



# 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 13th April, 2009

- 1) **Present:** Community Councillors David Bethune (Secretary), Tom Combe, Caroline Cruikshank, Jim Gibson, John Howie, Ian King, John Munro, Norman Roxburgh and Scottish Borders Councillor Kenneth Gunn.

[also in attendance: PC Lesley Shiell (until end of item 6), Atholl Innes of the Border Telegraph and 7 members of the public]

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-chairman, the Secretary opened the meeting, and proposed that former Chairman John Munro should chair the meeting. This was seconded by I. King, and met with unanimous approval. Councillor Munro therefore took the chair, and began by wishing the Chairman a speedy recovery.

- 2) **Apologies:** were received from Community Councillors Bob Kerr (Chair), Dr. Lindsay Neil (Vice-chair), Alistair Pattullo and Murray Smail.
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March** were approved (proposed: I. King, seconded: J. Munro), with the addition of Tom Combe to the list of those whose apologies had been received.
- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda:**  
N. Roxburgh reported that he had met with representatives of the High School Parents' Council to discuss the possibility of providing an all-weather pitch; a further meeting with SBC Cllr. Garvie on April 20<sup>th</sup> will bring forward proposals.
- 5) **Declarations of interest** – D. Bethune declared an interest in planning application 8(a)(iii) as the applicant.
- 6) **Lothian and Borders Police**  
PC Lesley Shiell reported that there had been 33 recorded crimes, and 24 crimes solved during March. These included, among others, a serious incident in the Sheriff Court, a male charged with thefts and house-breaking, and a breach of the Communications Act. PC Shiell agreed to check on how Selkirk compares with other Border towns with regard to recorded crime.  
  
PC Shiell, in reference to a question from M. Smail at the March meeting, reported that Operation Grenadine (using electronically marked bottles to identify the source of alcohol being consumed by under-age drinkers, and involving various agencies in follow-up) might be repeated in the near future.  
  
G. Edgar reported “parties” taking place at the shelter on Selkirk Hill on Friday and Saturday evenings, resulting in broken bottles and other litter being left. PC Shiell replied that the Police would keep an eye on this area.  
  
PC Shiell agreed to investigate “Community Speedwatch” and whether such an initiative might be appropriate for this area.
- 7) **Report from J. Hedley (SBC) on proposals for the Pringle Park** – postponed to next meeting.

## 8) Planning:

### (a) Planning applications considered:

	<b>application</b>	<b>applicant</b>	<b>action / comments</b>
1.	09/00246/LBC: 39 Market Place: erection of hanging sign	Gordon Newlands	no objections
2.	09/00325/LBC, 09/00326/FUL and 09/00327/ADV: 1 High Street: internal alterations and new illuminated signage / change of use from retail to form restaurant / new illuminated signage	Mr W Haegeland And Mr T Dalby	no objections, provided that illuminated signage is appropriately subdued
3.	09/00365/FUL and 09/00366/LBC: Selkirk Parish Church: installation of 42 photovoltaic modules on south-facing roof	Mr. D. Bethune	no objections

### (b) Other planning matters:

- (i) **New planning regulations and procedures:** I. King reported briefly on forthcoming changes to planning procedures, including
- (1) all local planning officers in SBC will be relocated to a central office;
  - (2) major applications with national significance will be dealt with directly by the Scottish Government;
  - (3) other major applications (e.g. new housing schemes) will be decided by SBC, but developers must engage in community consultation 3 months before submitting an application;
- These changes may require the present informal planning group to be formally constituted as a sub-committee. More details will follow in due course.
- (ii) **Disabled access to RB of S:** new proposals are being submitted by the Bank, for discussion with Transport Scotland and SBC, following I. King's intervention;
- (iii) **High Street Initiative:** I. King reported that 22 individuals had used the helpourhighstreet.com website to put forward Selkirk as a deserving recipient of a share of the £60M Government funding; SBC have agreed to consider how a share of this funding could be used to tackle some of the proposals on the "Selkirk issues" document.

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

- (a) D. Heatlie enquired whether the Fleshmarket Steps work was now complete; K. Gunn reported that the bitumen was to be replaced by "a sandstone type textured finish" during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, and offered his congratulations to the team of workmen under Alistair Douglas.
- (b) J. Howie asked about progress with the allotments; B. Kerr will be asked to report on this to the next meeting.
- (c) G. Edgar asked why the post at the Toll had still not been repaired.
- (d) J. Howie reported that some dog-walkers on the "black path" were simply dropping bags of dog excrement beside the path.
- (e) T. Combe and G. Edgar raised the ongoing issue of uneven drain covers on Etrick Terrace (and other streets). K. Gunn confirmed he has written to Scottish Water demanding action be taken for those covers under their responsibility.
- (f) J. Gibson reported that a hole in the road opposite the Police Station had been "repaired", but that the standard of work was extremely poor, and questioned whether the inspection regime was adequate. K. Gunn agreed to investigate.
- (g) A. Irvine asked what could be done about rubbish, including broken bottles, accumulating on the former St. Mary's West site. As this is private property there is little that can be done to resolve this visual eyesore, pending redevelopment, other than writing to the owners in the first instance.
- (h) A. Irvine reported that horses were being exercised along the riverside path, and in other areas including, the Pringle Park and Shawfield Cemetery, causing damage to the paths, and alarm to some other walkers. It appears that this is not illegal, depending upon footpath designation, but K. Gunn agreed to raise this matter with the footpaths officer at SBC, and to investigate the possibility of installing appropriate gates.

- (i) D. Heatlie reported that he had spoken to J. Hedley (SBC) about the state of the Toll Banking, and the landscaped area around the chestnut tree at Mungo Park Court.

**9) Reports from SBC Councillors:**

- (a) **Councillor Davidson:** (absent, no report)

- (b) **Councillor Gunn**

- (i) reported that he has been involved in attempting to get the Queen’s Head Inn on to the Listed Building register with Historic Scotland;
- (ii) reported that the Road Traffic Order has now been implemented;
- (iii) reported that traffic safety issues around Green Terrace / Milburn Place (where commercial vehicles are parked on both sides of the road and residents of Millburn Place cannot see out before they exit from that cul-de-sac) are being investigated.
- (iv) has been on site visits with roads engineers to see how, on a limited budget, the roads to the very top of the Ettrick Valley and from Ashkirk to Robertson, can be improved;
- (v) has obtained a written agreement from SBHA that the rails between that Chapel Street and Bemersyde Crescent will be painted before this year’s Common Riding;
- (vi) has continued dialogue with Transport Scotland into traffic problems and road conditions within Selkirk and reported that they are chasing up BEAR to try to get some of the never-ending problems sorted out . . . yet again;
- (vii) has become one of five SBC Councillors on the group looking at Community Council funding;
- (viii) reported that the figures quoted last week in the local press for Selkirk’s flood prevention scheme are for the initial work and the appointment of a manager to take the scheme through to the final stage. The full amount is in the region of £15M and the bulk of that will be spent on Philiphaugh Lang Burn although the Shawburn and the Rivers Ettrick and Yarrow will figure too.
- (ix) thanked B. Kerr for initiating the flooding self-help group;
- (x) agreed to consider parking restrictions in the vicinity of Selkirk Library.

- (c) **Councillor Riddell-Carre:** (absent, no report)

**10) Common Good Fund Operation – no report**

**11) Correspondence**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Action</b>
(a)	letter of thanks for retirement gift	Rob Thomson (ex-janitor, SHS)	noted
(b)	various leaflets	SBC Ranger service	noted
(c)	March Newsletter	SBCCN	distributed electronically
(d)	letter of thanks	Frau Gisela Scholz	noted
(e)	flood prevention news release	SBC	noted
(f)	notification of SBCCN AGM, 13 <sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, Council HQ	SBC	J. Howie willing to attend, if B. Kerr unable

**12) Reports from Sub-groups**

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – I. King reported on successful completion of the rebuilding of Caulk’s Well.
- (b) **Plattling Twinning Group** – J. Munro reported that a group of 20 from Plattling will be in Selkirk for 4 days at the end of April, hosted by the Fire Brigade and Pipe Band.

**13) Reports from associated groups and working groups**

- (a) **Evening Study groups** – T. Combe reported that the current 10 week courses had come to their end, but that upholstery, patchwork, yoga and German are continuing for a further 6 week block. Due to increasing rents for Lindean Hall, he is considering moving the art class to Selkirk High School.

**14) Reports from outside bodies**

- (a) **Selkirk Regeneration Group** - I. King reported that the SRG has now received and considered the Windfarm Feasibility Study Report, and this will be presented at a public meeting at 7pm on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Victoria Halls. The cost will be millions of pounds, but the financial benefits to Selkirk will be even

