Minutes of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council Held on
Monday 12th February 2018 in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk

Present – Community Councillors: Alistair Pattullo (Chair), Tom Combe, Ian King, George Irvine, John Stillie, John Hawkins, Judith Thompson, Adrian Kentleton, and Kirsty Lovatt.

Also present – Councillors Gordon Edgar and Elaine Thornton-Nicol. PC Conal McEwan, Morgan Gowans, 3 members of press, and 8 members of the public.

2. Apologies – Graham Easton and Kevin Crawford


4. Minutes of previous meeting approved by Judith Thompson and seconded by Ian King. IK noted that it is the responsibility of the SBC to repair the benches at the Old Kirkyard and not Community Councillors.

5. Matters Arising – Clarification given re item 13 of last meeting – do not need to wait until next AGM. IK asked if we need to review each group within our community and representation thereof. It was agreed that there is no need to widen the net to other organisations.


AK queried the bogus callers. CM advised that this covers internet and phone as well as door-to-door. There is training available for elderly people re this issue but not needed just now.

DP again raised the issue of lines to stop people parking at junctions. He also asked if it was right to have Mill Street as two ways again? CM couldn’t comment as it is an issue for the roads department.

IK asked if it would be possible to be given a breakdown of where and when speed checks are conducted as he feels the information would be valuable for the A7 action group. CM advised that he is not given the specifics but could look into it. He also advised that it was information which would not best serve the purpose of the checks if they were released to the public.

MoP1 expressed concern about boy racers on Shawpark Road which CM will check.

7. Local Improvements – Nothing new has been brought to our attention and IK is hoping that some projects will be completed over the next month or so.
It was agreed that the CC should wait until after the by-election to decide who was going to take over the issues raised by Michelle Ballantyne.

AK still felt that the South Bridge should be included in the local improvements list. AP, IK, and TC agreed to a site visit.

8. Planning

- 18/00009/LBC: Erection of replacement gate piers, Victoria Hall, 1 Scotts Place Selkirk. Proposal to reinstate the historic gate piers wholeheartedly welcomed.
- 18/00003/FUL: Change of use from former Post Office and Alterations to form Ground Floor Flat, Station Road, Selkirk. No objection - in principle – to proposed change of use from post office to residential, subject to the following comments: lack of allocated parking, lack of disabled access into the property, no space allocation for the storage of refuse containers without impeding the public footpath, visual treatment of the 2 windows and entrance door out of keeping with the original character of the rest of the building and adjacent properties. Applicant urged to reconsider proposed elevational treatment – with more sympathetic materials and design.
- 18/00047/FUL: Erection of industrial unit with associated parking on land north east of South Bridge House, Whinfield Road, Selkirk. No objection - in principle - to erect an industrial storage unit at this site - but concerns expressed regarding apparent discrepancies in the application, especially in relation to the site, its boundary treatments and access. Requested revised submission to resolve foregoing issues.

9. Open Forum – There was a great deal of discussion re Chapel Street and Sainsbury’s area. The bottle bins have been blocked off for some reason. Also, signage not correct and not being checked regularly. GEd will discuss with Waste Management and will also check the signage.

MoP1 asked if potholes are repaired on a rota and when will the potholes at The Valley be repaired? GEd was not sure where on the list of priorities the Valley is but will check with SBC.

DP asked if the paving stones at the Rotary Gate are to be replaced. GEd will enquire but thinks it is unlikely at the moment. DP also asked about the damage to the Mill Street wall and if dropped kerbs could be painted. GEd advised that he has reported the wall but with regards to dropped kerbs, it is the responsibility of drivers to adhere to road rules.

MoP1 felt that the CC had missed an opportunity by not holding a hustings at the meeting for the upcoming by-election. AP noted that this is something which will be addressed next time.

10. Reports from SBC Councillors – ETN – SBC very busy due to budgets and budget decisions which will be announced Tuesday 20th February. ETN also advised WASPI’s (women against state pension increase) to contact her directly or find more information via WASPI.org.uk.

AK asked about progress re Elm Park. ETN is waiting for a response from officers who visited the site and has also requested a ‘dead-end’ sign.

GEd reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming by-election and also the Localities Bid fund. He also advised that Borders Bus are rationalising some services. They are looking to have 72 & 73 become one services. If this is accepted after a consultation with SBC, it will go to public consultation.

AK asked if Rachel Hamilton is the new chair of the A7 Action Group and also of meetings were open to the public. GEd advised that there is a joint chair due to the meetings being held in two different localities. Rachel Hamilton is one of the chairs. GEd confirmed that the meetings are not open to the public.

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11. Resilient Communities – AP suggested that as we have more members, now would be a good time to discuss resilient communities again. AP will arrange for someone from SBC to talk at one of the CC meetings to explain further.

12. Treasurer’s Report – TC expressed concern that the decision to change accounts had been taken without his knowledge. AP advised that it had been decided at the CC meeting and it was unfortunate that TC had not been there. JT noted that the transfer process has begun and will be complete upon receipt of balance sheet.

13. CC Groups – already covered earlier.

14. Sub Committees – Blooming Selkirk – JT is looking at costings and contributions and will contact Philiphaugh Gardens re costs for hanging baskets. Edith Scott to find out which shops will take hanging baskets. JT to liaise with SBC re Market Square. TC will bring balance sheet to next CC meeting.

15. SHMG – IK carried out a visit after the snowfall and spotted 3 swans. The hill is still proving very popular. Finances were discussed at the previous SHMG meeting.

16. CoT – IK attended the CoT meeting held 5th February. Discussed progress of CARS and the Streetscape project. The events calendar is being put together and should be available March with SHMG and Blooming Selkirk hopefully getting a mention. AP asked if financial support was available for the events guide. GEd advised that support is available via the Community Fund. Caroline Penman stated that funding previously came from advertising revenue and hoped that this would also be the case this year.

17. Eildon Area Partnership – GEa to report at next CC meeting.

Platting Twinning Group – So far 42 people are going to Platting on 10th October to celebrate the anniversary.

18. AOCB – The Year Of Young People - CC is keen to support this and would like to co-opt Morgan Gowans and his High School colleagues on to CC in order to discuss further. MG was advised that the students could form a sub-committee.

AK asked if he could be given costings for setting up and maintaining a grit bin for 1 year. This is to enable him to compare costings given to him by a local housing association. GEd advised that the cost is the same for each bin but it is the servicing of the bin which can be costly. He will try to get figures for AK.

There was lengthy discussions re parking for the new flats at Chapel Street.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm. The next scheduled meeting is to take place on Monday 12th March 2018 in the Committee Room, Victoria Halls, Selkirk at 7pm.

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