

# HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (H&PCC)

## APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Hutton Village Hall

Date and time: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 19:30

Attendees: Sharon King – Chair  
Angela MacLean - Secretary  
Diana Beard - Treasurer  
Rebecca Hall  
Robin Allison  
Tony Power

In Attendance: 5 Members of our Community

### 1. **Welcome**

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

The Chair explained that due to the lack of respect displayed at the previous meeting, any comments or questions must be made through the Chair. Although adding that this will not restrict meaningful interaction and discussion from all of those in attendance at the meeting.

The Chair took the opportunity to remind everyone that CC members are volunteers and there is no remuneration for time taken to deal with issues which arise within or outwith meetings. Over the past few months, a range of issues and complaints have been addressed in private which has taken up a significant amount of CC members' personal time.

A redacted note of the private discussions of the CC held on 14<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024, to determine how best to deal with problematic conduct at meetings, will be available on request when further checks on its GDPR compliance are complete.

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Daniel Norris, Cllr James Anderson, Cllr Carol Hamilton and Cllr Aileen Orr.

### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

The minutes from the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 were approved.

The minutes from the AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 were noted and were agreed to be accurate, they will be reviewed and approved at the 2025 AGM, date to be arranged.

The Chair noted that minutes are shared on the village noticeboards and on the website.

### 4. **Regular Reports**

#### **a. Treasurer's Report**

The current bank balance is £4,850.65, includes ring fenced funds of £3,900 for environmental projects.

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An invoice is expected shortly for the fencing and groundworks carried out at the Paxton War Memorial Garden, no other invoices are outstanding.

The annual report including financial details (tabled at the AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> May) will be given a final review and then submitted to SBC, as per the defined process.

#### **b. Planning**

Robin gave an update on a planning application received from SBC for the "Installation of Secondary Glazing System at Garden Cottage, Paxton house" planning reference 24/00699/LBC.

Robin summarised the application and explained that he felt that the replacement windows will not only improve matters for those living in the property, but it will also improve the aesthetics.

The Chair asked if anyone had any additional comments, none were received and as such it was agreed that a letter of support should be submitted on behalf of the Community Council before the 10<sup>th</sup> July deadline.

#### **c. Police**

Angela advised that the reports for East Berwickshire up to May 2024 had been received and are published on our website - <https://hpcommunityhub.uk/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/>. If anyone would like a copy, please get in touch.

There were no reported incidents (contained in the report) in our CC area during the months of April and May 2024.

#### **b. Resilience**

Keith Pattison gave a verbal update on the recent work within the Resilience Group.

An Emergency Planning document had been received from Scottish Borders Council which had raised some questions around insurance liability cover for volunteers.

Following discussions, it was agreed that Diana would check and see what level of cover is in place for HPCC and its sub-groups. Diana to report back at the next meeting as it is important that people are aware of what is and is not covered.

### **5. Progress Updates Since Last Meeting**

#### **a. Picnic**

The Chair apologised that this community event had to be postponed. Tony agreed to investigate some local entertainment options to see if we can get something organised for later in the summer.

#### **b. Pop Up Cafe**

The monthly Resilience Pop-up café in Paxton continues to be well supported. The date of the next café is Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 10:30 – 12noon in Paxton village Hall.

#### **c. Grass Cutting**

Diana gave a brief update on the support we are receiving from SBC Access Rangers in helping keep the Core pathways clear.

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Angela asked if there was a way we could compensate the volunteers who keep the grassy areas in and around Hutton well maintained.

Everyone agreed that this work was very much appreciated by residents and that reimbursement for fuel should be made readily available from the CC. A resident (who is one of 3 individuals who take on this role) explained that he was happy to do this work and didn't expect payment for his time but appreciated the offer of fuel reimbursement and agreed to inform the others to submit fuel receipts to Diana in her role as CC Treasurer.

#### **d. Hutton Churchyard**

A resident highlighted that he was delighted to see that Hutton Churchyard grass had recently been cut and wanted to thank whoever had carried out this work. Diana will make enquires with various contacts to see if we can find identify who did this to thank them and find out if this will be done on a regular basis.

#### **e. Paxton War Memorial Garden**

A Hutton resident wanted to express how fantastic the works to improve the Paxton War Memorial Garden look when driving towards Berwick from Hutton (on the Sunwick road).

It was noted that now that the fencing element is complete other soft landscaping works can be completed.

#### **f. Paxton War Memorial - Carving**

Robin gave a brief update on the work he was taking forward to try and secure approval and funding to re-carve the names which are becoming very faint on the War Memorial.

Discussions are ongoing with SBC planners to identify what can be done to the listed monument. Robin agreed to provide a progress report to the next meeting.

#### **g. Extra Car Parking at Knowehead, Hutton**

Angela gave a brief update on her attempts to create additional parking at Knowehead. It had been hoped that we could reuse road chippings which will be lifted from the Sunwick road (as part of planned improvements later in the financial year) however this road surface has been assessed as needing to go for recycling and sadly cannot be used.

Discussions will continue with SBC as the CC agree with residents' concerns for emergency vehicles gaining access to the homes at the top of Knowehead.

#### **h. Paxton Additional Notice Board**

Robin has looked into the guidance on the proximity of a noticeboard to a path and the proposed addition of an extra notice board in the bus shelter would be compliant from a Health and Safety perspective. Robin will look into options, costs, etc and report back to the next meeting.

### **6. Questions/Updates from Residents**

#### **Paxton Church**

The Chair introduced Rev Mike Taylor and allowed questions to be directed at those present who had knowledge of the situation and ensured that an informative discussion took place.

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Diana asked a series of questions regarding Paxton Church on behalf of residents.

The key points from the discussion are summarised below:

- The informative article in the Community magazine was very much appreciated and gave an overview of the current plans for Paxton Church.
- Paxton Church is one of a few buildings where ownership is not vested with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland (CoS) in Edinburgh but with local trustees from the congregation.
- This has meant that its future remains in the hands of local trustees and that is why this building cannot be sold by the CoS.
- Trustees are in the process of transferring the ownership of the Church to “Gateways” which is now a formal SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). <https://freshexpressions.org.uk/gateways-christian-fellowship-berwick-upon-tweed/>
- It is hoped that this will enable the continuation of church services, weddings, funerals and other activities within the local community.
- Rev Taylor confirmed that “Gateways” is not affiliated/linked to the evangelical American Gateway ‘super-church’ in the US.
- There were discussions on what may happen if Gateways were to cease operations. If the charity was to cease operations, the winding up process would need to follow OSCR requirements (the Scottish Charity Regulator) at that point in time.
- Some residents had believed that the Church was a community asset and raised concerns around ongoing costs for repairs and how that would be funded.
- Some residents felt that there was a lack of transparency in the process to date.
- Rev Taylor summarised the changes in CoS over the past 2 years and explained that of approx. 1,000 church buildings, 40% were to close and most will be either sold or donated to local charities.
- A rigorous process is in place and any final recommendations are reviewed by a national oversight group before being approved. Public consultation events have been held and held in churches and village halls to allow communities to get involved.
- Rev Taylor encouraged people to get involved, create new groups and users for the church and to make contact with Ali Birkett in the first instance for queries for bookings.
- It was noted that it would be helpful for residents to have a notice of what’s happening/progress posted on the railings outside the Church, Rev Taylor agreed to take this request back to the Trustees.

The Chair noted that people had come, and will leave this meeting, with a range of views and opinions on the future use of the Church and felt this had been a useful discussion, The Chair thanked Rev Taylor for his time.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The **Community Magazine** was briefly discussed. Concerns were raised about the cost of production, given the quality of the paper used and the amount of colour.

The CC highlighted that the magazine committee do a fantastic job pulling together this regular publication. It is funded by donations, an annual community BBQ in the Autumn and annual quiz at the turn of each year.

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Angela highlighted **2 planned road closures** in the area:

From 07:00 on 27/06/24 – 18:00 on 08/07/24 Scottish power Works will be carried out in Horndean

From 09:30 on 21/08/24 – 29:59 on 29.08.24 Scottish Water work will take place south of the bus stop in Paxton

Copies of both closures and the maps are attached to these minutes.

An email has been received to start the process of engaging with children in the area about **Paxton play park upgrade**. The Engagement Officer has asked which primary school children attend. It was noted that Swinton is the closest school however children attend school in Berwick, Chirnside and Duns. Angela will reply and will also include Rebecca into the correspondence as both have young sons and contacts who may be interested in getting involved at this stage of the project.

Angela outlined work that Cllr Anderson is involved in for **communities who have not been identified for playpark upgrades** (as Hutton falls into this category). Cockburnspath are leading on this work and are currently working through insurance implications for the community, Angela will continue to keep updated with progress and report back to future meetings if anything helpful or with positive outcomes for Hutton playpark arises.

Scottish Borders Council are in the process of reviewing the non-financial support to community councils. A representative and substitute should be identified by 11<sup>th</sup> August to attend meetings approx. every 6 weeks for a period of 6 – 12 months. Angela will circulate the email to the CC and representatives for our area will be identified.

It was noted that SBC have been very support of CC office bearers over the past few months and formalising the support available will be helpful for all CCs in the Scottish Borders.

### 8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm  
Paxton Village Hall

### Dates and Times for Future Meetings in 2024

Thursday	26th September	7.30pm	Hutton
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm	Paxton

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**Appendix: Road Closures**

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**  
**ROAD CLOSURE DETAILS**

Reference – C96 - Horndean

Title – Temporary Traffic Regulation Order

Address – C96 Horndean – between B6461 and B6470

Grid Reference – 389733,649884 – 389727,649687

Applicant – Touchstone TM

Order Details – Road Closure

Reason for Order – Scottish Power works

Start Date and Duration –

- From 8:00 on the 12<sup>th</sup> August to 18:00 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Alternative route:

Southbound – via the C96, B6461, B6437, B6470 and C96 to point of closure

Northbound – the above in reverse

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## C96 Horndean Road Closure

### Key:

- Closure
- Alternative Route

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**  
**ROAD CLOSURE DETAILS**

Reference – C117 Paxton

Title – Temporary Traffic Regulation Order

Address – C117 Paxton – from Merse View to the D81/6

Grid Reference – 393485,653014 – 393486,652976

Applicant – The Clancy Group

Order Details – Road closure

Reason for Order – Scottish Water works

Start Date and Duration –

- From 9:30 on the 21<sup>st</sup> August to 29:59 on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Alternative Route:

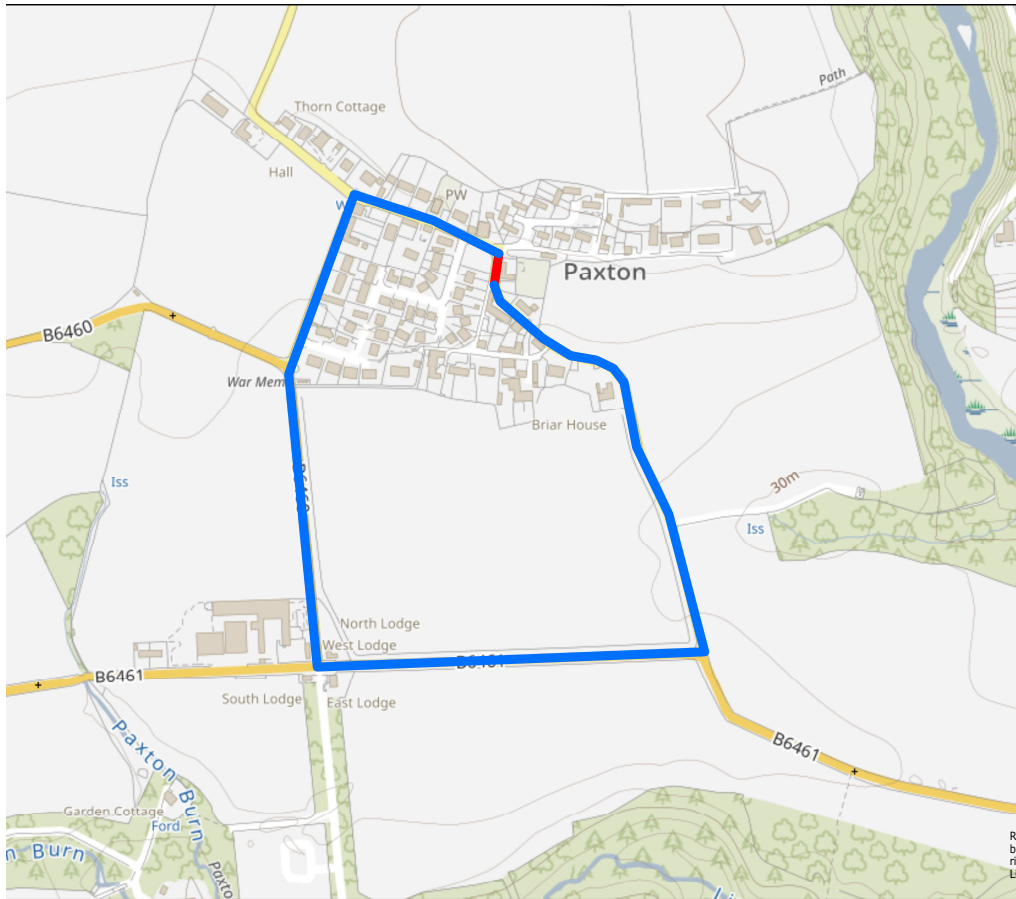
Southbound – via C117, B6460, B6461 and C117 to point of closure.

Northbound – the above in reverse



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### C117 Paxton Road closure

#### Key:

— Closure

— Alternative Route

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