



# 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 13th January 2025.

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

Also present: SBC Councillors Leigh Douglas, Caroline Cochrane, Elaine Thornton-Nicol; 3 members of the public; Ali Weir and Alison Lowrie, Eildon Housing Association.

**2. Chair's Introduction:** On behalf of the CC, AM expressed his condolences on the passing of Brenda Leddy of Stichill Jerseys. AM noted the success of seasonal events including the Silver Band's Christmas Show on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, the Scouts' celebration on Dec. 28 and two separate Hogmanay events, at the Victoria Halls and the Conservative Club. Mention was made of the commitment to the town of the Silver Band, including braving sleet on New Year's Day. Viv Ross and Caroline Cochrane were also present in the Market Place on NY Day, dispensing whisky, port and shortbread.

The Scouts' celebration was well attended and a tribute to all the talent available in Selkirk (as a performer at the event, the Chair made an exception in his own case). It was also the opportunity for the Chair to present Graham Coulson with a plaque celebrating his MBE award, which had been suggested by a member of the public. Graham has sent the CC a card of appreciation, which the Chair read out.

Councillor Leigh Douglas has requested that the Selkirk Bypass be added to the agenda for a South of Scotland meeting in March.

**3. Apologies:** Alisdair Lockhart and David Playfair.

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

**5. Matters arising from the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:**

MoP1 raised three issues with the December minutes:

- Judith Thompson's name listed twice in item 1
- Item 11, paragraph 2 – it was felt unnecessary to amend the Minutes re: Linglie Farm Common Riding access, as this should be well-known.
- Item 14, paragraph 3 – typo – "align" not "aling"

BT Notice board – BT no longer provide 'streethubs' and have passed them to a company called Global Media, who now only install them in existing telephone boxes. Having obtained the appropriate approvals, AM will contact Global re: the possibility of installing in the Scotbet former telephone box. **Action: AM**

Notice board for High School playing fields – AM has quotes from Wilson Signs in Hawick and Advanced Signs in Galashiels. AM proposed that we accept the quote from Advanced Signs – all in agreement.

Victoria Halls Notice board – it blew over in the gales and sustained some damage. Keddie's has collected and will effect repairs, then affix to the railings, as agreed.

The Plattling signs are now affixed to the wall of the Post Office Sorting office, overlooking the Fleshmarket steps.

Center Parcs – AM and ESS to represent Selkirk at the meeting of all the local Community Councils on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

AM was part of the online meeting re: SPEN Pylons in the Ettrick & Yarrow Valleys.

Action on Post Office: AM gave an update on the attempts to set up a public meeting - BT declined to attend and MSP didn't respond. BT advertising for a new PO manager, with a deadline of May 26<sup>th</sup>. In the interim, CC is investigating the possibility of a 'Banking Hub' as in Jedburgh, which includes banking and limited PO facilities. Jedburgh details here: <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/jedburgh-roxburghshire/>

6. **Community Police Report:** December Report received and posted on website.
7. **Planning Matters:** none.
8. **Tracker of Works:** completed works to be removed from the list. **Action: AM/CC**
9. **Eildon Housing Association – Ali Weir/Angle Field Development:** Ali Weir gave a presentation on the proposed Angle Field development (slides circulated electronically). Brief discussion followed:
  - M&J Ballantyne will be responsible for sourcing sub-contractors but it is expected that local tradesmen will be utilised
  - IK expressed the need for design quality to be paramount, as this will be one of the 'gateways' to the town.
  - Use of solar panels still under discussion as they cannot be a bolt-on and need to be fully integrated into the properties
  - It is hoped that this development, in conjunction with the SBHA development, may encourage SBC to improve local transport in that area.
  - Sewage system – tie in drainage with existing system and also implement a SUDS.

#### 10. Open Forum:

MoP1 noted that Selkirk is due to host the Royal Company of Archers in May this year and asked if anything has been put in place for the event. CC advised that SBC will be responsible for the planning. ETN will contact Fiona Henderson for more information. ESS will also contact Ettrick Forest Archery. **Action: ETN/ESS**

MoP1 also asked if the CC were planning to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Community Councils. CC was not aware of any plans but will take back to SBC. **Action: CC**

MoP2 (via AM):

Litter problems – regular litter picks are held and the streets are cleaned daily.

Co-Op building – Co-Op moving to new site in April 2025. The current building's state of disrepair should be addressed in that light.

Lack of banks/ATM's: CC warned that, even if Selkirk does get a banking hub, someone will still need to run it as the Post Office will not simply put someone in place. There is a mobile Post Office but it already covers a large area of the Borders and may not have the availability to attend Selkirk.

## **11. SBC Councillor's Report:**

**ETN:** CAT attended Knowepark Primary School during the morning school run and 4 tickets were issued. CAT will be attending more often in an attempt to deal with parking issues.

There is a vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol Officer at Knowepark PS.

Petition re Kirk Wynd will be heard in SBC's Council Chambers at 2pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**LD:** Advised that although an increase in Council Tax in the budget will be discussed at an upcoming executive meeting, it will be a specific discussion about Council Tax on empty homes to bring them back into use and not a financial meeting.

**CC:** nothing further to report.

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

### SHMG

£6,390 in account – no activity.

### Community Council

£2,776.64 in account – website and admin and newsletter printrun.

### Blooming Selkirk

£2,830 in account – no activity.

### Brighter Selkirk

£3,320 in account – no activity.

All agreed to hold the AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025. JT advised that she intends to step down from the role of Treasurer but will remain in place until a successor is found.

Discussion had about possibility of summer breaks – Community Council may not have a meeting in August, and IK will let JT know about SHMG.

Still waiting for £900 from SBC, purchase order sent 27.11.24. This is money from Small Schemes which we will disburse to Cricket Club and school choir. CC to chase up.

Presentation Night will be held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

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

**SHMG:** Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

#### **Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:**

No date as yet for when the tree will be removed. Lights all being switched off this week.

£1060 ring-fenced for completion and planting 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 next newsletter. **Action: AM**

**Common Good Fund Working Group:** Next meeting will be held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 11:30. The recent tree survey carried out on the Hill only covered part of the Hill. Informed that not all of the Hill is considered part of the Common Good assets. GK advised that a lot of trees are down over the golf course.

#### **PR Committee:**

Next meeting will be held early February. No sponsor as yet for the back page.

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

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

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

#### **Plattling Twinning Group:**

3 groups coming to visit this year. Rob Duff has promised to give AM an update.

Riddell's have now mounted plaques on Post Office sorting office wall. **Action: AM**

**Selkirk & The Valleys:** First draft of Local Plan in from consultants Ironside Farrar with responses fed back to them. Awaiting date for meeting with S&V team and SBC / Live Borders to align Selkirk strategies with overall SBC/LB strategies. Meeting planned for end Jan/early Feb. CC chasing. **Action: AM/CC**

**SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership:** already discussed.

**A7 Action Group:** meeting to be held later this month.

**COPS:** still waiting on an update re Heatherlie site.

**Selkirk Regeneration:** no further news.

**Action: AM**

### **15. AOCB:**

AM – Advised that a cycling group have made regular bookings at Tibbie's from May 2025 but

there are not enough hoops for all the bikes. Discussion was had re: the placing of bike hoops – AM suggested near ScotBet. ETN took photos of hoops on her recent trip to New York and has forwarded to relevant SBC colleague. ETN to forward to CC. **Action: ETN**

There will be a SPEN webinar on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2pm – AM encouraged as many people as possible to attend.

GK asked if we are any further forward with getting a representative from the High School to join the CC. ESS will speak to Chris Dolan (Pastoral Teacher) at the next Rowlands meeting.

Walter Scott monument – still ongoing. Paint sample has been sent away for testing, and CC will raise the issue again at the next CGFWG meeting. **Action: CC**

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

Meeting was closed at 8:40pm.

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