

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (H&PCC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Paxton Village Hall

Date and time: Thursday 20th February at 19:30

Attendees: Sharon King - Chair
Angela MacLean - Secretary
Rebecca Hall,
Robin Allison,
Tony Power,
Cllr C Hamilton

In Attendance: 6 members of our community

1. **Welcome**

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

Sharon took the opportunity to remind people that there is currently a vacant seat on the Community Council, if anyone is interested and joining, please do get in touch.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Diana Beard, Dan Norris, Cllr J Anderon and Cllr A Orr.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting – 14th November 2024**

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

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

4. **Regular Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report

Diana Beard had provided a summary of the current finances, as set out below:

Balance:	£3,514.66	£1,500 is ring-fenced for picnic benches for the parks
Expenditure:	£0	in the last 3 months
Income:	£759	from SBC annual grant and hall hire costs

There were no questions or queries on the Treasurers report.

b. Planning

A Listed Building Consent (LBC) planning application was been submitted by the Community Council to request permission to recutting 3 panels on the Paxton War Memorial. Was approved in November and following the signing off of planning conditions, the work was completed prior to Christmas.

Planning applications (**24/01190/FUL** full planning and **24/01166/LBC** for Listed Building Change) to change the use and alterations of Hutton Church to form a dwellinghouse have been withdrawn and has been resubmitted. The CC agreed a response to be sent to SBC Planning - supportive of the principal of conversion of the church into a dwelling house.

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24/01379/FUL - Replacement of the existing timber boardwalk with reinforced earthwork embankment

Robin gave a summary of the planning application and the CC agreed that these improvements would be of benefit to residents and visitors alike.

c. Police

Police reports for East Berwickshire up to January 2025 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.

b. Resilience

Keith Pattison (in his role as chair of the Resilience group) advised that he receives “weather updates” from SBC. Where possibly these updates are shared on the CC website and Facebook.

“Coffee and blether” dates have been shared in the Community newsletter and are published on the “What’s on” page on our website – hpcommunityhub.uk. These events continue to be well supported.

5. Progress Updates Since Last Meeting

a. Paxton Playpark Upgrade

Angela shared the 3D drawings with those in attendance, these will also be made available online and on our Facebook page. The installations are planned to commence w/c 10th March 2025, weather dependant and eth playpark should be complete in time for the school Easter holidays.

Plans for an informal community picnic with live music and activities for children are being progressed for Sunday 25th May. Anyone with ideas on entertainment and activities, please get in touch!

b. Car parking issues, Knowehead, Hutton

Further to discussion on addressing the car parking issues at Knowehead, Hutton there is no update. We have asked SBC for advice on their thoughts/options and will report back in due course.

c. Branding

Robin had previously tabled Coats of Arms for Hutton and Paxton and suggested that we use them on CC documents and correspondence. It was suggested that copyrighting should be checked and that a resident in Hutton may be able to assist on Coats of Arms. In the absence of any information on copy right implications this item was deferred.

The Chair suggested that any other ideas on branding could be sent in to the CC email huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com. A decision should be made at our next formal CC meeting.

d. Emergency Defibrillator Replacement and Maintenance

It was highlighted that the Paxton defibrillator remains out of action. The key points discussed were:

- Neither defibrillator has been used in 8 years.
- The cost of replacement of the defib alone is £1,400 (pads (~£80) and batteries (~£350) require replacement every 2 and 5 years respectively).

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- Someone needs to fund-raise and continue fundraising for ongoing costs i.e. pads and batteries.
- Someone needs to take responsibility for checking the defib and heated storage box is working every month and take action if they are not.

Information had been distributed to residents in November 2025 (and has been in place since), in the following places:

- Community magazine
- Village noticeboard
- Village Hall
- The Cross Inn
- Our website

Following the discussions at our last meeting and given a low response from residents (one resident offered to contribute an undisclosed sum and another sharing details of a charity and financial costings) the Chair asked those attending the meeting of their views.

In the absence of having a named individual (or group of individuals) who were willing to get involved and take responsibility for fundraising, maintenance, replacement parts etc, it was agreed that HPCC could not take on the responsibility for this project, 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.

e. Removal of the phone kiosk in Paxton

It had been hoped that the kiosk in Paxton could be refurbished but the BT authorised organisation that collects old phone kiosks does not have a spare door to replace the missing one. The door hinges are no longer viable either.

Further to discussions with the relevant people in BT and Scottish Borders Council the removal of the phone kiosk so that the entrance to the newly refurbished playpark is not obstructed had been discussed and agreed.

If Hutton residents would like their redundant phone kiosk removed, can they contact us. The Hutton kiosk is intact but sadly has no electricity.

6. Questions/Updates from Residents

Access to Hutton War Memorial

It was highlighted that the Remembrance Day service at Hutton Church had been affected by partially restricted access caused by the siting of a skip. The skip has since been removed.

7. Any Other Business

Map of Houses in Paxton

The erection of a potential map to show house names and locations in Paxton was discussed. Often delivery drivers and tradespeople are looking for houses, by name and some residents don't know where these properties are located. It was proposed that having a map in the bus shelter would enable these people to be directed to it, in the event that residents are not aware of the locations of named properties. Robin will take this action forward.

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Storm Damage

The copse, down at the South East corner of Paxton village has part of the Core Path 94 walkway passing through it. Due to various wind's damage there are quite a few trees that have partially fallen and are lying in precarious positions. H&PCC were asked to raise this issue with the appropriate land owner in order to have these trees dealt with? Worst case scenario is that some of these trees may be considered to be dangerous, thus causing the path to have to be closed off until said trees are dealt with.

Cllr Hamilton agreed to contact SBC staff and pass information to robin about what could be done.

Scottish Borders Council – Budget Consultation

Scottish Borders Council has launched its [Budget Consultation](#) and is seeking feedback from residents in the Borders to help shape the budget, due to be set in February 2025.

The consultation explains how decisions are made, how money is spent, and how residents in the Borders can contribute to the decision-making process.

Participants taking part in the consultation will be asked to respond on a variety of the Council's budget and community priorities including Transport and Infrastructure and Community Engagement.

The consultation was open until Sunday 2 February 2025, it was shared on the website, under Current consultations during January 2025.

Consultation launch - Residents feedback sought for Review of Community Council Scheme

Scottish Borders Council has launched its consultation on the [Review of Community Council Scheme 2025](#), seeking feedback from residents in the Scottish Borders with suggestions on how the Community Council Scheme and Handbook can be improved.

The review will allow residents in the Borders to provide their feedback on the Scheme and handbooks for the 69 Community Councils in the area. All local authorities must provide a Scheme for Community Councils, which outlines their governance arrangement and includes details of the Community Council areas.

The public consultation will run for three months, from 24 January until 23 April 2025. The review can be completed online via [Citizen Space](#), this was been shared on our website, under Current consultations on 27th January 2025.

Friends of the Union Bridge – Request for Support re Unfinished Work

Correspondence has been received from the friends of the Union Bridge looking for support/endorsement of a submission document to Scottish Borders Council and Northumberland County Council regarding unfinished work at the Union Bridge. Their document outlines the failure to reinstate the ancient track adjacent to Union Chain Bridge lost during the restoration works and the recognition of the track as a public right of way.

Robin provided a detailed assessment of the submission and the CC were supportive of the proposal and keeping rights of way such as this open. Angela will writ to the Hon Secretary and pass on Robin's information as it may be helpful in progressing matters.

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies(LHEES) Pilot Project

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In June 2024 Swinton was identified as the best fit for the initial LHEES Pilot.

Swinton demonstrated a strong desire to be selected and was the first community to request a household survey. The survey was disseminated by community volunteers and responses collated and mapped on a regular basis throughout the selection process. Swinton volunteers communicated with the project team regularly, requesting frequent updates.

Given the response from Paxton, the project team appreciates that there is a strong desire to decarbonise your homes, public buildings and commercial spaces and to be kept up to date with the initial journey into community decarbonisation. There is now a hope that “Paxton” could perhaps begin to replicate the project in the community. Representatives from LHEES have been invited along to our “informal /community hub meeting” in April to hear more about this project/scheme.

Documents summarising the findings from the pilot in Swinton have been uploaded onto our website.

Setting a new course for health services in the Borders

Message from NHS Border Chief Executive – “As we welcome in the new year I want us all to consider how NHS Borders and our services should evolve. As a health board we are responsible for providing the care that our patients need, when it is needed; and I am aware of the challenges that we are facing and the improvements we need to make. To start this improvement journey we need your help. We need your help in telling us what NHS Borders means to you, what you value in our services and where you think we can improve.

Your voice really matters and your opinions will genuinely help shape our strategy and our improvement journey. This work is about describing an ambitious future for NHS Borders and the strategy will provide the direction for our collective improvement journey. “

This information has been shared on our website.

Community Land Scotland Event – 5th March 2025

Community Land Scotland, which works with community landowners, are hosting an event on [Wednesday 5 March from 18:00 - 20:00](#) in Eyemouth, Scottish Borders.

In partnership with the Scottish Land Fund, they are holding an information sessions that look at the practicalities and benefits of community ownership of land and buildings. The session will provide communities with an overview of community ownership, including:

- An introduction to community landownership: how can it help your community? How do you start? Who can help?
- Information about communities’ rights to register interest in land or buildings
- An overview of the support available
- Inspiring community ownership stories

If you cannot attend this event but are interested in learning more, there are also events in the East Lothian (3 March) and Fife (11 March). More information, and links to register for all three events can be found at [Community Ownership Roadshow](#).

Scottish Borders Council Delivery Programme 2024

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Borders Council Delivery Programme 2024, has now been published and is available to view at www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2

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There is a statutory requirement for Planning Authorities to publish a Delivery Programme, to accompany the recently adopted Local Development Plan 2024. The purpose of the Delivery Programme is to set out how Scottish Borders Council proposes to implement the adopted LDP and is part of the project management toolkit, focussing on the delivery of the Plan.

This information has been shared on our website.

Destination Tweed

Destination Tweed is a unique project which aims to celebrate and share the nature, history and stories of the River Tweed and deliver significant economic, environmental, educational and social benefits to the south of Scotland and North Northumberland.

A five-year partnership led investment, Destination Tweed will deliver a 113-mile trail running from Moffat, past the source of the River Tweed and on to Berwick Upon Tweed where the river meets the sea. As part of this, a further 12 projects covering a wide range of cultural, river and landscape enhancements, will connect communities and attractions along the route and create opportunities to celebrate, care for, enjoy and promote the river sustainably. We have many opportunities for local organisations, clubs and individuals to get involved in our projects such as at planting weekends, cultural events, archaeological workshops and much more!

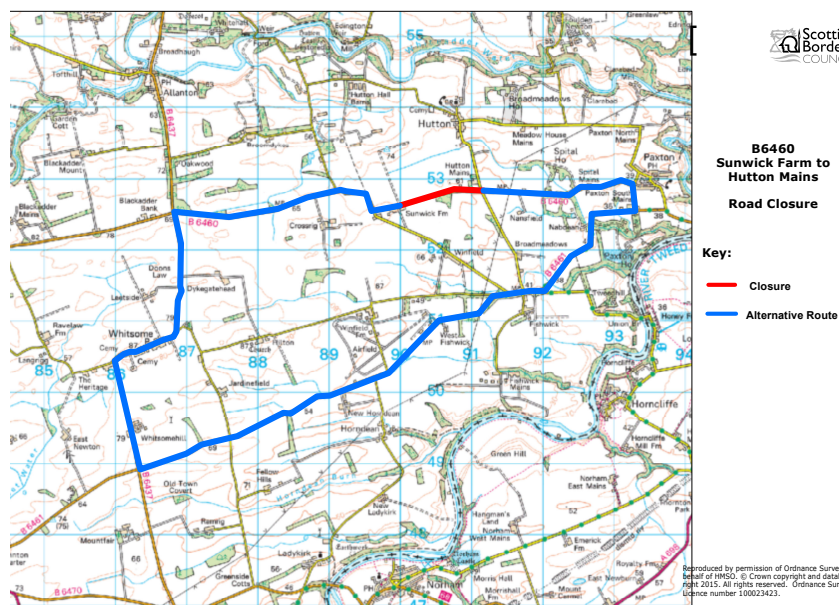
You can sign up to receive our regular newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/hzrcaH> or follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Road Closures B6460 Sunwick Farm to Hutton Mains

From 8am on 17th February to 4pm on 14th March the road will be closed for resurfacing and patching.

This is a 24 hour closure including weekends to allow for edge reconstruction and resurfacing works to be carried out. 24 hour closure is required for Health and Safety reasons due to the lack of available road width at this location.

Details are on our website.



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Paxton Notice Board – Storm damage

The notice board in the village green was damaged in the recent storms. A request has been made to replace it. Robin provided a summary of costs and options. It was agreed that the notice board would be replaced with a simple noticeboard approx. 1m x 90cm, located in the bus shelter, cost circa £50.

Cllr Hamilton would see if anyone in SBC could help with this.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 3rd April at 7.30pm Informal CC/ Community hub
Hutton Village Hall

Dates and Times for Future Meetings in 2025 – all meetings start at 7:30pm

- 15th May 2025, Paxton Village Hall – Annual General Meeting followed by regular meeting
- 26th June 2025, Hutton Village Hall
- 7th August 2025, Paxton Village Hall
- 18th September 2025, Hutton Village Hall
- 30th October 2025, Paxton Village Hall
- 11th December 2025, Hutton Village Hall