



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	David Playfair	6 Millburn Place, Selkirk TD7 5AF	07889 817895

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

Present: Community Councillors: Chair Andy Murray, Alistair Pattullo, Ed Strang Steel, Grant Kinghorn, Judith Thompson, David Playfair, Sue Bremner, Ian King, and Kirsty Lovatt.
SBC Councillors: Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Caroline Cochrane.

Also present: 8 members of the public, and Lucy Playfair.

1. Chair's Introduction:

The Chair reminded all that Community Council meetings should be conducted with civility and respect and the focus is on directives and resolutions, as opposed to seeking blame.

AM announced that Selkirk has been awarded the Scottish Borders Walking Festival in 2027, and the Community Council will be working closely with Scottish Borders Council to make it as least as good as in 2019, the last time Selkirk and the Valleys hosted it.

AM said that he had had a positive recent meeting with other communities, including Hawick, Galashiels and Stow, who were keen to have a co-ordinated approach to the new Center Parcs village. The meetings are expected to be quarterly, with other local communities being involved as well.

2. Apologies / Declarations of interest:

Apologies: Leagh Douglas

3. Approval of the minutes: Minutes to be amended re grass-cutting comments before approval.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of 16th June 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

AM said that the 19th June Selkirk & The Valleys public consultation had been well attended, and there had been a table for feedback on the Live Borders proposals there as well, which received many comments. AM reminded all of the new Live Borders feedback meeting on 13th August, 2-7pm, in the Victoria Halls. LB have also installed feedback collection units at all venues, including Scott's Courtroom. There is a comprehensive story in the new Selkirk News newsletter, including various positive ideas.

GK wanted to expand on the desire to increase the occurrence of grass cutting in Selkirk, as well as having the cut grass lifted and disposed of elsewhere. CC has

reported that the current schedule is for cutting every 20 days; she has requested the schedule, and the cutting team are currently short staffed due to illness. Expanding the schedule / workload will involve more funding, but there are Community Conversations shortly re: the budget where the public can lobby for more expenditure on certain items. This may involve a reduction elsewhere.

AM said that there was action to report on the repair of High Street statues, more cash provision and the upgrade of the Millenium Souters' Footprints sign. CC to provide more details in Councillors' Reports.

5. Notice of Motion to co-opt Lucy Playfair, 6 Millburn Place, Selkirk, TD7 5AF:

Proposed: SB, seconded: AP. All CC members agreed.

6. Community Police Report: June report not yet received but will be posted online.

AM mentioned anecdotal reports of youths squirting cars with water pistols, and decapitating/stealing Souter Stormers figures. He urged all Council members to report questionable activity and urged witnesses to do so also.

ETN: There will be another meeting to discuss CAT at the end of August/start of September. Their focus is likely to be on anti-social behaviour. ETN can still submit reports to highlight areas of concern.

7. Planning:

Mungo Park monument: all agreed to support.

Back Row, Selkirk (repositioning of external pipe): all agreed to support.

25/00361/FUL: IK recommended that the CC maintain its previous stance and submit an objection. This decision is based on previous concerns about the damage extra traffic will cause to the Drove Road, and also the lack of detail in the planning application.

The applicant attended the meeting and counter-argued that she was proposing a much smaller property than that which had previously been granted planning permission. The applicant stated that the new building would arrive in sections and so would take less time to put in place. Applicant also noted that there had been sufficient time since the last meeting for IK to request more details.

CC members voted 6 – 2 to approve the planning application, with the caveat that this vote could change in light of any further details.

8. Open Forum:

MoP1 asked if homeowners can be forced to cut back hedges encroaching on footpaths. ETN stated that they could and suggested that she meet with MoP1 and look at specific areas of concern.

MoP2 asked if residents should report blocked drains. CC confirmed that this is the case.

9. SBC Councillors' Reports:

ETN: Happy Belly runs every Thursday at Philiphaugh, 10am – 2pm, for children aged 0-8. This will be extended for children aged 9-11. The program also allows ETN to engage with younger members of the community.

Selkirk Pantry also runs at Philiphaugh every Thursday (11am). Residents in need of food assistance can pay £3 for a bag of food.

ETN has received some feedback from the Bannerfield consultation.

SBC have a contact centre every second Thursday at Philiphaugh from 10am – 12 noon.

ETN is working with Fresh Start and looking to set up an air-fryer cooking club.

Conversations had with Live Borders and local residents – no parent-friendly spaces at the gym. Provision of a creche may increase attendance.

CC: There is a newsletter on CC's Facebook page which provides more details, but CC highlighted the following points:

- St. Joseph's PS could be used instead of the Argus Centre which could be used as Youth Hostel. Scouts and Guides are in favour.
- Final draft of the Selkirk Place Plan has been submitted to the consultants, who will prepare it for submission for comments by 16 local Community Councils and SBC Councillors, before final submission to SBC.
- Working through suggestions of small improvements submitted by local residents – will provide an update at next meeting.
- Souters Millennium Footprints meeting replacement sign – A3 requested via small schemes at SBC, and also asked for footprint stones to be cleaned.
- Access for cash – appeal accepted and Link have agreed that Selkirk needs greater access to cash. A banking counter will be in place (discussions re location ongoing) 3 days per week for 5 hours. Provisions must be in place within 3 months of notice being received, ie September.

10. Treasurer's Reports:

Auditor's fees for all accounts paid.

Community Council

£902.74 in account

Still awaiting invoice - Exploreselkirk website - £50 + vat

SHMG

£14,828.24 in account

Blooming Selkirk

£1,380.70 in account

Brighter Selkirk

£2,721.39 in account

Invoice from Philiphaugh to pay – ESS to check – approx. £1100-1400.

11. Reports from Sub-Groups:

SHMG: Lisa McLeish, Biodiversity Officer for Bright Green Nature, attended meeting.

Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk: JT to discuss hanging baskets with ESS.

CGFWG: Contribution to Sir Walter Scott's Statue – AM asked if CGFWG could ring-fence some monies.

PR Committee: new Newsletter published last week.

Victoria Park Action Group: no report.

12. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: no report.

Plattling Twinning Group:

Next visit is in August (18-23) from Plattling Town Councillors.

Selkirk & The Valleys: launch event on Thursday 19 June at Victoria Halls, 2-8pm very successful. AM has annotated feedback and submitted to consultants, who will deliver final Plan this month.

A7 Action Group: Meeting held last month. Center Parcs planning application has now been submitted which impacts 'vision' for A7. **Action: IK**

COPS: Applied for Greener Gateway Awards – Biodiversity, and Community Engagement.

Selkirk Regeneration: AGM Minutes now published. SR underwriting the costs of applying for grants to restore High Street statues (Sir Walter Scott & Mungo Park) and AM contacting various grant funders. AM has chased up contractor for replacing render on No. 1 Tower Street. **Action: AM**

13. AOCB:

AM requested details about the Neighbourhood Support Fund – budgets and contacts with Borders Community Action re: fund distribution.

GK asked for an update about Yarrow Road – ETN still dealing with this. GK also advised that the board in the Town Hall, which has the names of all the Standard Bearers, has water damage. **Action: ETN**

JT – certificate now framed and placed in Cruickshank Room.

SB – bottom quarter of railings along Bannerfield footbridge need cleaning. **Action: CC**

DP asked for an update about the anti dog-fouling campaign. ETN advised that it has been put on hold due to lack of funding. Meeting will now be held first week of August.

IK raised concerns about a recent Teams meeting he attended for Neighbourhood Support Fund. **Action: ETN**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their participation and wished all a safe and happy summer.

Meeting was closed at 20:48.

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 8th September 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7:00pm.