



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 8th September 2025.

Present: Community Councillors: Chair Andy Murray, Ed Strang Steel, Alistair Pattullo, Grant Kinghorn, Judith Thompson, Sue Bremner, Lucy Playfair and Kirsty Lovatt.
David Playfair attended by video link.
SBC Councillors: Leagh Douglas, Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Caroline Cochrane.

Also present: 3 members of the public

1. Chair's Introduction:

The Chair hoped that everyone had had a peaceful and restful holiday period. AM Noted the work over the previous couple of months undertaken by the town's ambassadors, in the persons of the Honorary Provost and the Standard Bearer, to represent the town in a ceremonial capacity in other Borders localities.

AM mentioned the many events over the summer, including two Live Borders consultation events, a visit from Plattling Councillors, the Haining's first wedding in its restored state, the new Post Office counter at NISA, the Common Riding Charity ride on September 6th, a litter pick jointly with the Rotary Club on August 13th, and the launch of a new folk club at the County on September 5th.

In the future there will be more events at the Victoria Halls, inc. the Musical Theatre Company quiz on Sept 13th, and the Silver Band Concert on the 20th, the same day as Flag Applicants and Attendants will undertake a walk and run from Flodden to Selkirk; AM wished them good luck.

For the next year, AM expressed a wish that everyone present contributed to a raising of the spirits of townsfolk. There has been a recent feeling that Selkirk needs a greater presence in the world, and maybe that can be achieved through more publicity of all the good things that are happening. Hopefully as we work towards the 2027 Walking Festival with initiatives outlined in the Local Place Plan, new Christmas lights, a taller Christmas tree, the Haggis Hunt and We Will Rock You in February, plus sporting events, a new edition of Welcome To Selkirk in the New Year, and the restoration of our statues, we can give people a better feeling. Plus there are Holyrood elections in 2026, and there's nothing like politicians wanting your vote for generating promises for a brighter future.

Finally, AM mentioned attendance and hoped that everyone would make the most strenuous efforts to attend at least 10 out of the next 11 meetings.

2. Apologies / Declarations of interest:

Apologies: Ian King

Declarations of interest: Grant Kinghorn re: Common Riding medal (AOB)

3. Approval of the minutes: Minutes were approved by ESS and seconded by JT.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of 14th July 2025 and not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

5. Community Police Report: August report received, and posted online.

6. Planning – report from Ian King:

Planning Application 25/00966/FUL:Erection of 49 dwellinghouses and associated works on Land East Of Philipburn House Hotel, Selkirk.

CC had discussed this previously and found the application to be acceptable although not particularly exciting. IK has passed on the CC's views to SBC accordingly.

- No objections in principle.
- We regret the loss of open space at this location as the local community had hoped it would remain as a landscaped approach into Selkirk
- As already commented, the Community Council firmly believes that brownfield sites should be redeveloped as a priority before greenfield. There is a strong local view that neglected empty buildings and underused land are a blight to the town and damaging to the local economy.

Both proposals for renovating High Street statues approved (Sir Walter Scott and Mungo Park). Planning approval does not guarantee any funds for renovation, however. A member of the public expressed concern that Selkirk CC had not responded to a recent Planning Application request for comment re: a downpipe in Back Row. 'Garish' use of colours by new owner of former Red Cross shop in High Street noted. AM had had a dialogue with the owner in August to express concern on behalf of residents.

7. Reporting Cleaning, Roadworks, etc.

AM reminded everyone that there is a specific page on the SBC website to report many itmes, under headings for Emergencies, safety and crime; Environmental problems; Roads, travel and parking, as well as others at: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/report> This includes dog fouling, flytipping, graffiti, litter, public toilets, street cleaning, abandoned vehicles, potholes, dead animals, and winter road and pavement problems. AM said a posting on social media or an email to an SBC Councillor is satisfying, but it is not the same as making sure the Council has a record of the incident, which can then be used to allocate resources or review the service. AM urged all attendees to start using the reporting system as much as needed. The link will be added to the CC website.

Action: AM

Re: street cleaning in Selkirk, AM asked the SBC Councillors whether there was a Fast Track system to alert the Selkirk cleaners (the Brown Brothers, Mon-Fri, and Ryan, Sun morning) to specific targets. CC will forward details of a contact at SBC to AM.

Action: CC

8. Open Forum:

AM reminded Council members and public attendees that the Open Forum involves one specific question via the Chair and one or more Councillors will reply. Two SBC Councillors are available every month for one to one discussions at the Farmers' Market, and all three via email at any time.

MoP1 raised issue of the Red Cross shop frontage. Already discussed previously and CC will take forward. **Action: CC**

MoP2 advised that a notice placed in the Southern Reporter regarding traffic measures at Yarrow Terrace states that more information can be found at the SBC contact centre in Selkirk which has been closed for more than 5 years. Concerned not only that this might invalidate the legality of the notice, but also raises questions about whether or not SBC are aware that it is closed. CC will report this to Jenni Craig. **Action: CC**

9. SBC Councillors' Reports:

ETN – Asked if the CC would be willing to hold a meeting at Philiphaugh. All in agreement – November and April meetings will be moved to Bannerfield.

Deadline for the Bannerfield survey has been extended until 21st September 2025. ETN is also looking for any old photos of Bannerfield members of the public may have.

LD – Funds from the Small Schemes initiative are being used to improve wheelchair access from Bannerfield to the town centre.

Roadworks at Bleachfield have now been cleared but there are lessons to be learned.

Knowepark PS school staff have been asked to use the car park.

Consultation for Center Parcs has been extended by 4 weeks.

Bus stop at the petrol station – discussions ongoing.

CC – Petition for one-way system at Yarrow Terrace closes 19th September 2025.

Complaint received about noise caused by people using glass recycling banks at Scotts car park. The bins cannot be moved back to new Co-op site as this will limit parking spaces.

Decriminalisation of parking – CC still involved in discussions. LD also advised that there is a Parking Working Group in place. LD noted that, based on results from Councils in other areas similar to the Borders, decriminalisation comes with significant costs.

Vandalism at Cross Keys space – requested that the benches be put back in place, damage to noticeboard has also been reported. Instances of vandalism can be reported to:

selkirkshireCPT@scotlandpolice.uk

Can also report via the "contact us" section on Police Scotland website.

GoFund Me in place for Xmas lights/Brighter Selkirk – target £900.

Received £130 of orders so far for Xmas cards.
Calendar – sponsored by Philiphaugh Estate.

10. Treasurer's Reports:

Community Council

SBC support grant in
£2,397.92 in account

19th June event:

- received payment £272.50 Ironside Farrar consultants
- waiting for payment £272.50 from SBC
- invoice from Richardson printer for leaflets £115 paid
- invoices from Scouts and SMTC (£100 each) for delivery to be paid when money in
- invoice from Live Borders for hire of hall (£230) to be paid when money in.

Blooming Selkirk

£1,367.71 in account.

SHMG

£12,554.18 in account.

Brighter Selkirk

£2,826.39 in account

ESS to send revised invoice for summer planting

£60 cash pre-orders for Christmas cards – JT will pay in.

11. Reports from Sub-Groups:

SHMG: Report from Aug conversation / AGM.

Al Pattullo is the new Chair.

Linking in with Bright Green Nature.

Will apply for funding for a tree survey.

Haggis hunt returns January 2026.

BrighterSelkirk/Blooming Selkirk: 2 meetings so far to discuss Christmas lights.

Hanging baskets and Xmas lights will be taken down Sunday 14th September – meeting at 10am in the Market Place. All volunteers welcome.

Christmas event to be on Sat 6 Dec, from 10am-3pm.

Christmas tree – CC has ordered an extra tall tree - 25 feet. Extra cost to be split 50/50 between BS and the Community Council.

Action AM

CGFWG – Reprt from Ian King:

Meeting on 28 August: Items included:

- The bridge at Buxton - repairs will commence on 15 September and continue for c. 4 weeks
- Hill boundaries - the misinformation from SBC has not yet been resolved
- Drove Road - SBC engineers have declined to be involved with this unadopted access which lies within the Common Good. Therefore, ongoing upkeep, and

future repairs are the responsibility of those residents who take access from it. This situation is now compounded by SBC Planning granting further approval for a residential cabin down near the bridge - a consent endorsed by the CC against my recommendation.

Contribution to Sir Walter Scott's Statue: application has been made and will be considered in November.

New tenant in place this month at Linglie Farm.

Site visit has been carried out at Smedheugh Farm.

PR Committee: new meeting to be held re: next Newsletter, to be published in October.

Victoria Park Action Group: no report.

12. Reports from other community organisations and outside bodies:

Selkirk Response/Resilience Team: no report.

Plattling Twinning Group:

Last visit was in August from the Plattling Town Councillors, who were taken on various trips and entertained with dinners and a musical evening.

The next visit is this week: the Bavarian dancers will be performing at the Parish Church Hall on Friday 12th Sept. There will be a musical evening for them as well on Sunday 14th at the Glen Hotel.

A7 Action Group:

BEAR Scotland have announced two new pedestrian crossings on the A7 – beside the Fleece, and in Tower Street.

Action: IK

COPS: Waiting to hear back re Greener Gateway awards. Carried out some works in the Cross Keys space.

Selkirk Regeneration:

AM has contacted various grant funders separately re: restoring High Street statues (Sir Walter Scott & Mungo Park). The original application to the SBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund was unsuccessful.

The Selkirk & The Valleys Local Place Plan has been adopted by Scottish Borders Council. The aims of the Selkirk & the Valleys Local Place Plan are not confined to Selkirk Regeneration, in that any group or person can apply for funding to work on any project, as long as it adheres to the aims and guidance of the Plan. However, funding is more usually given to organisations, so it is likely that SR will be at least tangentially involved in action on the Plan's objectives.

AM has chased up contractor for replacing render on No. 1 Tower Street for the third time, who has not called back.

Action: AM

AOCB:

AM - mentioned David Deacon's formal request to approve the 2025 knitted poppies

displays and the 2025 Church Service and march on Remembrance Sunday. All agreed.

Selkirk Common Riding Executive have requested permission to use the town Arms on a medal they are proposing to sell to the public. Information about quantities for manufacture, costs or sale price, was not available. Request was to sell the medals in perpetuity. Profits are intended for the Common Riding Executive, to support Common Riding events.

All agreed a 5-year period of approval, with a review in June 2027, subject to detail being received about sale price and related costs.

ESS – Rowlands AGM will be held Tuesday 9th September at 6pm. Ettrick & Yarrow show this coming weekend. Saturday will be 380th anniversary of the battle of Philiphaugh and, to commemorate this, there will be the launch of a limited edition bottle of Bannerfield rum.

SB – lights on Bannerfield Bridge still need repaired. **Action: CC**

GK - GK asked for update on the Yarrow Road regards the Flood Prevention and the water damage to the Ex-Standard Bearers Roll of Honour Board in the Town Hall/Scott's Courtroom. CC and ETN to follow up respectively. **Action: CC, ETN**

GK also asked when there will be an update re the Live Borders consultation. CC advised that an analysis has to be undertaken and brought before Council. It was hoped that an update would be available in October but it may be later.

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

Meeting was closed at 8:33pm.

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th October 2025** in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7:00pm.