

Hutton and Paxton Informal CC / Community Hub
Note of Meeting
3rd April 2025
Hutton Village Hall

Our third community hub/informal CC meeting was held on 3rd April 2025. As per previous years, representatives from the various local groups attended and we were delighted to have 18 residents in attendance.

The idea behind the informal meeting is to provide an opportunity for people to get together to find out what various groups do (village hall committees, community council, village improvement groups, village green, grass cutting committee etc) and how we can all work together to make our community stronger. It's an opportunity for everyone who lives in our area to have their say and suggest community priorities for 2025.

Update on HPCC progress

- The consultation process on the new constitution for community councils is available for review on our website (<https://hpcommunityhub.uk/hutton-and-paxton-community-hub/consultations-have-your-say/closed-consultations/>) . This is a huge step forward with clarity on roles with job descriptions now available, documented complaints processes and the ability to assess the number of meetings being held each year rather than a set number with no local flexibility. The consultation closes 23rd April and will be adopted by Hutton and Paxton CC thereafter.
- Discussions had been held over a number of months regarding replacing the defibrillator in Paxton (the current model is no longer working due to its age). HPCC had previously felt the members could not take on the responsibility for this project and the ongoing maintenance, at this point in time. The Chair indicated that the CC would however be supportive of any future initiatives working alongside others in the community. Discussions around the need for regular checks/maintenance were held and the importance of resuscitation training ensued.

Ian Douglas and Louise Hay offered to take this forward. The CC will provide support in sharing news on fundraising via the website and Facebook. Keith Pattinson gave a summary of the work carried out by the resilience group. The link with Scottish Borders Councils emergency planning group was noted. The focus this past year has been about bringing people together and the pop-up coffee mornings set up for this purpose continue to be well supported. £10 hall rent is paid for each session and the balance is shared with local good causes – this past year half has gone towards plants for the war memorial garden and the balance to the food larder in Chirnside. Plan is to continue with 50% going to the food larder this year and the balance will be shared to various projects as agreed by the volunteers and bakers.

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- Paxton playpark is now open and is being very well used by children, the noise of happy voices makes the efforts in getting this project off the ground well worth it. We recognise that some people are disappointed that everything in the list, for example a bike pump track and football goals could not be included in the funding envelope. Fundraising and applying for grants for the football goals is however underway.
- Funding from the Fallago Grant (which was originally granted for works on the riverside walkway at Paxton House) of £1500 can be kept by HPCC on the condition that they are given the opportunity to approve the spend, on environmental schemes. Additional monies from SBC which were to augment this pot of money has also been gifted to HPCC on the proviso it is used to buy picnic benches for the local playparks and towards work on the war memorial garden.
- The picnic on the village green which was successful in 2023 is being organised for **Sunday 25th May 2025**

Priorities for 2025 - What matters to you?

- The disused phone kiosk in Paxton will be removed in June 2025, we have asked SBC to consider popping a barrier up as we have road safety concerns for children as they leave the playpark.
- The Hutton phonebox was a potential site to relocate the defib, however there is no power supply to that box anymore. The Hutton defib is currently powered from 1 house in the village and that family pays for the electricity consumed by the box and defibrillator.
- Local place plans were discussed, this isn't something HPCC have been able to look at given the other priorities to date. Angela will look into these and report back to a future meeting.
- It was noted that the access rangers have ensured that the Core paths are cut two times per year. HPCC asked for help after failing to get any gardening companies who would be willing to do this work within the grant monies available.
- The footbridge to Edington was discussed, in particular who should maintain it. Diana agreed to contact the Tweed Forum as this may link with the source to sea project, they are leading on.
- Access to the war memorial at Hutton Church in particular for Remembrance Day services had proved challenging last year due to renovations being carried out at the church and the location of skips. The CC were asked if they could ascertain the rights of access to the war memorial and to the graveyard for local residents. Angela will make contact with Scottish Borders Council to ask for clarity on these points.

It was noted that younger people and children's voices don't get heard in these meetings so it was suggested that if anyone not attending this meeting has ideas and thoughts on the priorities for 2025, that they contact us to let us know what matters to you:

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