

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (H&PCC)

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Paxton Village Hall

Date and time: Thursday 2nd May at 19:45

Attendees: Sharon King – Chair
Angela MacLean - Secretary
Diana Beard - Treasurer
Dan Norris
Robin Allison
Cllr James Anderson
Cllr Carol Hamilton

In Attendance: 7 Members of our Community

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who had taken time to attend.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rebecca Hall, Tony Power and Cllr Aileen Orr.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 14th March 2024

The minutes from the meeting held on 14th March 2024 were approved.

4. Regular Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is £4,890.65, includes ring fenced funds of £3,900 for environmental projects. There are no outstanding invoices to be paid.

b. Planning

Angela advised that no formal requests for comment had been received from SBC.

There is however, a planning application reference number 24/00488/FUL for Extensions to dwellinghouse at The Old Baconry, Tweedhill, Berwick-upon-Tweed Scottish Borders TD15 1XQ to “create a new front extension to create new entrance area and bathroom on the second floor, and new contemporary rear extension”.

Angela suggested that we should have a designated Planning person on the committee. Robin Allison agreed to take on this role.

c. Police

Angela advised that the reports for East Berwickshire up to March 2024 had been received and are published on our website - <https://hpcommunityhub.uk/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/>.

There were no reported incidents (contained in the report) in our CC area during the month of March 2024.

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b. Resilience

Keith Pattison gave a verbal update on the recent work within the Resilience Group with a focus on bringing people together through a monthly pop up cafe in Paxton Village Hall run by volunteers.

The pop up café in April was a great success. Visitors have been very generous with their donations and the team of enthusiastic bakers and helpers grows. Donations are going towards the cost of plants for the war memorial garden and the food larder in Chirnside. Everyone is welcome, and please spread the word, details below:



5. Progress Updates Since Last Meeting

a. Community Hub - website

Angela gave a brief update on the website development project. This is very much work in progress and contributions would be very welcome - <https://hpcommunityhub.uk>, email ideas and content to huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com.

The 30 day site traffic report was reviewed: 45 visitors and 187 views

b. Paxton War Memorial

Diana gave an update on behalf of the volunteer gardeners who are taking forward this work as part of the wider PVEG group. A recent open meeting regarding plans for the War Memorial Garden had been successful in obtaining suggestions regarding planting and landscaping. Landscaping works may include new fencing and either turf or gravel. Two quotes had been received to date and the group were asking for approximately £2,000 for this project.

The Chair thanked Diana for the update and asked if anyone had any comments.

A resident congratulated the volunteer gardens for their work to date, he felt that this area had never looked so good.

A second resident asked if their email dated 4th April had been taken into account? This correspondence had requested that the hedge should be reinstated as the integrity and security of the boundary to a neighbouring property had been compromised.

The Chair explained that as this project sits outwith the Community Council and is being undertaken by PVEG members, the request should be addressed to appropriate group. The CC's contribution is to fund the work to improve the war memorial garden on behalf of the community. It was highlighted

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by another resident that the open meeting had not been advertised on the Paxton village noticeboard – signs had however been placed at the War Memorial gardens and on the community hub website. Diana advised that PVEG will attempt to include information on all noticeboards wherever possible.

A resident asked if the CC had found out who the landowners of the war memorial site are, as they should be consulted before any further works are done to complete the garden. As has been reported previously, attempts to clarify ownership have been unsuccessful.

Diana reminded the group that discussions had taken place with both SBC and the former landowners of the surrounding area prior to starting this project. SBC had confirmed it was responsible for the memorial itself but had no record of who owned the land on which it sits. It was suggested that a sign could be placed at the site advising that works will start in 28 days and anyone with concerns should make contact with the HPCC via email.

A resident took exception to work progressing, despite being asked politely a number of times whether or not they approved *in principle* that the garden area would benefit from refurbishment and refused to engage in a meaningful way.

The CC attempted to continue with the discussions and despite frequent interruptions agreed to provide funding of up to a maximum £2,000 for this project. This funding is part of the £3,900 that had been ring-fenced for environmental projects when it was returned to the CC. The remainder of the funding would be available for other environmental work in Hutton or Fishwick.

The resident objected to funding being shared throughout the community; it was their opinion that since the original grants had been awarded to fund the boardwalk leading from Paxton House to the Chain bridge, the funding should only be used in Paxton. The resident was advised that this was contrary to the principle of community cohesion and the funding would be shared.

Cllr Anderson suggested that since one resident was now raising their voice to CC members and that the CC had agreed the funding, this discussion could be brought to a close.

The resident concerned stated that it was within their right to ask questions and they should not be silenced. The Chair attempted to engage with the resident however they decided to leave the meeting. Due to the very disruptive way they chose to leave the meeting, the Chair took a few minutes to ensure the CC members were prepared to continue with the meeting. All were happy to do so.

The CC had previously noted the deterioration of the carving of names on the memorial. Hutton Stone have previously reviewed the memorial and provided costings to re-carve the panels. The memorial is an asset of Scottish Borders Council however a funding source needs to be found to complete this work (approximately £4,000 - £5,000) Robin Allison will take forward this piece of work and report back to the group at a future meeting.

Correspondence has been received highlighting decorations which can be purchased from Royal British Legion including flags and “Tommy” statues, it was agreed that this information would be passed over to the volunteers who are working on the landscaping of the gardens for consideration.

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c. Core Paths

Diana provided an update. Last year, despite contacting some 4 different contractors, we were unable to find anyone to keep the Core paths accessible for the sum we can afford to pay (£600), however this year the Community Justice team have agreed to help keep the grass cut/vegetation trimmed.

d. Local Heating and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)

Robin had provided an overview of the Scottish Borders Council – Local Heating and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) at the last meeting. The strategy outlines the proposed vision for improving energy efficiency and decarbonising heat in all the buildings in the Scottish Borders.

A response which set out our questions/concerns in four key areas – Existing level of knowledge about the technology, Safety Considerations, Cost Implications, and National Grid limitations was submitted to SBC.

We received feedback and have been asked to share the following request with the Community:

Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd are seeking a Scottish Borders community that is interested in exploring how their homes, public buildings and any commercial spaces might be decarbonised. We are targeting off gas grid communities of 100-150 houses. Ideally, those houses would fall into a range of housing archetypes (i.e. pre-1919, post war, timber frame, etc.) and tenures (i.e. owner occupier, private rental, social housing, etc.). We are contacting Paxton as initial research has indicated this type of mix exists in your community.

Most of the scoping work will be desk-based though we will need to survey a small sample of buildings (and agree a preferred set of measures for each archetype) in the chosen community. As part of the project, we wish to test the assumption that by working at scale within a neighbourhood it will be easier to be innovative, explore all the options and potentially get competitive quotes from suppliers and trades with a view to an overall reduction of costs. The document outlining the scope of works will be made available to the participating community.

The request was noted. Those present in the room were not personally interested in taking this initiative forward, however, if the wider community would like Paxton to be involved, please contact us on huttonpaxton@outlook.com and add 'LHEES' in the subject line.

More information is available on:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/housing-homeless/energy-saving-advice/7> and <https://sup.org.uk>

6. Questions/Updates from Residents

A resident asked the CC if there was any news on addressing the car parking issues at Knowehead, Hutton.

Angela summarised the work to date whereby SBC had looked and costed an option to create additional parking, they did not however have sufficient funding to carry out the actual work. She agreed to bring this up again and ask for other options as the CC recognise the seriousness of this issue, if there was a need for an emergency vehicle to get through.

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Cllr Anderson suggested that Angela should contact Reston CC Chair as he had faced similar issues and found a less expensive method to create additional carparking using tar chips as the surface.

7. Any Other Business

a. Summer Picnic

Following last year's successful Coronation bank holiday event, it was agreed that a summer picnic would be held on 1st June, on the village green in Paxton.

b. Communal Notice Board

Robin asked if the communal notice board in Paxton could be repositioned from its current location on the village green, to the back wall of the bus shelter. He felt that many different groups and individuals meet in the bus shelter, or pass it to post a letter, at different times of the day and on different days of the week, so notices are more likely to be seen by a wider audience. It was noted that Louise looks after the noticeboard to make sure posters are noted dated, etc.

It was agreed that a second notice board, located in the bus shelter would be beneficial as the current board is quite small. Robin agreed to look into options and costing and to feedback at a future meeting.

c. Consultation on Parking in Town Centres

A consultation has opened seeking the views of Borderers on parking and parking enforcement specifically in town centres across the region. SBC is keen to gauge public opinion as it examines the possibility of taking over responsibility for the enforcement of on-street parking regulations in the Scottish Borders from Police Scotland.

Known as Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE), it enables a local authority to enforce its own parking policies, including the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to motorists breaching parking controls in specified areas.

By taking part in this consultation, it will help the Council get a better understanding of the public's opinion on decriminalising parking in the Scottish Borders. The consultation is now live and can be accessed on *Citizen Space*, this will be updated on our website on the "Consultations - Have Your Say" page.

d. Greener Gateway Community Awards

Entries are now officially open.

The Awards have expanded to include a new "school" category to celebrate the projects being undertaken by children and young people across the Borders that focus on sustainability and biodiversity. Full details of the awards, the individual categories, entry guidelines and details on how to submit your entry are available to view on the SBC website:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20032/parks_and_outdoors/664/greener_gateway_community_awards

e. Volunteering Champion

Volunteers Week (June 3rd – 9th June) is approaching with this year's theme being 'Something for everyone', with this in mind, Borders Community Action want to celebrate volunteers and the communities we support right across the region by awarding a Volunteering Champion per day, per

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locality (Teviot & Liddesdale, Cheviot, Berwickshire, Eildon and Tweeddale) for each day during volunteers' week. The nomination form can be found online at:
<https://borderscommunityaction.tfaforms.net/11>

f. Information Commissioners Office – Complaint

A request has been received from the ICO regarding a complaint from a resident that their personal details as a former member of the Resilience Group (RG) had not been removed from the RG contact posters in a timely fashion. In so far as the RG co-ordinator is aware, the resident's name has been removed from posters in public view.

g. British Heart Foundation

John Watson gave an overview of the current British Heart Foundation initiative to expand CPR training: *RevivR*.

Hutton Village Hall have recently organised free *RevivR* CPR sessions where people have the opportunity to acquire life-saving skills, including use of a defibrillator. Future training dates are:

Saturday 6th July: 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 9 July: 6pm to 8pm

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes>

h. Knoll and Kelso Hospital

A resident asked if the CC were aware of plans to close the Community Hospitals at Duns and Kelso?

It is the understanding of the CC that NHS Borders are reviewing the medical management in those sites to ensure that patient safety is not compromised. As of 15th May 2024, NHS Borders stated there were no immediate plans to close beds on either site. Medical cover for community hospitals is proving problematic because of recruitment issues in general practice across the entire country so the situation is under constant review.

Cllr Anderson confirmed the situation is being discussed at the Health and Social Care partnership.

Residents can obtain updates on the community hospital situation at:

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/latest-news/2024/may/15/community-hospitals-update/>

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 20th June 2024 at 7.30pm
Hutton Village Hall

Dates and Times for Future Meetings in 2024

Thursday	8th August	7.30pm	Paxton
Thursday	26th September	7.30pm	Hutton
Thursday	14 th November	7.30pm	Paxton