



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 February, 2009

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

[also in attendance: Sgt. Kevin Storey (for 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 Tom Combe (Treasurer), Jim Gibson and Norman Roxburgh and Scottish Borders Councillor Vicky Davidson.
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January** were approved (proposed: J. Howie, seconded: Alistair Pattullo).
- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda:**
(a) J. Howie's draft response to the Consultation on Regulation of Bus Services Bill was approved.
(b) I. King reported that the vandalised trig point on The 3 Brethren had been repaired; thanks were expressed to those responsible for doing this [Open Forum, item(e)]

- 5) **Declarations of interest** – none

6) **Lothian and Borders Police**

Sgt. K. Storey reported that there had been 17 recorded crimes, and 10 crimes solved during January. A further incident occurred on 1st Feb, when 2 males were charged in connection with break-ins to several cars. Sgt. Storey thanked a member of the public whose vigilance and phone call to the police led to this arrest. Seven car accidents, one serious, were reported during the month.

Insp. Mike Wynne is currently seconded to CID duties in Edinburgh, and is temporarily replaced by Insp. J. Porter.

C. Riddell-Carre reported seeing 2 cyclists without any lighting on the golf course road. This is an ongoing problem, which the police deal with whenever they can.

Questions were raised about the safety of young people in Hillside Terrace, and the ongoing issue of speeding there, including times when the 20mph limit was in force. Sgt. Storey will raise this with appropriate colleagues. A railing was suggested – to 'protect' pedestrians; K. Gunn noted that SBC had done all that was within its powers to improve the situation, but that any further action was the responsibility of Transport Scotland. D. Heatlie pointed out that speeding was also an issue at the top of the Loan.

7) **Planning:**

- (a) (i) **Planning applications considered:** none (but noted that 4 applications within Selkirk Burgh are currently recorded on SBC's e.planning site)
(ii) **RBS application for disabled access ramp:** the Council agreed that any opportunity to improve disabled access in the town should be encouraged and urged SBC to engage in further dialogue with the developer, rather than seek outright refusal at the next planning committee meeting.

- (b) **Response to Local Plan Amendment:** report agreed at last meeting has been submitted, and is now in the public domain.
- (c) **Response to Strategic Transport Review:** V. Davidson's written report, see item 8(a) indicated that the Council could not respond to the RSTR objecting to the omission of Selkirk by-pass, except on environmental grounds. SBC is already preparing such a response. The Council agreed to compile and send its own response (due in by Fri 13th February).
- (d) **Other planning matters:**
 - (i) **Consultation from BEAR on A7 through Selkirk:** Council members involved with the A7 to consider and bring draft response to next Council meeting;
 - (ii) **Coach House Restaurant application:** this has been rejected following appeal; I. King expressed concern about the upkeep of wooded areas adjacent to Ettrick Terrace, and the possible need for tree preservation orders; G. Edgar agreed to supply names of landowners.

OPEN FORUM (taken at 7.25pm, following item 8)

- (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 reported that the hole in the road outside the bowling club has reappeared. B. Kerr will follow up.
- (c) G. Edgar reported the need for BEAR to clear blocked drains on the A7 regularly. B. Kerr will put this to BEAR. K. Gunn reported that Transport Scotland were aware of the problem drain adjacent to Baxters, which will require major repair.
- (d) In addition to her earlier comments on Hillside Terrace, J. Taylor requested action on the continuing derelict development site in Chapel Place on Health & Safety grounds. I. King confirmed that this site was included in the Council's recent response to SBC regarding the Local Plan Amendments.
- (e) D. Heatlie reported damage to the stonework at the foot of the Walter Scott monument, and ongoing problems with drainage, in the Market Place. B. Kerr agreed to follow up.
- (f) G. Edgar asked how many of the 14 toilet attendants were re-deployed and still in SBC employment. C. Riddell-Carre undertook to find out.
- (g) G. Edgar repeated his personal displeasure at the suggested "Charlie the Cockerel" sculpture, and asked the Council to withdraw its support. It was clarified that the Council had not given its support, but only gave permission for L. Neil to explore further. L. Neil reported that the cost of the originally envisaged sculpture was prohibitive, and that he was exploring cheaper alternatives. The Council will make a decision once full information is available.
- (h) J. Howie asked about "doggie bins" in the riverside area. The SBC Councillors responded that the overall bin system was currently being rationalised, and that new multi-purpose bins will be deployed in the new financial year.

8) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Riddell-Carre:

- (i) reported that the SBC budget will be set on Thursday, 12 February; this includes building of new schools, and £18m investment in roads, while freezing the Council Tax and leaving reserves untouched; proposed "efficiency savings" of £6.4m are intended to make Council services more efficient and more effective; D. Bethune questioned the use of the term "efficiency savings";
- (ii) reported on the significant improvements being made to the SBC Contact Centre in Selkirk, due for completion by the end of March; the Centre will remain open throughout, with signed entry from the rear of the building;
- (iii) reported that only 14 out of 50 planning appeals were upheld by the Reporter, suggesting that SBC's planning decision-making process is one of the most soundly-based in Scotland;
- (iv) reported that a repair order for 119-125 Forest Road is being held over to the Eildon Area committee.

(b) Councillor Davidson: (written report received in absentia)

- (i) reported on responding to the Strategic Transport Planning Review (see 7(c) above);
- (ii) reported that a plan is being developed for the High School pitches;
- (iii) reported on the ongoing renovations in the Victoria Halls (main ceiling to be painted in June);
- (iv) drew attention to the Selkirk Doors Open Day, Saturday 19th September.

(c) Councillor Gunn:

- (i) reported that the poor Christmas lighting and trees will be improved for 2009, including a proper Christmas tree in the Market Place;
- (ii) endorsed C. Riddell-Carre’s comments about the Contact Centre refurbishment, due largely to SBC architect J. Snodgrass’s excellent plans;
- (iii) will be putting several questions to BEAR at the forthcoming Eildon Area Committee;
- (iv) is meeting soon with members of the group of “young mums” to discuss proposals to improve the Pringle Park;
- (v) asked that horse owners who have been exercising their horses in the Pringle Park and Shawfield Cemetery find other places to do so;
- (vi) reported that SBC has agreed to fund Community Councils’ DPA registration fees. This was welcomed.

9) Common Good Fund Operation

- (a) A brief list of Common Good moveable assets has been received from SBC for comment; this seems incomplete and omits many known items; L. Neil, A. Pattullo and J. Munro agreed to compile a more comprehensive list (and to enlist further help as required).
- (b) 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 meet him to clarify and resolve differences of interpretation.

10) Community Council Website

A. Pattullo reported that the website (www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk) was taking shape, with over 2000 hits since January 1st. He requested members to provide more information, including dates, press releases and links. It was agreed to add the web address to Council stationery.

11) Correspondence

	Item	From	Action
(a)	temporary road closure orders (A708 near St. Mary’s Loch)	SBC	noted
(b)	notice of applications for premises licences	SBC	Secretary has already responded; further discussion on the issue of under-age access to alcohol will be discussed at next meeting
(c)	notification of safety training seminars	SBC	noted

12) Reports from Sub-groups

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – I. King reported on the meeting of 4th Feb: funding for the repair of Caulks Well has been secured and the contractor will proceed with the work when conditions are suitable; a revised draft Selkirk Hill visitor leaflet is under consideration.

13) Reports from associated groups and working groups

- (a) **Plattling Twinning Group** – L. Neil reported that the Awards for All grant has been signed off.
- (b) **Evening Study groups** – no report

14) Reports from outside bodies

- (a) **Selkirk Regeneration Group** - L. Neil reported that
 - (i) the Wind Farm Feasibility Study report is due imminently, and a public meeting will be held soon thereafter, to consider this;
 - (ii) Prof. Roaf of Heriot-Watt University (and her students) will visit Selkirk High School on Fri 13th to investigate energy efficiency;
 - (iii) a public presentation by several charities entitled “Hope for Planet Earth” will take place in SHS on 25th Feb at 7.30pm;
 - (iv) he is investigating
 - a possible electric bus service for the town, which would be funded by the Climate Challenge Fund (a demonstration vehicle will be in the Market Place on Thursday at 11am)

