



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chairman
Vice-chairman
Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

Bob Kerr
Dr. Lindsay Neil
David Bethune
Tom Combe

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Minute: Meeting held in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk on Monday 9th March, 2009

- 1) **Present:** Community Councillors Bob Kerr (Chair), David Bethune (Secretary), Dr. Lindsay Neil (Vice-chair), Caroline Cruikshank, Jim Gibson, Ian King, John Munro, Norman Roxburgh and Murray Smail and Scottish Borders Councillor Vicky Davidson.

[also in attendance: PC Lesley Shiell (until end of item 6), Atholl Innes of the Border Telegraph and 4 members of the public]

- 2) **Apologies:** were received from Community Councillors John Howie, Alistair Pattullo and Scottish Borders Councillors Kenneth Gunn and Carolyn Riddell-Carre.
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February** were approved (proposed: L. Neil, seconded: I. King), subject to an amendment to item 9(b) to read “L. Neil reported on ongoing discussion between himself and SBC re the status of various Common Good fixed assets, and commented that there was a frustrating lack of willingness on the part of SBC *to clarify their understanding and agreement with fundamental aspects of Scots Law as it applies to Common Good assets.*”
- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda:** none
- 5) **Declarations of interest** – none
- 6) **Lothian and Borders Police**
PC Lesley Shiell reported that there had been 21 recorded crimes, and 14 crimes solved during February. These included vandalism, theft, drug offences, assault and possession of an offensive weapon. Two males were charged with car break-ins, and two with house break-ins. A charity box was stolen from Weir’s, Chemist, and enquiries are ongoing.

PC Shiell commented that the reference to a “designated site” for travellers in the January minutes was inaccurate, as the site at Tweedbank is not “designated”.

M. Smail raised the issue of Saturday night youth drinking in various town centre sites. PC Shiell confirmed that the police are aware, and continue to do what they can to catch and deter offenders. She also agreed to investigate whether an earlier scheme using scanners to identify where alcohol had been bought, could be reinstated.

In response to a question from C. Cruikshank, PC Shiell clarified that under-18s are not permitted to place a bet, or to enter a “bookie’s” unaccompanied.

PC Shiell indicated that the traffic division were aware of the reports of continued speeding in Hillside Terrace and The Loan.

7) Planning:

(a) Planning applications considered:

	application	applicant	action / comments
1.	09/00173/FUL: Kirkbank Cottage, 35 Forest Road: alterations and extensions, formation of vehicular access and garage, and associated ground works	Mr. Kevin Greenfield	no objections, provided the roads authority is satisfied that the proposals will not create access problems which impact on public safety
2.	09/00202/FUL: North Greenbank, 45 Ettrick Terrace: removal of chimney and alterations to roof	Mrs. M Hargreave	no objections, provided that the replacement slates are blended in with the existing roof finish
3.	09/00142/FUL: land NE of 7 Hallidays Park: erection of boundary fence (retrospective)	Tina Marsden	no objections

(b) Launch of Town Centre & Local High Street Learning Network: I. King and M. Smail reported on this conference, which was attended by M Smail and a representative from SRG; £60M government funding is to become available for town centre regeneration projects throughout Scotland over the next year, but the conditions have not yet been publicised – although it is understood that grant funding will be earmarked for Capital Projects, to be delivered during 2009-2010. V. Davidson indicated that SBC are expecting to be allocated a £1.2M share of this, to allocate to projects, which could include issues raised by the Community Council such as the Toll Banking, but no decisions can be made until the Government clarify the conditions. Meantime Councillors agreed that a bid should be made on behalf of Selkirk and to start preparations for this.

(c) Planning and Building Standards Forum, 25th March: I. King, M. Smail, J. Gibson and B. Kerr to attend.

(d) Other planning matters:

(i) Consultation from BEAR on A7 through Selkirk: I. King will submit finalised document incorporating responses from members;

(ii) Planning Applications: It was agreed that we should request copies of all planning applications relating to the Selkirk area;

(iii) Footway outside RBS: this planning application was continued for a month at the last planning meeting; I. King will enquire on progress;

(iv) Fleshmarket Steps: V. Davidson reported that work (by SBC DLO) on this 6 week project had started today.

OPEN FORUM (taken at 7.35pm, following item 7)

(a) G. Edgar reported that the post at the toll bridge had **still** not been repaired. B. Kerr reported that it is in SB Local's work plan.

(b) G. Edgar asked that the subsidence in the High Street outside the County Hotel (possibly caused by an underground well) be added to the BEAR consultation response.

(c) G. Edgar asked about the Toll Banking plan referred to in 7(b) above. B. Kerr replied that this had not been finalised.

(d) G. Edgar enquired if there was any response to his question at previous meeting re toilet attendants. A written response from C. Riddell-Carre indicated that 4 had been employed in Selkirk at this time last year; now there are 2 in post, and interviews for 2 more underway.

(e) A damaged fence on Charlie's Brae was reported; enquiries will be made into ownership.

(f) A. Innes suggested time limits be applied to agenda items. The chairman responded that it was important to give members of the public their opportunity to speak, but the time required for this was unpredictable.

(g) D. Heatlie enquired about the tenancy of Smedheugh farm. V. Davidson replied that it was currently under review.

8) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Gunn: (written report received in absentia)

(i) reported that he, along with Jason Hedley (SBC), will present plans for the Pringle Park to next month's meeting of the Community Council.

- (b) Councillor Riddell-Carre:** (written report received in absentia)
- (i) looks forward to meeting Jim Mather, Minister for Tourism, Enterprise and Sport when he visits Selkirk, probably on 18th May.
 - (ii) reported that work is being done on replacement steps in the Stey Brae, with possible further works on other steps in Forest Road;
 - (iii) reported that Transport Scotland has no objection to the proposed alterations to parking in Tower Street, so this will proceed;
 - (iv) reported that SBC has decided not to proceed with the one-way system in Curror Street;
 - (v) has asked BEAR (Scotland) to provide a sign indicating the town centre from the A699/A7 junction at Ladylands.

- (c) Councillor Davidson:**
- (i) reported that a list of “stakeholders” is being compiled for the meeting with Jim Mather (see 8(b)(i) above), which will include representatives of the Community Council;
 - (ii) reported that an anonymous donor has provided £200 for repairs and cleaning of the Craig Brown headstone in Brierylaw Cemetery;
 - (iii) reported that the Local Plan Amendment Report to Council has been delayed until June, awaiting the Structure Plan sign-off by the Government;
 - (iv) reported that a consultation is being carried out with a view to extending and developing the Selkirk Community Recycling Centre;
 - (v) reported on successful ‘rural-funding’ roadshows;
 - (vi) reported that discussions are ongoing with SHS staff about the school sports pitches; a proposal for a 3G pitch at Tweedbank would benefit rugby and football teams, but would not be of any use for hockey; B. Kerr agreed to raise the possibility of an all-weather pitch for Selkirk, with SBC’s Sports Development Unit;
 - (vii) C. Cruikshank questioned why there were no street name signs for Muthag Court and Old Waterworks;
 - (viii) C. Cruikshank asked when the footpath from the Priory to Yarrow Terrace would be re-opened; V. Davidson reported that this was in the hands of the SBC enforcement officer.
 - (ix) M. Smail reported a collapsed section of wall at the Yarrow Road / Lingle Road corner; V. Davidson will investigate.

9) Common Good Fund Operation

- (a) L. Neil was granted permission to make contact with other Community Councils, to discover their experience of negotiation with their local authority over ownership of Common Good assets.
- (b) L. Neil reported that the working group (as indicated in previous minutes, with the addition of C. Cruikshank) had yet to meet, and would welcome contributions from members of the public.

10) Textile Heritage Centre

L. Neil asked for an update on progress. V. Davidson reported that the Textile Tower House in Hawick was due to open in April, but there was no progress on the Selkirk project. She agreed to approach the current owners.

11) Correspondence

	Item	From	Action
(a)	SBCCN newsletter	SBC	noted
(b)	notification of temporary road closure (Forest Road, 9-12 March)	SBC	noted
(c)	user survey	SBC Technical Services Dept	passed to L. Neil
(d)	notice of ministerial launch – guide to mediation in the planning system (16 th March)	SBC	noted
(e)	letter re DPA registration	SBC	registration is underway, paid for by SBC
(f)	invitation to nominate member for SBC review of CC funding	SBC	B. Kerr will attend as ASCC observer; J. Howie nominated

(g)	invitation to suggest “small schemes” for SB Local	SBC	Members to respond to B. Kerr who will collate and forward suggestions
(h)	notification of meeting to discuss St. Joseph’s Primary School Travel Plan, 7 th May	St. Joseph’s PS	N. Roxburgh to attend
(i)	mobile phone coverage petition	Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council	all to consider possible ways to collect signatures
(j)	info on National Spring Clean (April 09)		B. Kerr to forward to Community Justice Scheme
(k)	notification of changes in the Scottish Planning System	Directorate for the Built Environment	noted

12) Reports from Sub-groups

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – I. King reported on progress with the rebuilding of Caulk’s Well; a time capsule will be included, and the surrounding boggy ground drained.
- (b) **Plattling Twinning Group** – L. Neil reported that the AGM is on Friday 20th March. It was agreed to write a letter to Burgomeister S. Scholz, extending good wishes for his speedy recovery from illness.

13) Reports from associated groups and working groups

- (a) **Evening Study groups** – no report

14) Reports from outside bodies

- (a) **Selkirk Regeneration Group** - It was reported that
 - (i) the Wind Farm Feasibility Study final report is not yet available;
 - (ii) the group are requesting an electric bus on loan for a trial period, while awaiting funding from the climate change fund;
 - (iii) Prof. Roaf of Heriot-Watt University (and her students) visited Selkirk High School on Fri 13th to investigate energy efficiency;
 - (iv) members were involved in a successful “big issues” day at Selkirk HS, focussing on climate change; D. Bethune suggested that SBC could consider a PV installation on the roof of the Victoria Halls. V. Davidson agreed to enquire.

15) Other business (none)

**Next scheduled meeting of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council:
Monday 13th April, 2009 at 7.00 p.m.** in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk.

Adoption of minutes:

Proposed: Seconded:

Signed: (chairman) Date: