



The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council

Chairman
Vice-chairman
Secretary
Hon. Treasurer

Gordon Edgar
Dr. Lindsay Neil
David Bethune
Tom Combe

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68 Back Row, Selkirk, TD7 4AG 01750 720921

Minute: Meeting held in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk on Monday 9th November, 2009

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

[also in attendance: PC Lesley Shiell, Community Wardens K. Johnstone and D. Penman (until end of item 6), 1 member of the Press and 4 members of the public]

- 2) **Apologies:** were received from Community Councillors John Munro, and Scottish Borders Councillor Carolyn Riddell-Carre
- 3) **The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October** were approved (proposed: B. Kerr, seconded: T. Combe), with the addition of the words “I trust” inserted in item 8(a)(ii) before “good and trustworthy”. I. King felt that the minute of item 8(c)(i) did not fully reflect the discussion which took place, but agreed to raise this matter under item 8(c) of this meeting.

OPEN FORUM (taken at 7.40pm, following item 3)

- (a) J. Taylor complained about the continuing poor state of pavements in the town centre, despite having raised the matter directly with BEAR Scotland. She also asked whether “dog wardens” ever operate in Selkirk. The Community Wardens present explained that they cover Hawick and Selkirk, and that dealing with dog fouling was one of their duties, and that they are actively dealing with this in Selkirk, with several tickets issued recently.
- (b) J. Taylor reported an untaxed, abandoned car in Chapel Street car park. PC Shiell will investigate.
- (c) D. Purves raised several issues, including the state of St. Johns Hall and the Forest Mill building. Both of these are in private ownership so are not within the Council’s powers to deal with. He also was concerned about fencing and drains in Bridge Street, the lack of reference to T. Craig-Brown at the Open Doors Day. V. Davidson responded to these issues. Finally, he thanked those involved in supporting local events and those who had cleaned up rubbish at the steps below the Skärnes housing area.
- (d) J. Howie asked when the Council would respond to his request for funding of the proposed allotments. This will be considered at the December meeting.
- (e) W. Gunn (on behalf of some residents) asked for trees and vegetation to be lowered on Selkirk Hill where it is obscuring favoured views. G. Edgar will take this to the SHMG who are already considering action. Members were reminded that the SHMG meets monthly at 6pm on the first Wednesday of each month, and that these meetings are open to all.

- 4) **Matters arising from the minute not otherwise included on agenda** - none.

- 5) **Declarations of interest** – I. King declared an interest in planning item 7(a)(i) as a near neighbour.

6) **Lothians and Borders Police**

PC Lesley Shiell reported on 12 crimes recorded, and 14 crimes solved, during October. The crimes recorded included 4 cases of vandalism, 1 theft, 1 indecent assault, 1 breach of bail and 5 drug-related offences. She reported that during Operation Gazelle, uniformed officers had spoken to over 80 youths, confiscating alcohol

from 12 of these, whose parents were then informed by letter. It is hoped to repeat this operation again in Selkirk.

G. Edgar, representing the Chamber of Trade, expressed serious concern that the high profile campaign in the run up to Halloween, to prevent egg and flour vandalism, had resulted in more of these attacks, although K. Gunn stated that they had occurred in the past. The police are investigating an incident in West Port.

V. Davidson reported that police policy is now to escort home any person found to be vulnerable through alcohol misuse. She asked for police to patrol outside the Co-op on Friday nights, as there had been a recent incident there, possibly involving the supply of alcohol to youths.

Community Wardens G. Johnstone and D. Penman reported on their activity since being appointed a month ago. This has included dealing with litter, dog fouling and graffiti, in cooperation with SB Local, and supporting the police in relation to complaints of youth misbehaviour. They are able to issue tickets for dog fouling and will soon be able to do so for fly-tipping.

Various members expressed concern about horse droppings on public footpaths, and reported problems of dog fouling at Philiphaugh School playing fields, the Victoria Park and Shawpark Cemetery (where 'dog fouling' signs have been removed by SBC).

T.Combe suggested the carved inscriptions set in the riverside path should be power-hosed. V. Davidson will investigate.

[K. Gunn left at 8.13pm, with apologies, to attend another meeting]

7) Planning:

(a) Planning applications considered:

	application	applicant	action / comments
1.	09/01334/LBC – 32 Hillide Terrace - alteration of internal layout, Form new window, door & skylight openings, demolish existing lean-to garage, replace existing window to match existing convert stable to workshop & home office.	Mr & Mrs McCulloch	approved unanimously

(b) Other planning matters:

- i. changes to SBC planning policy:** various changes to the Scottish Planning system already described and circulated, are now coming into effect; Council agreed that I. King and D. Bethune should draft a letter to SBC requesting that all planning applications concerning development within the Selkirk area be sent to the Council for comment
- ii. Whitmuir Hall new application:** the developers have written requesting a public consultation on the revised application
- iii. SBC Local Plan amendment:** the finalised document had been received.

8) Reports from SBC Councillors:

(a) Councillor Davidson:

- (i)** reported on completion of the flood prevention works on the Long Philip Burn;
- (ii)** reported that consultants have been appointed for further and more extensive flood prevention measures; the proposed timescale will be: options published for public consultation June 2010, preferred option and initial design published for consultation Jan 2011, flood protection order submitted to Scottish Government March 2011; meanwhile, lobbying for Government funding for this will continue but she pointed out that this source is not ring-fenced;
- (iii)** reported on plans to upgrade the Selkirk recycling centre; concerns were expressed about adequate screening, the centre's adjacency to the SSSI, and serious concerns about dealing with heavy items, the need for help, and resultant bottlenecks; V. Davidson agreed to arrange a meeting of the relevant SBC officer(s) with I. King and G. Edgar to discuss the issues (preferably on site);
- (iv)** reported that she had met with the new Director of Technical Services re a long-term solution to the Ettrick Road junction, which would require to be included in SBC's future capital budget programme;

- (v) reported that the TCRF decision had been delayed, but is expected this month.
- (b) **Councillor Gunn:** a written report was received, and will be distributed to members
- (c) **Councillor Riddell-Carre:** a written report was received, and will be distributed to members.

I. King returned to the matter of Cllr Riddell-Carre’s report to the October meeting (item 8 (c) (i) and asked that the Minute be extended in order to record more fully the discussion held. It was noted that Cllr Riddell-Carre had stated that she does not have to agree with the CC’s views and that she makes up her own mind regarding Selkirk matters. G.Edgar also noted that it was not obvious she was reflecting local community opinion. I.King agreed that Cllr Riddell-Carre was within her right to hold a personal opinion but he further maintained that a democratically elected Councillor should – in fairness to their electorate – also put forward the formal views of the Community Councils in their ward area in order to assist debate and proper decision making by both officials and Members at SBC, and wider fora. This was agreed. It was also regretted that Cllr Riddell-Carre was again unable to attend the CC meeting, and it was noted that her attendance since August 2008 was now 38%, compared with Cllr Davidson – 69% and Cllr Gunn – 63%.

9) Common Good Fund Operation

L. Neil reported on ongoing work by Kirstin Scott on behalf of the Council to investigate and rectify errors regarding the Common Good registers of assets. Failure of SBC to provide adequate information in response to requests has led to a report being made to the Information Commissioner.

10) Future of Area Committees

The consultation papers had been previously circulated to members. Various opinions were expressed. L. Neil and G. Edgar were delegated to respond on behalf of the Council by the deadline of 23/11/09.

11) Correspondence

	Item	From	Action
(a)	consultation on draft supplementary planning guidance on gardens and designed landscapes	SBC	passed to I. King for response
(b)	letter from District Procurator re offending in Selkirk	G. Huggan	noted
(c)	notification of erratum in Local Plan Amendment re prime retail frontage in Peebles	SBC	Secretary to respond enquiring why Selkirk should be treated differently from Peebles
(d)	Finalised Local Plan 2008	SBC	passed to I. King
(e)	ASCC annual conference flyer	ASCC	B. Kerr and A. Pattullo to attend
(f)	report on Canadian trip	Riddell Fiddles	noted

12) Reports from Sub-committees and associated groups

- (a) **Selkirk Hill Management Group** – G. Edgar reported on October meeting – minutes received
- (b) **Plattling Twinning Group** – L. Neil reported that there will not be a stall at Scott’s Selkirk this year.

13) Reports from working group

- (a) **Evening Study Groups** (reported at AGM)

14) Reports from outside bodies

- (a) **Selkirk Regeneration Company** - L. Neil reported that the former SRG had now become the SRC, with membership open to all Selkirk residents. The next meeting, to discuss possible community uses for 1 Tower Street, will be held there at 7pm on 7th December.

15) Other business

- (a) **information screen** – G. Edgar asked V. Davidson to investigate the ill considered and inappropriate proposal to mount a 42” information screen in the foyer of the Victoria Halls
- (b) **Twinning Group** – W. Gunn asked the Plattling Twinning Group to consider changing its name to the Selkirk Plattling Twinning Group. Cllr Neil, as Chair of the Group, advised that the title would remain as previously named.

