Selkirk High School may have two pupils willing to join CC as youth members.

GK – Height of A708 Selkirk-Moffat Road carriageway has never been raised as planned, which may cause an issue with severe flooding impacting the new development site. ETN will contact the flood defence team. **Action: ETN**

CC: David Robertson is looking to hold an event at HQ to commemorate 50yrs of Community Councils.

IK: BBC Scotland are televising a debate night on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March in Galashiels.

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

Meeting was closed at 8:47pm.

Next meeting will be held **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.