

HUTTON AND PAXTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (HPCC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Venue: Hutton Village Hall

Date and time: **Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7:30pm**

Attendees: Sharon King - Chair
Diana Beard - Treasurer
Angela MacLean - Secretary
Rebecca Hall
James Anderson - Cllr, SBC

In Attendance: 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 – 26th February 2026**

The minutes from the community council meeting held on 26th February 2026 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 14th May 2026:

Balance of the account: **£1,410**

A contribution of £85 to cover the cost of printing Resilience leaflets for inserting in the community magazine was agreed, more details below under “Resilience”.

It was also agreed that the Hall family will continue to receive the previously agreed annual payment of £40 as a contribution towards the electricity costs for the defibrillator (which is powered off their home’s electricity supply) in Hutton.

It was agreed that Diana Beard would be reimbursed £94.65 for ink cartridges.

There were no questions in relation to the Treasurer's report.

b) Planning Applications

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There was one planning applications for consideration/comment.

The proposal for the “Demolition of Derelict Outbuildings” at Paxton South Mains was discussed.

Angela was asked to advise Scottish Borders Council that no comments, questions or concerns had (or have been) received by the CC from local residents and that HPCC are therefore supportive of the proposed demolition of the derelict outbuildings.

c) Police Scotland

The Police reports for East Berwickshire up to end April 2026 are published on our website: <https://hpcommunityhub.uk/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/>. If anyone would like a copy, please get in touch.

d) Resilience Group

Keith Pattison gave an update on the Resilience Group.

The Emergency Planning team at Scottish Borders Council have issued a helpful how to be prepared in the case of emergencies document. To make this information more readily available Keith has created a “Just In case” leaflet that will be included as an insert in the community magazine, the costs were discussed and agreed earlier in the meeting under the Treasurer’s Report.

The monthly coffee mornings are currently on a planned break over the summer period however there is a separate coffee morning planned for Saturday July 4th to raise funds for Paxton church.

5. Community Council Elections in 2026

The Community Council is due to hold open elections in the autumn of 2026.

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, however the current office bearers have stated their intention to step down.

Information about the election process will be published on the HPCC website, in the summer issue of the community magazine, and on our various noticeboards.

6. Progress Updates

a) Grass Cutting

The Unpaid Work Team have undertaken to cut our core paths again this year. Scottish borders Council do provide ring-fenced money each year for this work and external companies have been approached to do this work, but no-one has wanted to take this on, within the permitted financial envelope.

b) Paxton Post Box

There has been little success in ascertaining from Royal Mail when the post box will be back in place.

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Diana has spent numerous hours on the phone to Royal Mail customer services and made face to face visits to Berwick to try to push this forward. visits to Berwick to try to push this forward. Royal Mail has now decided the post box will not be replaced because of its proximity to the post box opposite the gates of Paxton House, which is less than half a mile away. Given the nature of our rural area, 60 mph roads, absence of street lights on the access road and a wall-based box whose letter slot is not large enough for standard mail, local councillors, our MSP and our MP are involved in trying to reach some resolution with Royal Mail.

7. Questions from Residents

a) Cars parked near the playpark, Hutton

The CC have been approached about vehicles which do not appear to be taxed/MOT'd and are parked permanently on the land adjacent to Hutton playpark. Given the lack of parking space in the immediate area, Rebecca agreed to make contact with residents to highlight the concerns which had been raised

b) Speeding in Hutton

A concerned resident raised the issue of vehicles exceeding 20mph in Hutton.

Following discussions, it was suggested that we approach Allanton, Edrom and Whitsome (AEW) CC to see if residents could borrow their speed gun to try and gauge actual speeds of vehicles. Angela will make contact with AEW and keep in touch with residents on this matter.

Discussions had previously been held with Phillipa Gilhooly, SBC. It was felt that generally those drivers who exceed speed limits (not exclusively but often delivery van drivers) are likely to ignore additional signage so a balance on the impact of signs in a rural community and visual impact need to be considered.

b) Hutton War Memorial

Concerns around continued access to Hutton war memorial were briefly discussed.

Plans to change the use of the closed church to a private dwelling appears to have stalled, it was noted that if a relocation of the memorial was to be considered a better option than having the agreed access as things stand, then a multi-agency group would need to take forward any plans to relocate the Hutton war memorial.

8. AOB

Angela had received a consultation request from Scottish Forestry which will see 1.8ha felled and restocked with a mix of oak, wild cherry, silver birch, Scots pine and mixed broadleaves and 1.95ha thinned.

Following discussions, it was agreed that Angela should write back thanks Scottish Forestry for the opportunity to comment and to advise that Hutton and Paxton CC are supportive of these plans.

9. Date and time of future meetings

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- Thursday 20th August 2026 at 7.30pm, Paxton Village Hall
- Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7.30pm, Hutton Village Hall (dependent on the election of new council members and office bearers)