

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (HPCC) DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Hutton Village Hall

Date and time: **Thursday December 11th 2025 at 7:30pm**

Attendees: Sharon King - Chair
Angela MacLean - Secretary
Diana Beard - Treasurer
Rebecca Hall

In Attendance: 5 members of our community

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who had taken time to attend. It was noted the meeting scheduled for October 30th 2025 had been cancelled due to low attendance, however this evening's meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Carol Hamilton and Tony Power

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 7th 2025

The minutes from the community council meeting held on August 7th 2025 were approved.

The Chair noted that minutes are shared on the village bus stop noticeboards in Hutton, Paxton and Fishwick, in both village halls and on the website: <https://hpcommunityhub.uk/meetings-agendas-minutesand-reports/>

4. Regular Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided a summary of the current finances as of December 11th 2025:

Balance of the account:	£1,518.06	
Income	£687.00	(Scottish Borders Council (SBC))
Expenditure	£843.17	
• website	£43.20	(N.B. 121 views in October)
• Paxton fence	£300.00	
• Hutton park	£59.57	
• Hutton park	£30.40	
• Hutton park	£410.00	

Diana informed the meeting that the remaining ring-fenced funds derived from the Fallago Wind Farm grant allocated in 2021 had now been spent on Hutton park refurbishment. The funds are no longer ring-fenced and can be allocated as per due process.

There were no questions or queries on the Treasurer's report.

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b) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for discussion.

c) Police Scotland

The Police report for East Berwickshire - November 2025 - is published on our website: <https://hpcommunityhub.uk/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/>. If anyone would like a copy, please get in touch.

Specific to our community, it was noted that on 11/11/2025 someone driving under the influence in Paxton had been reported to the police. A female was traced, breath test provided and failed. The individual was arrested and charged, reports submitted.

d) Resilience Group

Serious Incident: a burst water mains on August 27th affected our region for a number of days. Scottish Water initially provided pallets of water to Paxton but not Hutton or Fishwick so cases of water were distributed to key points in each village and some individual houses these areas. It was noted that it would have been helpful if the Resilience Group or the parent community council (HPCC) had been formally notified by our local area council (SBC). This would have prompted an alert to the HPCC Resilience Group whose members could have mounted a more formal response. The Chair thanked the many residents who rose to the challenge of distributing water to those in most need.

The Resilience Group coffee mornings re-started in October following the summer break. The average attendance continues to be around 25 people and typically about £110 is raised for good causes at each coffee morning.

It was confirmed that £200 will be donated towards the cost of goal posts for the park in Paxton and further £240 was donated to Chirnside Food Larder to support the purchase of fresh produce for Christmas.

5. Changes to the Council Constitution

Scottish Borders Council has updated the Community Council 'Scheme'. Following extensive consultation, the new scheme (including the Constitution) was published in September 2025. It will be reviewed again in 2030. A new Community Council Handbook was also published at the same time and will be reviewed in 2027. HPCC are currently reviewing the nine core components of the scheme and the guidance in the handbook; these documents will be available on our website shortly.

In terms of impact on residents, the most significant changes relate to the frequency of meetings which can be reduced to 4 times a year (plus an AGM) and a new complaints procedure has been established. The Chair assured residents that additional community council meetings could be held at any time should the need arise (contact us on huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com).

6. Community Council Elections in 2026

The Community Council was put into abeyance in December 2021 following the resignation of the then Chair and Secretary. It was reconvened on September 21st 2022 and we are now due to hold open elections in 2026.

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Residents in our catchment area will be able to nominate people (with their consent) to be their representatives on the community council. The election process will involve the nomination of up to 8 residents as community councillors (four from Paxton and a total of four, jointly, between Hutton and Fishwick). Current councillors may be nominated for a further term if they are willing to stand.

Information about the election process will be published on the HPCC website, in the spring issue of the community magazine, and on our various noticeboards prior to the HPCC Annual General Meeting on **May 14th 2026**.

7. Progress Updates

a) Play parks

Hutton park has been refurbished at a cost of £537.53. Hutton's share of the cancelled Chain Bridge footpath grant has paid for the refurbishment.

Paxton park - the phone kiosk at the entrance to Paxton park has been removed, the footpath reinstated and a safety fence barrier is now in place at the entrance to the park.

We currently have £400 in donations for the goal post in Paxton but the total cost is £1,034. The park is the property of SBC so any equipment installation must be approved, undertaken and insured by SBC. The selected goal post is one that meets the required safety specification. HPCC agreed to make a donation of £200 to bring the total donations so far to £600. It was confirmed that parents should be approached to ask if they would undertake appropriate fundraising activities to make good the shortfall of £400. Diana will contact the parents.

b) Grass Cutting

HPCC has not been able to contract a gardening company to maintain the core paths in Paxton this year. Quotes varied from £400 to £1600 but contractors were not interested in undertaking the work. The issue will be raised once more with the Access Rangers at SBC.

8. Questions from Residents

a) Road safety in Hutton

HPCC had received an email asking if anything could be done to address drivers speeding in Hutton, specifically if more 20 mph signs could be put up. Angela has spoken to the relevant person at SBC who thought there was a risk of having too much signage in a small village, and if existing signs are being ignored, then additional signs would, in all likelihood, be ignored too. The behaviour of drivers who choose to ignore the 20mph limit is recognised as a national issue.

b) Remembrance Sunday in Hutton

A resident expressed disappointment that there was no official representation from the church at the Hutton war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and no official wreaths were laid.

The war memorial is located in the graveyard at Hutton Church and although there is a right of access to it (despite the church itself being in private residential ownership), it is somewhat off the beaten track now the church is no longer in regular use.

Following discussion, it was agreed to investigate the possibility of moving the monument to another location in Hutton where there would be more open access. The difficulties encountered by HPCC in ascertaining land ownership and obtaining planning permission to enhance the engraved

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names on the monument in Paxton were considerable and it was agreed the task of moving the monument would undoubtedly be challenging. Angela will investigate the possibilities with the various organisations she contacted regarding Paxton's war memorial. The Chair will investigate why there was no representation from the Church on Remembrance Sunday.

c) New neighbours for Hutton Village Hall

John Watson informed the meeting that he had met the new owner of Ivy Cottage (the house between the church and the hall) and had explained to them that there are times when there will be a number of cars parked in the immediate vicinity of the hall and church. The council had received complaints about car parking from the previous owner so we are hopeful this proactive diplomacy on John's part will maintain good relations.

d) Another 'Big Meeting' in 2026?

A resident asked if HPCC would be co-ordinating another meeting of all the various groups and committees in our area in 2026. It was agreed the council would speak to the leads of the various groups to see if there was an appetite for more joint working of this sort.

9. **AOB**

a) Cemetery and Burial Ground Management

HPCC received a consultation request from SBC regarding an area-wide strategy for Cemetery and Burial Ground Management in Scottish Borders. The survey was to be completed by December 15th so we have responded on behalf of residents. There will be further opportunities for individual residents to respond:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/4859/cemetery-and-burial-ground-management-survey-open-for-feedback>

b) Convention on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure in Scottish Borders

The speed and impact of changes related to renewable energy infrastructure developments in the Scottish Borders area (Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham) is causing concern for residents most affected by the change. A meeting to discuss an area-wide response is to be held on:

January 17th 2026 between 2-4pm in Jedburgh Town Hall

HPCC will put up posters in the usual places, however the deadline for confirming attendance in **20.12.25**.

10. **Date and time of future meetings**

- Thursday February 26th 2026 at 7.30pm Paxton Village Hall
- Thursday May 14th 2026 at 7.30pm Hutton Village Hall (AGM at 7pm)
- Thursday August 20th 2026 at 7.30pm Paxton Village Hall
- Thursday November 19th 2026 at 7.30pm Hutton Village Hall