

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (H&PCC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM MEETING

Venue: Hutton Village Hall

Date and time: Thursday 14th May 2025 at 19:00

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

In Attendance: Cllr James Anderson and 5 Members of our Community

1. **Welcome**

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

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Tony Power, Cllr Carol Hamilton and Cllr Aileen Orr.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting – 15th May 2025**

The minutes from the meeting held on 15th May 2025 were approved.

4. **Office Bearers Combined Report**

The Chair thanked her fellow office bearers and council members for all their support, attendance at meetings and work on behalf of the Community Council over the past year. She also thanked those who regularly attend our meetings for their time and contributions.

Diana Beard gave an overview of the role of the CC and the activities carried out over the past year. This is appended in full to these minutes. It was agreed that this update would be included in the Summer 2026 Hutton, Fishwick and Paxton Community magazine which is printed and distributed to all properties in the area.

The Chair handed over to fellow office bearers to provide an update on finance and administration.

Diana Beard outlined the financial position for the year from 01.04.25 to 31.03.26 and also briefly outlined the Community Council Annual Support Grant Evaluation form. The CC is required to provide an annual report of activities and financial accounts to the Scottish Borders Council. The annual grant is dependent on the CC demonstrating its compliance with due process and accountability. Both documents will be available on our website after submission to, and approval by, Scottish Borders Council.

It was noted that both the Treasurer and Secretary have chosen not to claim expenses for administrative items such as paper, printing, etc. Reference to this is included in the minutes so that future office bearers are aware that this is a personal choice, and previous post-holders submitted claims for reimbursement (as is their right to do so).

The CC noted and agreed the contents. The accounts will be reviewed by a designated member of our community and it was agreed that the files will then be submitted to SBC.

5. **Election of Officers**

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Current members were all happy to continue in their roles until the Community Council elections which will be held in the autumn of this year, the 3 office bearers have completed their term in office and stated it is their intention to step down from the CC to allow other members of the community to take matters forward. .

All members of HPCC agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors and will sign to this effect.

6 Any Other Business

No other items were discussed under AOB.

7 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be agreed by the new CC committee.

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Office Bearers Combined Report for inclusion in the Summer edition of the Community magazine

It's coming up to election time would you like to join your Community Council?

Every three to four years we hold elections for the community council. This is the year when it's all happening: 2026 - time to elect members of *your* community to sit on the council so if you're interested in standing for election and would like to know more, please contact us at Huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com

Back in 2021, the community council had some issues as we came out of Covid. A lack of members (we should have eight people) meant that the council was closed down and our funds were returned to Scottish Border Council.

Why does this matter?

Well, in the absence of the community council, there's no mechanism to obtain funding for local improvement projects. The community council is the link between the people who live here and our parent council: Scottish Borders Council. In 2023, a refreshed council with new members and leadership was established and we like to think/hope we've been fairly successful in our efforts so far.

What has the council achieved over the last three years?

Our first priority was to meet with the various groups and individuals who work voluntarily to support our community. We wondered if the various groups might work more closely with each other than they had in the past, so we organised two community hub meetings which focused on the priorities of the people who live in our community and have since tried to address their concerns to the best of our abilities.

One of the key questions was how to connect with people?

Communication is everything. Of course notice boards are a tried and tested solution, however a limited number of people look at them. We put up 5 new noticeboards (helped by replacing two bus stops which act as notice boards, one in Hutton and one in Fishwick - thanks to the Unpaid Work Team at Scottish Borders Council). We also launched a new website: hpcommunityhub.uk and a Facebook page search for "Hutton and Paxton Community Council" where you can find news about local events, the various papers for our meetings and a range of information relating to our area

Keeping with the idea of community building, we have sponsored two '*Picnics on the Green*' to bring people together for an enjoyable, fun day with live music and kids' activities. We provided the entertainment, you provided the picnic! Lots of people came along and the weather held on both occasions.

Our community council also has a Resilience Group which established a monthly Pop-up Cafe in 2024 in Paxton village hall. The cafes are held on the last Thursday of each month from October to June. We usually have around 25 customers who come along for a chat, coffee and home-made cakes. In 2024, our generous customers donated over £800 which was divided between plants for the Paxton memorial garden and Chirnside Food Larder. In 2025 just over £1,000 was donated and

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we have been able to support some local projects, community planting and Chirnside food larder. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to our customers who make this possible.

We were asked to improve our local area

Amongst the priorities were specific issues: the replacement of two delapidated bus stops (as mentioned above: Hutton and Fishwick) and some roadside benches scattered around our area.

We have also worked with the Unpaid Work Team to organise the cutting of the core paths around Paxton, a perennial problem in more ways than one!

One of the most pressing issues we were asked to address was in relation to the war memorials in Paxton and Hutton. Following discussions with the community, we were able to co-ordinate activities and funding for significant work on the war memorial in Paxton. Two residents undertook a lot of work to clear and renovate the memorial garden. Funding for the new garden came from a variety of sources: Fallago Windfarm (via Tweed Forum), Paxton Village Enhancement Group, and the Resilience Pop-Up cafe. Scottish Borders Council paid to have the names of the fallen during the second world war re-engraved on the lower panel.

The redundant phone kiosk at the entrance to Paxton park was considered to be a real eyesore and was finally removed after lengthy discussions with British Telecom.

What about our children and young people?

We worked with Scottish Borders Council to install a brand new park in Paxton. We asked children and their parents to complete a survey of what they would most like to have in the park and a grant of £60,000 enabled us to provide a range of equipment. Some of the parents specifically asked if we could provide picnic tables so a further £1,600 was spent to provide 2 tables in Paxton park and one in Hutton park.

We realised that road safety was a potential issue at the entrance to Paxton park so we funded a sturdy fence to reduce the likelihood of children running out onto the road.

We worked with volunteers (you know who you are!) and the Unpaid Work Team to renovate the park in Hutton and Scottish Borders Council have agreed to renew the park in 2027/28.

So, are you happy with what we have achieved over the last three years?

We are all volunteers and have made a real effort to support our community. We certainly have not achieved all our aims but it's a work in progress. It's always good to have 'new blood' and new ideas so please, consider joining your community council. Elections will be held in September this year - you have the summer to think about it!

Hutton and Paxton Community Council