



# 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 March 2025.

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

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

- 2. Chair's Introduction:**

AM congratulated the newly appointed Merchant Company Standard Bearer, Rob Gray, and wished him well in his duties.

AM was in Perth on March 8<sup>th</sup> and witnessed the performance of the Selkirk Silver Band in the Scottish Brass Band regional heats. Sadly, the Band didn't win their heat but performed extremely well and retained their place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Section.

AM mentioned the visitors coming to the town in the Spring and Summer: in April, the East Bavarian Highlanders; in May the Plattling Realschule; in June, the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club, plus a cohort of touring cyclists; in August, Peter Lochmarr's Plattling group; and in September, Heidi's Dance Troupe.

- 3. Apologies:** Cllr Leagh Douglas, and Judith Thompson.
- 4. Approval of the minutes:** Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by GK.
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:**

AM corrected his previous thoughts re: Community Council elections: a by-election would be called if membership fell below 50%, but the desire for more Selkirk members is better dealt with by co-opting new members.

Anti-dog fouling measures have now been purchased, including biodegradable bags, pickers, and marker paint. ET-N has a new initiative, entitled 'Leave Paw Prints Only', to be launched at the next Farmers' Market, 5<sup>th</sup> April, with a possible Litter Pick on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Notes have been received from the SBC Litter Workshop.

- 6. Community Police Report:** no report received but will be posted online when received.
- 7. Dandie Dinmont Dogs Anniversary celebration**

Request received from the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club. (There are a further 2 Dinmont clubs – the Southern and the Caledonian), to support events in the first week of June, including a 'Derby' at Bowhill on June 6<sup>th</sup>, The Haining and The Fleece on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and at Abbotsford on June 8<sup>th</sup>. There may also be a launch of Dandie Dinmont Gin by Selkirk

Distillers on the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Requests:

1. Declare the Dandie Dinmont the Official Breed or Official Mascot of Selkirk – not agreed.
2. “Dandie Dinmont Day” on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 – it was suggested that they have a stall at the Farmers’ Market rather than an official day.
3. Adopt the breed outline as a logo – not agreed.
4. Place information about the breed on the council’s website and tourist brochures – website info can be updated but the new ‘Welcome To Selkirk’ brochure won’t happen until 2026.
5. Signs declaring Selkirk “Home of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier” at several entry points to the town – not agreed.
6. Permit the club to make signage available to town merchants for shop windows congratulating the DDTC on its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – would need to see sign first but the onus is on the proposer to contact local businesses.

#### **8. VE Day commemoration events**

AM, David Deacon and James Maybury have discussed the idea of events on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>, May, VE Day. British Legion to host commemorative event at the War Memorial with a beacon supplied by James. Following that, possibly 5-6pm, a small ‘tea and tart’ celebratory event in marquees outside the Cross Keys space, supported by Selkirk Rotary and Scott’s Selkirk.

#### **9. Planning** – no applications received.

IK noted that work has begun on what will be the new Co-op store. Although this is good news, IK stated that we should still be aware of the concerns that were raised by the CC when planning was first proposed, such as narrow pedestrian access around the building; fewer car park spaces; the pressure delivery lorries will place on health centre exit and Chapel Street.

Two ATM’s were on the initial Co-op site plan but unsure if this is still the case. CC has been in touch with Link and local businesses re: more ATM’s. There have been positive discussions and CC hopes to be able to provide an update soon. CC also advised that the Co-op is not responsible for the ATM and, therefore, staff should not be harassed if there is no cash.

Disrepair of the current Co-op building will be raised at the next Selkirk & the Valleys meeting.

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

#### **11. Open Forum:**

MoP1 – wall at Etrick Terrace is in need of repairs. CC advised that they are still trying to establish ownership of the wall. Also noted that the bushes along the pathway from Viewfield Park to the Toll need cutting back. CC advised that one area belongs to SBHA but the rest belong to private tenants. CC also advised that it may be too late to do anything as nesting season has started.

MoP2 – asked if the BT box at the Municipal building is being removed. **Action: AM**

MoP3 – raised concerns on behalf of the Bield residents re: the crumbling stonework at the Municipal building. AM advised that a report is due from Live Borders which will detail the buildings SBC intends to keep. CC noted that someone had shown an interest in taking over the building but nothing has been mentioned since. CC will raise at the meeting on Thursday. **Action: CC**

## 12. SBC Councillor's Report:

**CC:** A Community Planning Partnership meeting was held recently and a consultation will be held soon which will look at eradicating poverty.

The Duke of Buccleuch is stepping down as the Lord Lieutenant for Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale.

CC will be working with the waste disposal team in Hawick on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March to find out what happens on their shift.

Linglie Farm – 5 tenants have now been short-listed.

**ET-N** - Leave Pawprints Only initiative will be launched at the next Farmers' Market. The scheme is being piloted in Selkirk and, if successful, will be rolled out across the Borders. Halliwell's Close and Doctor's Close have already been identified as 'hotspots' for dog fouling. AM asked if a bottle filled with dog bags could be placed at the gateway into the Haining.

Riverside Notice Board – ET-N to follow up. **Action: ET-N**

## 13. Treasurer's Report:

### SHMG

£4,450 in account.

SBC purchase order issued £549 Local Community Paths Maintenance Grant – actual payment usually follows about a month later.

### Community Council

£2,080 in account.

Expenditure on dog-fouling initiative: £165 for equipment. Signs for High School playing field: £475.

### Blooming Selkirk

£2,020 in account

Expenditure on COPS - £816 - trees for new orchard on The Glebe. Grant from Borders Forest Trust has been awarded and will be paid after the work done and paperwork completed.

### Brighter Selkirk

£2,190 in account – no activity.

## 14. Reports from Sub-Groups:

**SHMG:** Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025. IK noted that there has been some minor vandalism at the shelter. There is more erosion and some potholes along the Drove

Road. With regard to a deceased deer being found on the Hill, IK asked who has responsibility for the removal of the animal. ET-N advised that if a deer is on the road/roadside, this would be the responsibility of the Council. If the deer is on private property, this would be the responsibility of the owner/tenant. In the instance of finding one on the Hill, however, ET-N thinks that SBC would be able to provide assistance.

**Brighter Selkirk/Blooming Selkirk:**

Peebles keen to liaise on a Borders-wide plan for Christmas lights. CC to respond to their email. **Action: CC**

**Common Good Fund Working Group:** AM asked if he could publish minutes which are publicly available on the CC website. **Action: ETN**

**PR Committee:**

Newsletter published February 18<sup>th</sup> to good response. 300 copies printed / 600+ visitors on the website.

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

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

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

**Plattling Twinning Group:**

April: East Bavarian Highlanders; May: Realschule; August: Peter Lochmarr's group; Sept: Heidi's Dance Group. It was proposed that the CC hold a reception on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April for the East Bavarian Highlanders. All in agreement. AM will report back with costings for the event. **Action: AM/John Nichol**

**Selkirk & The Valleys:** New meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April in Cruickshank Room at 6pm – all welcome. The consultants will present the first draft plan for comment.

It was recently stated in a full Scottish Borders Council Meeting that the South of Scotland Destination Alliance and a staff member have been integral to the Selkirk & The Valleys Plan. For the avoidance of doubt, this is not the case – SSSDA have had no involvement.

Selkirk & The Valleys Co-Chairs are Viv Ross and Councillor Caroline Cochrane, and co-ordinator is Andy Murray. Subgroup heads are Joyce Wright, Ian King, Viv Ross, Fiona McDonald-Colton and Niall Armstrong. **Action: AM/CC**

**SBCCN/Eildon Area Partnership:** no report. Online meeting 13 March, 6pm.

**A7 Action Group:** Next meeting 27 March in Hawick.

**COPS:** Planting of trees at the Glebe is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March (start time of 10:45). Opening of the orchard is planned for the summer – date TBC. Weeding completed at the Cross Keys space but it needs cleaning with a pressure washer. CC will ask for this to be done before Easter. **Action: CC**

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

**16. AOCB:**

AP – SBC have launched a survey re: experiences of culture within the Borders. Closing date is 26<sup>th</sup> March. AP to forward details. **Action: AP**

ESS – Placing of the new pole (advising of 50mph restrictions) at the entrance to the Waterwheel café could cause an issue with visibility, and asked if this could be looked at. CC noted that this will have been checked before being put in place.

SB – Concerned about the high level of littering throughout the town.

GK – Victoria Park signage. CC advised that banners will be going up as a temporary measure until the new signage is in place. A QR code will be on the sign at the entrance to the Park.

IK – CC networking. CC advised that a new working group is being formed and it will be locality based rather than Borders-wide.

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

Meeting was closed at 8:38pm.

Next meeting will be held **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7.00pm.