



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

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Vice-chairman	Graham Easton	31, High Street, Selkirk TD7 4BZ	01750 722744
Minutes Secretary	Alisdair Lockhart	Braeside House, Selkirk, TD7 4LF	01750 22155
Treasurer	Tom Combe	68 Back Row, Selkirk, TD7 4AG	01750 720921

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Minutes of the 40th Annual general meeting of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk & District Community Council held on Monday, 20th June 2016 in the Victoria Halls, Selkirk, commencing at 18.30 hrs.

Present: Community Councillors Alistair Pattullo (Chairman), Graham Easton (Vice-Chairman), Alisdair Lockhart (Minutes Secretary), Tom Combe (Treasurer), Caroline Cruikshank, Kath Beaton, Kirsty Lovatt and Ian King.

SBC Councillors Michelle Ballantyne and Gordon Edgar.

3 Members of the public and 2 members of the local press.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and reminded them to abide by the Code of Practice of the Scottish Borders Council in the conduct of the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence** had been received from SBC Councillor Vicky Davidson.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Community Council, held on 10th November, 2015.

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by SBC Councillor Gordon Edgar and seconded by Councillor Tom Combe.

4. Chairman's report

Councillor Pattullo reminded all present that is his first report to the Council since his appointment to the post of Chair at our AGM last November.

In the last few months Members of this Council have been involved with and supported a number of positive and successful initiatives taking place in and around the town.

The Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme has seen a number of buildings in the town centre benefit from grant funding towards repairs and restoration. The scheme runs until 2018 and the Chairman urged anyone with property in the Selkirk Conservation Area to look closely at the scheme and not miss out on the benefits available.

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The Flood Protection Scheme proved its undoubted value this winter when, despite being only half finished, it was put to the test and successfully protected riverside properties from certain flood damage. There are neighbouring towns who are keen to replicate the protection offered by such a scheme and we are very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of it. The Chairman thanked Conor Price and Calum Scott for their regular attendances and the effort they put in to keeping us informed of the progress of the project and answering and attending to the concerns expressed by the public.

Members have been active in forming the Blooming Selkirk group and although it is early days yet volunteers have already been involved, in conjunction with SBC's Parks Department, in planting up the area in front of Walter Scott's statue and the window boxes at the War Memorial ahead of the Common Riding. A bit of work has also been carried out in front of the St Mary's church site with the planting of some clematis and a Virginia creeper but it may be next year before we really see the results of that attempt to screen the fencing in front of the war memorial.

The Christmas Illumination group has been incredibly active and the Chairman thanked Caroline Penman for her efforts in encouraging volunteers and fundraisers to get involved with the project to light up Selkirk at Christmas. Fundraising activities have included pop up shops and a duck race which is due to take place at the General's Bridge at 6.30 on Friday 24th. A number of donations have also been received which should take the amount raised to date to almost £1,500. A target has been set of £4,000 so there is still some way to go but if they carry on like this we'll all need to wear our sunglasses to walk around Selkirk next Christmas.

Scott's Selkirk and Selkirk Sessions joined forces again this year to create a successful weekend in October celebrating Selkirk's historic past and her present day musical talents attracting visitors to the town from far and wide. Visitors are also very much in evidence this summer from our twin town of Plattling with no less than 5 groups visiting the Royal Burgh over the summer.

The Community Council continues to be involved with the Chamber of Trade, the Common Good Fund Working Group and the A7 Action Group. We are also well represented on the Town Centre Street Scape stakeholders group which is looking closely at the options which will transform the Market Place to create a more pleasant area in the centre of the town. The latest initiative we have become involved with is the Destination Scottish Borders Group, a joint effort to make the most of tourist visitor opportunities in the Borders especially with the arrival and success of the Borders Railway; it is absolutely imperative that we provide the best visitor experience we can so that we might share in the economic benefits of tourism in the Borders.

Councillor Pattullo reminded all present that we are lucky to live in this very special part of Scotland, this comparatively tiny community supports so many events, community groups, activities and occasions it is difficult to know where to start when people say what is there to do in Selkirk? From the Common Riding to the Mountain Bike marathon; from our sports activities which include but are not limited to, rugby, hockey, cricket and archery to our theatrical and dramatic societies; to our fabulous Silver, Pipe and Flute bands as well as various youth groups and Rowlands, there is so much going on in this wee toon it is simply mind-blowing and this Community Council will continue to play its part in ensuring the continued success of all of the above in any way we can.

There are issues which are of great concern to the people of Selkirk but which might seem trivial to some although they are fundamental to our sense of wellbeing and happiness. The ongoing saga of the Glen Hotel wall, the simply awful state of the roads, the loss of traffic wardens leading to the parking chaos we've all seen since, the massive reduction in policing in the Borders which has led to the virtual loss of the police station in Selkirk and a notable decrease in policing in the town, littering, irresponsible dog owners, it's a depressingly familiar list but we will continue to press for improvements and remedies.

In closing the Chairman expressed his thanks to all of the members of the Community Council, we are few but we are very hard working on behalf of our community. It would be great to have a few more willing bodies on the Community Council and the Chairman is hopeful that he might be able to recruit some more members before the next elections so we can spread the load a bit and get a fresh outlook on the work of the Council. He expressed his thanks to the 3 Scottish Borders Councillors for their continued attendance at our meetings, these are hard times with severe restraints on the public purse

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but we will continue to work with our councillors to try to ensure that we get the best for Selkirk. In addition, the Chairman thanked the members of the press who regularly turn up at our meetings and shine the spotlight on our concerns. He was also grateful to the members of the public who regularly attend these meetings and bring to our attention issues of concern to the community and hope you will continue to do so.

All Members present thanked the Chairman for his comprehensive and detailed Report on the work of the Council since the previous Annual General Meeting.

5. Treasurer's report

Councillor Tom Combe, Honorary Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts for both the Community Council and the Evening Study Classes – copies appended to the Minutes.

It was noted that in the financial year 31st March 2015 to the 1st April 2016 income was £1,371.14 and expenditure was £1,491.77 showing a deficit of £120.63, which charged to reserves left a balance of £2,038.93.

The Final Accounts for the Evening Study Classes showed a closing balance of £425.98 and it was agreed that these funds should be allocated to a new account for Blooming Selkirk.

The Treasurer was thanked for his work for the Council over the previous year.

6. Appointment of Office-bearers

- (a) Chair – Councillor Alistair Pattullo
- (b) Vice-chair – Councillor Graham Easton
- (c) Hon. Treasurer – Councillor Tom Combe
- (d) Hon. Minutes Secretary – Councillor Alisdair Lockhart
- (e) Hon. Auditor – Vivien Ross

It was proposed that all office bearers should be re-elected *en masse* – proposed by Councillor Alisdair Lockhart and seconded by Councillor Kath Beaton – approved *nem con*.

7. Appointment to roles

- (a) Planning spokesperson – Councillor Ian King – proposed by Councillor Alisdair Lockhart and seconded by Councillor Tom Combe.

8. Appointments to sub-groups and outside bodies:

- (a) Selkirk Hill Management Group – Councillors Caroline Cruikshank, Gordon Edgar and Ian King.
- (b) Plattling Twinning Group – Councillors Graham Easton and Tom Combe.
- (c) Selkirk Sessions – Councillor Tom Combe.
- (d) Scott's Selkirk – Councillors Graham Easton and Tom Combe.
- (e) Chamber of Trade – Councillors Alistair Pattullo and Ian King.
- (e) Selkirk Common Good Fund Working Group – Councillor Tom Combe.
- (f) A7 Action Group – Councillors Ian King and Graham Easton

(g) SBHA – Councillor Kath Beaton for the AGM.

(h) Blooming Selkirk – Councillors Michelle Ballantyne, Graham Easton, Alistair Pattullo and Tom Combe.

(i) Christmas Illuminations – Councillors Alistair Pattullo and Tom Combe.

(j) any other relevant bodies:

(1) – Destination Scottish Borders – Councillor Ian King.

(2) – Eildon Council – Councillor Alistair Pattullo.

All the above approved *nem con*.

The meeting closed at 1910 hrs and the Chairman thanked all who attended for their participation.

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