

MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, Wednesday 20 August 2025, The Village Hall, Gattonside

Apologies:

Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC), Bruce Wilson (CC), Willie Kerr (CC), Victoria Antcliff (MCC Secretary)

Attendance:

Mike Sherlock (CC Chair)
Alasdair Wright
Ben Douglas (CC)
Jane Bell (CC)
Simon Harris (CC)
Lorna Paterson (CC)
Martin Baird (CC)
Dougal Stewart (CC)
Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)
Cllr David Parker (SBC)
Community Police representative

Helen Johnson
David Laingworth
David Peters
Mark Latto (Melrose Caravan Park)
Catherine Bauer (Traders)
Mark Bauer (Traders)
Ian Miller
Hamish Polson
John Holmes
Evelyn Oliver
Brian Waugh
Christine Waugh
Kat Slater
Isabel Hutchison
Stan Fairgreave

1. Welcome, Apologies, Attendance, Declaration of interests

Mike Sherlock opened the meeting, acknowledged apologies, and confirmed no interests were declared.

2. Police Reports – July 2025

- No major incidents reported; however, neighbouring villages have experienced an increase in home burglaries.
- Traffic on Huntly Road and the Main Road will continue to be monitored; site visits did not reveal significant issues.
- Police Scotland is responsible for enforcing parking regulations, while SBC handles line marking duties.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, matters arising & Action Points

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Matters arising and action points were reviewed, with updates provided and noted.

4. Gattonside village concerns – traffic, in particular recent incident on road approaching Gattonside (Cllr Linehan)

- The community police officer stated that the driver of the vehicle that rolled into the field was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, nor was the driver operating the vehicle without due care. It is likely that the vehicle moved to the verge to avoid an oncoming vehicle and subsequently rolled. Responsibility for road closure and any repairs belongs to SBC.

- Members of the community raised issues about increased traffic and speeding in Gattonside, especially from HGVs, and noted inconsistent performance of digital speed signs.
- Cllr Parker said restricting use of the B road was impossible.

AP85: Cllr Parker will circulate road telemetry data by time and day for Gattonside, Dingleton Rd and Melrose bypass data (due to traffic speed concerns)

- There have been repeated issues with oversized vehicles on the Loan, causing frequent damage to one house. On one occasion, a tractor had to reverse to Gattonside Heights, resulting in an oil spill along much of the road.

AP86: Cllr Parker will look into adding pinch points to the north and south of the Loan.

5. Planning applications -

- *Sheepfold Energy Storage Project – (Proposal of Application Notice)*

Cllr Parker confirmed this is a section 56 application. If Melrose community wants notification, we should contact them. A presentation to the Lauder community is planned; date and time to be confirmed.

- *19 Buccleuch Street*

While there was general support for the proposal, concerns remained regarding the building's height even with a slight reduction in the apex (600mm).

Feedback indicated that the development may be too large for the available footprint.

There are no parking facilities proposed on an already congested street.

Potential impacts on privacy and sunlight to immediate neighbours were noted.

- *St Helens – Ground Mounted Solar Panels*

No issue and supported

6. Huntly Avenue bin collection

The action was deferred due to Cllr Linehan's absence. However, Alisdair Wright reported that bin collections were ongoing, and a site survey may have been conducted. Cllr Parker noted that this issue could potentially impact several other streets within the Scottish Borders.

7. Buccleuch Street road closure – Traffic redirection and no-wait parking

It was noted that utilising St Mary's Road as a two-way re-route may not be feasible, particularly given the increased congestion anticipated during school pick-up and drop-off periods. Additional solutions are under consideration, including minimising the duration of road closures and commencing works after morning school drop-offs.

AP87: Cllr Parker to assess the possibility of making St Mary's Road one-way to ease congestion

8. Water drain fixture outside Station Hotel

Resolved, signage still to be removed.

9. Live Borders & SBC Sport, Leisure, Cultural Services & Facilities Review: Focus Group 6-7pm 27/08 Corn Exchange

- There has been significant discussion, particularly concerning the limited data available to support informed decision-making.
- Some people have observed that reducing the opening hours may have also contributed to the decline in usage.
- Cllr Parker noted that budgetary constraints, rising costs, and shifting trends in sporting interests have driven the current consultation.
- Cllr Parker further indicated that if SBL/Live Borders were to withdraw support from the Corn Exchange, management responsibility would revert to the Ormiston Trust trustees, making closure highly unlikely.
- The Live Borders Consultation will be held from 6pm to 7pm on Wednesday, 27 August at the Corn Exchange / Ormiston Institute, Melrose.

10. Christmas Tree

- Mike Sherlock stated that a larger Christmas tree was offered as a donation, with payment in lieu of MDCC. Delivery would be arranged, but the council would still be responsible for erecting the tree.

AP88: Cllr Parker to check that this would be supported by SBC

11. Facebook/ Media/ Communication

The Facebook admin passwords are available, and Lorna Patterson and Ben Douglas have agreed to administer the site located at:

https://www.facebook.com/MelroseCC?locale=en_GB

12. AOCB:

- *Drains* - There is an agreement to inspect drains quarterly as part of scheduled maintenance, focusing on those reported or considered at high risk of blockage. It was observed that some drains remain blocked despite the issues being communicated directly to the personnel performing the work. The Melrose in Bloom garage/store opposite the Melrose Primary School entrance is completely blocked, causing flooding on the road outside the school which needs addressing.

AP89: Cllr Parker noted that specific drains needing maintenance should be identified, and he would address the matter.

- *Security Cameras* – when will system be fully operational, also a request was made to remove a redundant security camera pole on St Marys Road

AP90: Cllr Parker to update when the new system will be fully operational and investigate the removal of the redundant security camera.

- *Resignations* –

Michael Sherlock announced that he intends to step down at the next meeting, as his family will be relocating outside of the catchment area in St Boswells—pending confirmation with Councillor Linehan.

Simon Harris stated his intention to resign with immediate effect.

13. Date, venue and time of next meeting

Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 7.30pm, The Village Hall, Newstead