

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (H&PCC)

MINUTES OF MEETING

APPROVED

Venue: Paxton Village Hall

Date and time: Thursday 19th October at 19:30

Attendees: Sharon King – Chair
Angela MacLean - Secretary
Diana Beard - Treasurer
Rebecca Hall
Daniel Norris
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.

The Chair explained that following a separate meeting of the Community Councillors, a unanimous vote had been taken to suspend one of the members. This decision had been taken in response to complaints from residents and council members relating to the individual's repeated disruptive behaviours that were bringing the Community Council (CC) into disrepute. This behaviour is in breach of the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors and the member had previously been informed, in writing, that their behaviour was unacceptable.

Due process has been followed and, in light of advice from Scottish Borders Council the decision was taken to suspend this Community Councillor.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from David Morgan, Cllr Aileen Orr, David Taylor and Shirley Taylor.

3. **Minutes of Previous meetings 13th July 2023 and 31st August 2023**

The minutes from the meetings held on 13th July and 31st August 2023 were approved.

4. **Membership & Co-Opting of New Member**

In line with the constitution, Rebecca Hall has served her term as a co-opted member of H&PCC and was welcomed on board as a full member.

Robin Allison was co-opted as a member of H&PCC, to fill the vacant "Paxton" seat. Robin was proposed by Rebecca Hall and seconded by Diana Beard.

5. **Regular Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance was reported to be £5,247.25.

Two invoices need to be paid to *Kreative* for their earlier work on website (as previously discussed).

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b. Planning

Diana Beard gave a summary of an application, by MacLean and Company, to modify a planning condition to extend the permission for Fraser's Farm Shop at Hutton Hall Barns for a further 15 years.

As there was a possibility of there being a conflict of interests, Angela Maclean offered to leave the room.

The Chair asked those present if they had any objections or comments to make about the planning application. No objections or comments were raised therefore, it was decided that a neutral response would be submitted to Scottish Borders Council (SBC) by H&PCC.

Angela advised that there is a planning application for an extension to a dwelling in Paxton. The CC has not been asked for comment however if individuals would like to comment the details are available on the SBC planning portal.

A resident asked the CC what their views were on the planning appeal submitted to build next to his property near Sunwick Farm.

Angela confirmed the CC had not commented on the original planning application and as such she thought that we would not be permitted to comment at this appeal stage. *(Chair's note – SBC were contacted and advised that the CC were not permitted to comment as part of the review as we had not made representations at the planning stage. The Local Review Body (LRB) met on 23.10.23 they upheld the previous delegated decisions and refused planning permission for all three of the applications.)*

c. Police

Angela advised that the report for East Berwickshire up to 29 September had been received. There are no reported incidents in our CC area. She highlighted a report of a theft of a ring doorbell in Whitsome and asked people to remain vigilant.

6. Progress Updates Since Last Meeting

a. Community Hub - website

Angela summarised the technical options paper. She explained that the only option which could not be assessed was one suggested by a local resident, the former Chair of H&PCC. The resident explained that her acquaintance was not prepared to work with the CC after all.

It was agreed that the low-cost *Wordpress* website builder would be taken forward at £36 per year.

Robin Allison asked when the new website would be available. Though a specific date for launch had not yet been established, it was agreed that there was an urgent need to have a functioning website as a matter of urgency.

b. Cycle Path / walk – creating a safe route to Berwick Upon Tweed

Local resident and keen cyclist, Keith Patterson with the help of Cllr Anderson, had made enquiries which would allow for the feasibility of this potential project to be assessed. As of the timing of this meeting, a response from the relevant department in SBC, had not been received.

Cllr Anderson will chase up the information from the roads planning team.

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c. Community Fundraiser

As of the timing of this meeting, it was agreed that there is sufficient interest from the community, a wine tasting evening will be held on Thursday 16th November. Tickets will be available at a cost of £5 per head to cover the costs of hall hire and nibbles. Details will be shared as quickly as possible.

7. Questions from Residents

Robin asked if there was any update on **traffic calming measures**. Angela read an extract of an update from the SBC. The first measures to be introduced across the Borders will be bin stickers, 20mph gateway roundels, dragon's teeth, 20mph repeater signs and advisory cycle lanes. The details of what will be implemented in the current financial year will be shared with CCs soon.

A resident had asked the CC to discuss the **battery storage plans** in and around Leitholm and Eccles. The group were aware of the proposals as they are in the local press.

Eccles: Plans for 100 energy containers in Berwickshire – 31st July 2023

<https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/23691615.eccles-plans-100-energy-containers-berwickshire/>

in summary, the proposal is to build a 500MW battery storage facility in Leitholm capable of storing and releasing enough energy to power approximately 150,000 homes and save approximately 215,000 tonnes of carbon annually.

<https://aahplanningconsultations.co.uk/battery-eccles#:~:text=the%20proposal,215%2C000%20tonnes%20of%20carbon%20annually.>

It was believed it would be highly unlikely that this would happen in and around the Paxton and Hutton areas. Cllr Anderson highlighted that there are likely to be applications focused on the east coast in and around Torness, given the infrastructure in that area.

Angela gave an update following a letter received about **overgrown hedges** in and around Paxton. SBCs Roads Team had agreed to make assessments on hedges/vegetation and will issue letters to landowners if they deem it necessary.

8. Any Other Business

Remembrance Service: Item on tracker carried forward from November 2022.

The Chair provided an update regarding the CC formally laying a poppy wreath which had been suggested by a former CC Chair last year. Extract from minutes: *"The Vice-Chair had discussed this with the Chair and it is intended that wreaths will be laid in both Hutton and Paxton in 2023"*.

As a result of email discussions between Community Councillors (initiated by absentee Council member David Morgan) and following a unanimous vote upheld at this evening's 7pm CC members meeting, the CC members decided that, as the Church continues to provide a service and laying of wreaths in both Paxton and Hutton, there was no requirement for a wreath to be laid by the Community Council. It was noted that in previous years, the CC has not attended in a formal capacity or laid a wreath. Further discussion ensued and despite a rather heated debate, CC members decided it was more appropriate for residents to reserve the right attend a service on a personal basis as a mark of respect to those who have given their lives in service to their country. Rebecca Hall, the youngest and newest member of the council, emphasised that, in her experience, the sacrifice of service men and women is certainly not been forgotten by her generation.

Diana reminded the group about the **multi-group meeting** held in January 2023 and proposed that a second follow-up meeting should be arranged for Thursday 18th January 2024 to review progress and

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agree the priorities for 2024. The group agreed and contact would be made with the various community groups asking if they would like to attend and contribute to the discussions.

The deadline for content for inclusion in the next **Community Magazine** is Friday 10th November, the magazine will be issued in early December.

The recent **closure of churches** was noted. A resident explained that it is likely that the combined Chirnside, Hutton and Paxton congregations may be known as the Whiteadder Parish.

We are expecting to hear from SBC about the **Playpark Refurbishment Project** in Paxton soon. Cllr Hamilton advised that the person at SBC, designated to lead this workstream had left post and, as yet, a replacement has not been assigned. Hence, there may be a delay in communications.

The **bench** on the road towards Hutton cemetery has been replaced by SBC and the **storage shed** in the churchyard has been repaired by the Community Justice Team.

There have been a number of near misses with **deer on the roads** around Hutton and Fishwick. Cllr Orr has requested a number of road signs to highlight these areas to road users.

The group noted that **Travelsure** will cease to operate at the end of October 2023. The new service from Berwick upon Tweed - Duns - Berwick upon Tweed, will be provided by **Border Buses**. The revised route and timetable for this service is available online:

<https://www.bordersbuses.co.uk/services/PERY/32>.

An extra PINGO bus, <https://borderbuses.co.uk/pingo-berwickshire>, will also operate.

Cllr Anderson highlighted that the next **Area Partnership** meeting will take place in Hutton, details will be confirmed when the hall booking is confirmed.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th December 2023, Hutton Village Hall, Time 19:30

All members of our Community are welcome to attend.