



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 16th June 2025.

Present: Community Councillors: Chair Andy Murray, Alistair Pattullo, Grant Kinghorn, Judith Thompson, David Playfair, Sue Bremner, Ian King and Kirsty Lovatt. SBC Councillors: Leagh Douglas, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Caroline Cochrane (late arrival).

Also present: 5 members of the public

1. Chair's Introduction:

The Chair noted the success of the 2025 Common Riding, with congratulations to Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Darren Knox, attendants and all the other Standard Bearers for another successful and safe series of events, and a lovely day as well. The Chair also thanked all those who put up bunting, hanging baskets and Victoria Halls baskets, as well as those who planted and watered plants at the Toll and in the Market Place and High Street. It is sometimes forgotten that it is volunteers who keep the town looking at its best at this time of year.

The Chair noted the 10th anniversary visit of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club to Selkirk, including a march down the High Street to lunch at the Fleece. SBC held a small reception (with cake!) at Council Headquarters to celebrate 50 years of Community Councils, which was much appreciated. SBC created a certificate for each Community Council, including Selkirk, which members might wish to hang in the Cruickshank Room.

AM thanked ESS as the member with the most attendance in the last 12 months – 11 meetings out of 11. AM asked that if SBC Councillors were not able to attend the Community Council meetings, a written update, such as Cllr Douglas did in Sept 2024, and as Cllr Cochrane did for this meeting, would be very helpful.

AM noted that the bunting is due to be taken down on Sunday 22nd June at 7:30am – all help will be gratefully accepted.

Finally, the chair noted the sad passing of Wilma Gunn and informed the CC that her funeral will be held on 27th June.

2. Apologies / Declarations of interest:

Apologies: Ed Strang Steel.

AM declared a possible conflict of interest, should it be decided to frame the 50th anniversary Community Council certificate, in that he holds a small share in the Burnside gallery & frames business. NB: Burnside framed the Graham Coulson presentation certificate for nothing.

4. **Approval of the minutes:** Minutes were approved by GK and seconded by DP.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 14th May 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:** none.
6. **Community Police Report:** May report received and posted online. ETN to relay outcome of meeting re: future of CAT. **Action: ETN**
7. **Explore Selkirk website administration fee.** Website is hosted by Strive Digital of Galashiels, and the cost would be £50 per annum. Agreed.
8. **Selkirk & Valleys Place Plan Public Consultation:** To be held on Thursday 19th June at Victoria Halls, 2 – 8pm.
9. **SBC / Live Borders Sports & Culture Report – SBC Cllrs discussion.**
Councillors Douglas and Thornton-Nicol reviewed the position of the current Live Borders Sports & Culture consultation: the Integratis independent consultants' report assessed all Borders assets, highlighting the total running costs and usage figures.

AM pointed out that this was in the context of SBC wishing to reduce the 2024-2025 subsidy of £7.8m to a managed and consistent subsidy of £4.8m per annum.

LD and E T-N stressed that discussions and the consultation in the wake of the report were specifically to encourage positive and creative ideas to make all assets more financially secure and with greater support, possibly by changing services or combining resources. AM expressed concern that the Integratis report emphasised increasing subscriptions for sport, but not increased marketing for cultural events and venues.

AM offered the opinion that the SBC survey wasn't the best example of encouraging creative ideas, since it begins with a request for the respondent to list their personal usage of local assets – less relevant for cultural assets predominantly appealing to visitors. LD and E T-N agreed that some unhappiness had been expressed with the survey, but that it was not possible to change it before its closing date of August 31.

AM presented some specific financial details re: the Selkirk assets, to illustrate that Selkirk's current subsidy, as a proportion of the Borders' population, is less than its 'share' of the overall subsidy, suggesting that, in purely financial terms, there is no imperative to reduce Selkirk's subsidy or close any assets. LD and E T-N explained that they did also have the relevant financial data.

All agreed that it was a complicated issue, and that more detailed discussions could be held at the Live Borders consultation event on June 19 at the Victoria Halls, 2-8pm.

10. Planning – none.

11. Open Forum:

MoP1 noted that the Argus Centre has largely been ignored in discussions regarding possible closure of assets and asked where the groups which currently use the Centre will be housed. LD asked for contact details of MoP1 and will liaise with them directly.

MoP2 also raised complaints about the aforementioned survey and asked if Live Borders have done enough to maintain the buildings they have managed since taking over. LD advised that, going forward, SBC will have more input into the management of Live Borders, via a Single Member Trust.

MoP3 asked if there is a new schedule in place for grass-cutting. The Selkirk cemetery used to be cut 4 times a year, and before Common Riding Week, not in the week of. In addition, the grass was left on the ground after the most recent cut, and areas are looking unsightly. GK felt that it would be most sensible for a co-ordinated schedule to be produced, which took into account all the local Common Ridings. AP noted the quality of grass cutting in Hawick. AM noted that CC would be travelling with the Selkirk cutting team in early July. LD to take forward.

Action: LD

12. SBC Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Cochrane submitted a written report – at bottom of Minutes.

ET-N: Due to attend a meeting with BCA (Borders Community Action) on 24th June.

LD: Provided an update regarding queries raised about X95 bus service:

- Pavement at garage on A7 is not wide enough for an official bus stop sign.
- Border Buses advised LD that they have not received any complaints about buses not stopping at various points throughout the town.
- Also advised that the bus can stop at undesignated points if the driver deems it safe for the passengers.
- Digital timetable to be installed at Montrose Place.
- Considering putting in place another stop between town centre and Bannerfield.
- Solar powered lighting is being considered for the bus stops at Lindean and Ashkirk.

Commercial forestry – action group currently being formed.

AM presented Tracker of Works / Actions.

CC update: Lights (War Memorial / Scott statue) on in day: reported again.

High St. 1-way system consultation: chasing BEAR Scotland again.

Back Row plaques: speaking again to Andrew Bunyan.

Bannerfield Bridge lights: reported again to street lighting team.

ET-N: CC is now dealing with 'access for cash'.

Still to provide a date for the anti-dog fouling campaign.

New ads will be in place on the bin next to bus stop in Market Place.

Suggested that a replacement tree be planted at the Fleshmarket steps.

13. Treasurer's Reports:

Community Council

£1,016.81 in account

Reception for SBs - £405 catering.

Website domain name - £88

Upcoming 2 years auditor's fees - £85

Exploreselkirk website - £55 + vat

SHMG

£14,898.97 in account

Campbell's hours and expenses.

New strimmer bought - £450
Upcoming 2 years auditor's fees - £85

Blooming Selkirk

£1,464.10 in account
Repairs to bowser - £137
Border Aggregates toll planters - £418
Upcoming 2 years auditor's fees - £85

Brighter Selkirk

£2,684.81 in account
No further donations from casting assoc's for planters (£250 last month – Merchants, Colonials & Trust) £200 for Vic Hall railings.
Further £100 sponsors for railing baskets, awaiting £50 from Flodden 500 – down on last year.
Hanging baskets appeal?
Cable ties and extra plants - £66.50
Upcoming 2 years auditor's fees - £85
Hanging baskets, compost & plants from Philiphaugh

14. Reports from Sub-Groups:

SHMG: Next meeting will be held in July; storage shed needs repaired, Haggis Hunt will return next year. Buxton Bridge will be repaired with costs being met by a contribution from CGF, and SBC paths budget. Buxton Road is in need of repair – report will be made to CGFWG.

BrighterSelkirk/Blooming Selkirk: Toll planters planted, hanging baskets and Victoria Halls baskets in position. CC advised that a meeting is required to discuss this year's Christmas lights.

CGFWG: Finances not as healthy as previous years but will be back in the black by 2027.

Toll banking – needs more colour, awaiting report back on 'creative planting' from SBC, drain also needs looked at.

PR Committee: new Newsletter to be created from this week.

Victoria Park Action Group: no report.

15. 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 Councilors.

Selkirk & The Valleys: launch event on Thursday 19 June at Victoria Halls, 2-8pm. All welcome. Live Borders will be using the space as well for in-person consultation on the Live Borders proposed Sport & Culture review.

A7 Action Group: Next meeting: Thursday 26th June at 7pm in the Hawick Town Hall Committee Room.

COPS: To apply for Greener Gateway Award in the same categories as last time.

Selkirk Regeneration: no report. AM has now contacted another possible contractor for replacing render on No. 1 Tower Street. **Action: AM**

16. AOCB:

AM – requested approval to frame the 50th Anniversary Community Council certificate. AP to check if he still has frames which would match those used in the Cruickshank Room.

Action: AP

AM – Chair has had a communication from Dr. Margaret Maitland of National Museums Scotland, wishing to contact the family of the late Caroline Cruickshank regarding some historical artefacts. AP will pass on contact details. **Action: AP**

DP – noted the amount of litter at Lindean Loch. **Action: ETN**

SB – raised concerns about commercial forestry which was already discussed by LD.

GK – 2035 will commemorate 500 years since the charter of Selkirk was granted. Suggested CC start thinking of ideas to celebrate this.

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

Meeting was closed at 20:30pm.

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 14th July 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7:00pm.