



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chairman
Vice-chairman
Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

Gordon Edgar
Dr. Lindsay Neil
David Bethune
Tom Combe

4/10 Dunsdale Road, Selkirk, TD7 5EB 01750 720168
46 Hillside Terrace, Selkirk, TD7 4ND 01750 720841
5 Marion Crescent, Selkirk, TD7 4LY 01750 721703
68 Back Row, Selkirk, TD7 4AG 01750 720921

Minute: Meeting held in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk on Monday 12th April, 2010, at 7pm

- 1) **Present:** Community Councillors Gordon Edgar (chair), David Bethune (secretary), Tom Combe (treasurer), Caroline Cruikshank, Graham Easton, Jim Gibson, Wilma Gunn, Bob Kerr, Ian King, John Munro and Alistair Pattullo, and Scottish Borders Councillors Vicky Davidson, Kenneth Gunn and Carolyn Riddell-Carre.

[also in attendance: PC J. Watters (until end of item 6), one member of the Press and two members of the public]

Chairman Gordon Edgar reminded those present that all comments should be addressed through the chair, and indicated his intention to call a private meeting of members concerning a serious breach of the code of conduct.

- 2) **Apologies:** were received from Community Councillor Dr. Lindsay Neil (vice-chair) and PC Lesley Shiell.
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March** were approved (proposed: A. Pattullo, seconded: B. Kerr).
- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda** - none.
- 5) **Declarations of interest** – none.

6) **Lothians and Borders Police**

PC J. Watters reported on 21 crimes recorded, and 5 crimes solved, during March. The crimes recorded included 4 vandalism, 6 thefts (including a break-in at Riverside Nursing Home, for which no-one has yet been apprehended), 3 assaults, 1 drugs offence, 5 breaches of the peace, 1 case of drink driving, and 3 road traffic accidents.

PC Watters agreed to pass on to the road traffic unit a complaint that cars are often seen dangerously parked on the junction of Curror Street and Bleachfield Road. K. Gunn reported that double yellow lines will appear there soon.

7) **Planning:**

(a) **Planning applications considered:**

	application	applicant	action / comments
(i)	10/00286/ADV & 10/00287/LBC: Bank of Scotland, 6 Market Place, installation of new signage	Bank of Scotland	recommended approval
(ii)	10/00344/FUL: Garden ground of Shawburn, Bleachfield Road, erection of dwelling house	Mr & Mrs Grieve	recommended approval in principle, but expressing concern about lack of detail provided in application
(iii)	10/00366/LBC: Broomhill House, internal alterations	Mr & Mrs Howard Johnson	welcomed the proposal, and recommended approval
(iv)	10/00350/ADV: Belmont Garage, Dunsdale Haugh, new illuminated signage	KIA Motor Group	expressed concerns as before (re extent of visually distracting signage adjacent to a busy junction with the A7)

(v)	10/00377/FUL: 15 Forest Road, removal of 2 chimney stacks	Selkirk Silver Band	recommended approval, but with the retention of the decorative bases to the chimney stacks
(vi)	10/00450/FUL: Land East Of Philiphaugh Farm Cottages, change of use of waste land to form garden allotments, erection of shed and boundary fence	Mr John Howie	recommended approval, but with concerns about the legality of the barbed wire already installed on top of the perimeter fence

(b) Other planning matters:

- i. Fairfield Drive development site:** J. Gibson expressed concern about unauthorised activity and the general state of the undeveloped site at Fairfield Drive; G. Edgar agreed to contact the owner.
- ii. Whitmuir Leisure:** a meeting took place at 6.30pm in the Victoria Halls immediately before the Community Council meeting, at which architects Burnet Bell presented outline proposals for this site, and members of the public were able to express their views; it was agreed that the Council should write to the architects expressing support in principle for developments which improve facilities for tourism, but encouraging the developers to address seriously all the issues raised by the members of the public, and expressing disappointment that the lack of detail reduced the value of the consultation process.
- iii. Dangerous Walls:** J. Gibson expressed concern about the state of a number of retaining walls, including those at Anderson Road, Ettrick terrace opposite the War memorial, and on the “low road”, all in potentially dangerous condition, and encouraged the SBC Councillors to investigate these. G. Edgar has spoken to the owner regarding the wall at Dunsdale Road.

OPEN FORUM

(a) Dougie Purves raised several issues:

- a. the continuing lack of any action by the developer to re-instate the “Priory path” despite an enforcement order
- b. the lengthy delay in clearing snow and ice off the “silver bridge” during the snowy spells
- c. the lack of salt bins, particularly outside Riverside Nursing Home
- d. continued need for drain clearing on many of the roads within Selkirk
- e. the lack of a recent Selkirk Tourist brochure

The possibility of a new tourist brochure was discussed, but not resolved. A joint venture including the Community Council, Chamber of Trade and Tweed valley Tourist Organisation might be possible. Grant funding might be available, and advertising revenue could make it viable. In the meantime, more use should be made of both the Community Council and Selkirk On-line web sites. In addition, an on-line Selkirk Hill leaflet is in the final stages of production.

It was noted, with thanks, that the Community Service squad had reinstated the footbridge over Linglie Burn.

[A. Pattullo gave apologies and left the meeting at this point – 8pm]

9) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Riddell-Carre:

- (i)** drew attention to the new flood protection website;
- (ii)** suggested a Burgh clean-up day before the Common Riding;
- (iii)** referred to help available with Council Tax payment through the SBC contact centres;
- (iv)** encouraged contributions to the Alba Conservation Trust consultation on the future of The Haining;
- (v)** noted that the bust of Sir Walter Scott has now been returned from Selkirk Town Hall to Galashiels.

(b) Councillor Davidson:

- (i)** reported that work on the sheds in Halliwells Close is now underway, and that replacing a section of the cobbles with flagstones may begin soon (the Council disagreed with this proposal). I. King also reminded the meeting of the need for security lighting in the Close – to reduce potential vandalism etc;
- (ii)** reported that the state of electrical wiring in the Town Hall is unsatisfactory and being monitored monthly, but the required rewiring is not currently in SBC’s capital plan;
- (iii)** discussed ongoing action to address the blocked drain (sludge outfall) at the top of the Pringle Park;
- (iv)** reported that the Pant Well will be cleaned soon (removal of ‘vegetation’ and a gentle water wash);
- (v)** reported that the street name signs in Bannerfield are to be renewed;

(vi) discussed the need for a handrail on The Green. The Council requested provision before next winter.

(c) Councillor Gunn:

- (i) reported on a Flodden 500 proposal for a plaque and peace garden, possibly within the grounds of the Victoria halls; a plan will be brought forward to a future meeting;
- (ii) has asked for the Victoria Halls railings and fountain to be repainted;
- (iii) is awaiting a response on his proposal to remove tar from a section of Thornfield Road to inspect the state of the underlying concrete, with a view to a permanent solution rather than continual patching;
- (iv) reported on progress in reinstating the Fleshmarket Steps after Scottish Power's repair of an underground cable;
- (v) encouraged residents to be vigilant and to report any vandalism immediately to the Community Safety Wardens (0300 number) or police;
- (vi) reported that the designation of the Pringle Park as Common Good apparently prevents SBC from applying for £0.5M funding to develop the play park scheme which all 3 SBC Councillors have been pursuing in partnership with a group of young mothers;

K. Gunn will pursue the removal of the unsightly TV screen installed recently in the foyer of the Victoria Halls; this installation was made against the wishes of the Community Council, and is considered to be a complete waste of public money, which would have been better spent on extending and upgrading the loop systems within the building.

G. Edgar reported on the dangerous state of various steps in Selkirk: the Co-op steps, the lower part of the Forest Road steps and the Stey Brae, and encouraged the SBC Councillors to address the issue of public safety in relation to these.

10) Common Good Fund Operation – no report

11) Correspondence

	Item	From	Action
(a)	information about scheme for adopting decommissioned red telephone kiosks	BT	not relevant to Selkirk
(b)	request to give police forward notice of questions where possible	Inspector Mike Wynne	noted
(c)	new release encouraging voting at the General Election	SBC	circulated electronically
(d)	invitation to enter Floral gateway Competition 2010	SBC	noted – however considerable improvement to landscape/ environmental quality is required and a group of volunteers would be required to take this forward
(e)	letter re proposed reduction of opening hours at tax offices in Hawick and Galashiels	HMRC	noted
(f)	letter asking for feedback on consultation meeting	Abbotsford Trust	Secretary to respond and forward note of meeting

12) Reports from Sub-committees and associated groups

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – I. King reported on current developments: recovering from severe winter weather; development of a funding and business plan; considering various new projects, including disabled access and a tourist leaflet.
- (b) **Plattling Twinning Group** – J. Munro reported that the 12th AGM will take place on 16th April; that a group of 25 will travel to Plattling in April; that the Riddell Fiddles and Bogies Close Stompers will perform at the Niebelungenfest in July; and that approximately 20 individuals from Plattling will be in Selkirk for the Common Riding.

13) Reports from working group

- (a) **Evening Study Groups** – T. Combe reported that groups were going well, and that Yoga, Upholstery and Patchwork will continue into the summer term.

