



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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Vice-chairman
Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

Bob Kerr
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Minute: Meeting held in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk on Monday 8th December, 2008

- 1) **Present:** Community Councillors Bob Kerr (Chair), Dr. Lindsay Neil (Vice-chair), David Bethune (Secretary), Caroline Cruikshank, John Howie, Ian King, Alistair Pattullo, Norman Roxburgh and Murray Smail and Scottish Borders Councillor Kenneth Gunn.

The Secretary distributed ID cards to all Community Councillors.

[also in attendance: PC Lesley Shiell (until end of item 6), Graham Easton (representing Selkirk Dry Bar Association), Atholl Innes of the Border Telegraph and 4 members of the public]

- 2) **Apologies:** were received from Community Councillors Jenna Agate, Tom Combe (Treasurer) and Jim Gibson, and Scottish Borders Councillors Vicky Davidson and Carolyn Riddell-Carre, and Andrew Keddie (Tweeddale Press).
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November** were approved (proposed: J. Howie, seconded: L. Neil).
- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda** - none
- 5) **Declarations of interest** – none
- 6) **Lothians and Borders Police**
PC Lesley Shiell reported on 27 recorded crimes since the last meeting, of which 10 have been solved so far. These included cases of vandalism, assault, theft, drugs-related crime, and perversion of the course of justice.

In response to issues raised at the November meeting, PC Shiell reported that, on 16 occasions, additional foot patrols had been carried out, 6 of these resulting in youths being moved on. Since the beginning of 2008, 198 letters have been sent to parents of youths caught with alcohol, 10 of these in the Selkirk area. It was reported that Operation Floorsweep, which involves parent and youths being interviewed together by the police, was not operating in the Selkirk area, despite its reported success in other areas of Scotland. However, Operation Grenadine, targeting the illegal sale of alcohol to underage youths, was in operation in the area.

- 7) **Reports from Organisations working with young people in Selkirk**
- (a) Jan Gordon of Impact was not present
- (b) Graham Easton (Chair, Selkirk Dry Bar Association) described the background to the establishment of Rowland's, open since April 2007 every Monday and Friday evening from 7 – 10pm, as a drop-in centre. Average attendance has been c.30 youngsters on Monday evenings, and c. 50 on Friday. This is staffed by over 30 volunteer adults, supported by 2 part time staff (Avril Nairn and Jenni Saunders). The organisation is run by a management committee of 8 adults, advised by an active youth committee. With assistance from The Bridge, policies and procedures have been formalised, and a move towards Charitable Company status is underway. A 5-year plan has been established, which includes an intention to increase the number of openings per week, and involve rural youth. This will require additional volunteers, and sustainable funding.
- Members congratulated those involved and expressed appreciation of the effort made to make these facilities available.

8) Planning:

(a) Planning applications considered:

	application	applicant	action / comments
1.	08/01795/LBC – Municipal Buildings – erection of disabled access ramp	Scottish Borders Council	approved in principle, but with recommendations re using suitable natural materials
2.	08/01874/REM – land NE of 14 Craig Brown Avenue – erection of dwelling house	Harry Thomson	two similar applications have been refused for this site; this application is still considered to be out of scale and character, so recommend refusal
3.	08/01864/OUT - land South of Lindean Mill House – erection of dwelling house	Mr & Mrs Murray Scott	a further application for this site, again rejected as an isolated dwelling in the countryside, and too near the A7 trunk road

OPEN FORUM (taken at 7.35pm, following item (8)(a))

- (a) A. Skeldon, D. Firth, K. Russell and K. Laidlaw raised several concerns about, and objections to, the proposed 1-way system in Curror Street and Anderson Road: the need for 2-way access to the school gates for delivery lorries; the lack of a proposed site meeting with residents; access problems in winter, when Mavis Bank cannot be gritted; difficulty in going uphill along Mavis Bank and round the Anderson Road corner in icy conditions; need to extend parking restrictions around the Curror St / Mavis Bank / Anderson Road corners; difficulty of access for emergency vehicles when cars are parked on both sides of Curror Street; and the general feeling that this was an unnecessary and expensive solution to a small problem, involving a small number of cars at limited times of day. K. Gunn responded that the system had the support of the majority of residents, and was a short-term (18 month) experimental scheme. The Council agreed to raise the foregoing issues directly with SBC.
- (b) K. Russell reported that the white warning markings on the speed bumps are often obscured by parked cars, and needed to be extended.

8) Planning (continued):

(b) Other planning matters:

- i. **Linglie Road development site:** I. King reported meeting with J. Frater (SBC), who agreed with concerns re lighting and footpaths, but considered it unlikely that the 30mph limit would be granted. B. Kerr agreed to follow-up the proposal from K. Gunn that a properly designed bus stop be provided.
- ii. **1A Market Place:** I. King reported that the Council's view on like-for-like window replacements had been upheld by SBC (Planning & Building Standards Committee)
- iii. **Whitmuir:** this application has gone to appeal
- iv. **Fleshmarket Steps:** I. King and L. Neil met on site with S. McDermott (SBC), who reported a number of changes to the original plans, including shortening the central handrail, use of Caithness stone at lower steps, replacement of tar, replacement of roses with beech hedges, and the inclusion of two new wooden seats with litter bins, but no changes to proposed lighting or the position of the Plattling Plaque.
- v. **Local Plan Amendment briefing:** I. King had attended this briefing at SBC, and will report on its implications for Selkirk at the January meeting.

(c) Town Centre Viability Conference (19/11/08)

L. Neil attended this conference, and reported that it had emphasised the importance of local businesses to the local economy, and supported the need for a holistic approach to town centre planning. B. Kerr read from C. Riddell-Carre's written report which noted that this Scottish Government policy had developed from the work of SBC's Planning Department, and that now the policy applies to small towns, whereas previously it had only covered urban or "super-sparse" areas. The SBC group recommended the establishment of special public sector funding to support the development and regeneration of small towns.

9) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Riddell-Carre: (B. Kerr read from written report submitted in absentia)

- (i) explained in detail why the Scotbet sign was considered to be within permitted development rights by SBC's planning department, and her care in ensuring that reports that she provides to the Council are accurate;
- (ii) commented on the Town Centre Viability conference (see 8(c) above);

- (iii) reported that the replacement fencing along the riverside adjacent to the silver bridge should be completed by Christmas.

(b) Councillor Gunn:

- (i) reported on meetings with the rugby club regarding pitch drainage problems, and that this was caused by compaction of the top layer, apparently resulting from dog owners driving their vehicles on to the pitch; vehicles are to be banned from all pitches, and dog wardens will patrol the area at night;
- (ii) reported that the blue bedding boxes will remain permanently on the pavements, and will be restocked 3 times per year with bedding plants;
- (iii) has requested an anchor point for a Christmas tree in the Market Place for 2009;
- (iv) has suggested a lockable barrier to prevent cars and horses damaging the grass areas in the Pringle Park;
- (v) has instructed the dog wardens to patrol the cemetery, and reported a person exercising a horse within the cemetery to the police;
- (vi) reported that children’s play equipment was proposed for the Pringle Park and some other areas in the town;
- (vii) agreed to investigate the apparent removal of public lighting from the riverside path (near Signum), and to deal with dog fouling around Ettrick Riverside;
- (viii) agreed to investigate problems caused by cars driving on the Philiphaugh School pitch.

(c) Councillor Davidson: (no report - not present at meeting)

10) Common Good Fund Operation

L. Neil reported that he has requested (under FOI Act) further information on items in the SBC Common Good Fund Working Group report.

11) Correspondence

	Item	From	Action
(a)	proposed traffic regulation orders	SBC	discussed in Open Forum
(b)	consultation on supplementary planning guidelines on use of timber in sustainable construction	SBC	passed to I. King
(c)	notification of installation of new bus stops on A7 adjacent to Dunsdalehaugh	SBC	noted
(d)	consultation on Regulation of Bus Services Bill	Scottish Parliament	passed to J. Howie
(e)	SBCCN Newsletter	SBCCN	noted
(f)	Scottish Borders Elder Voice, Dec 08		noted

12) Reports from Sub-groups

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – report of latest meeting submitted.
- (b) **Plattling Twinning Group** – L. Neil reported that the accounts have been finalised, and that the stall at Scott’s Selkirk had generated useful income.
- (c) **Evening Study groups** – no report

13) Reports from outside bodies

- (a) **Provision for Play Areas** - J. Howie reported that £578 had been raised at recent coffee morning. J. Howie and I. King had drafted a response to the SBC draft planning guidelines, and this was approved. Jason Hedley (SMC) is to attend the January meeting of the group.
- (b) **Selkirk Regeneration Group** – all projects ongoing; nothing particular to report at this stage.

14) Other business

- (a) **Charlie the Cockerel** – L. Neil was given leave to explore further the possibility of erecting a ‘sculpture’ to the now world-famous cockerel – perhaps within the proposed revamped landscaping of the Toll.
- (b) **Allotments** – B. Kerr reported on ongoing negotiations with A. Beattie re possible allotments; names of interested gardeners are required, and a meeting is planned with J. Robertson (SBC) re possible funding.
- (c) **Community Council Website** – A. Pattullo reported that www.selkirkonline.org is being developed.

