

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025 Kirkhope Parish Hall

Present: Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Kirsty Irving (KI) (Secretary) , Jane Telfer (JT), Karen O'Brien-Barret (KO) , , Jonathan Rowley (JR) (Vice Chair), John Davidson (JD), Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol (ET-N) and 8 members of the public

1. Apologies

Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), Paul Scott (PS), Elizabeth Williamson (EW), Councillor Leah Douglas (LD), Councillor Caroline Cochrane (CC) , Vicky Davidson

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2024 were proposed by JR and seconded by JT.

3. Matters arising (Not on agenda)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Police Report

No incidents reported for either Valley for November or December.

KI has invited Police contact to attend the meeting to be held at Cappercleuch on Monday 2nd June 2025, awaiting confirmation. It was agreed this would be beneficial given the issues around anti-social behaviour around St Marys Loch.

JR noted that the 50mph speed limit to be implemented on A708 must be enforced by Police.

5. Councillors Reports

ET-N provided E&YCC with a Policeman cut out (Bob) to be strategically placed on roads around the Valleys in an effort to reduce speeding. ET-N suggested after 5 days this should be moved to another chosen location.

Action: KI

ET-N has asked for further speed monitoring within the valleys. JR asked if Yarrowford could be added to the list for speed monitoring.

6. Financial Report

AR delivered the financial report in MA's absence.

Balance as at 1 st Dec 2024	£13,575.38
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Balance as at 1 st Feb 2025	£13,120.03
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Income

SBC Paths maintenance grant	£600.00
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Expenditure

Wind Farm Fund B Grant Expenditure

Travel expenses for managing defibrillators	£55.35
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EYCDC – Planning application fee	£1000.00
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Total Expenditure	£1055.35
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6. South of Scotland Destination Alliance – David Hope-Jones OBE

AR introduced David Hope-Jones to the meeting to give an insight into the ongoing work of South of Scotland Destination Alliance which promotes the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway as tourism destination and supports businesses within these areas without undermining what is so special about the area. Scotland Starts Here!

Inspiring people to visit through coordinated, strategic marketing campaigns;

- providing a single point of clear, accurate visitor information;
- having a single voice for our sector which is loud and proud; and
- having a single Responsible Tourism Strategy which everyone is behind.

Center Parcs – Making sure this is embedded within the eco-system of local businesses.

Timber Transport concerns – Liaising with Councils and Transport Scotland

- Concerns were raised re the status of Valleys roads given the potential increase in volume of traffic if / when Center Parcs opens

Tour of the Borders – understanding the frustrations around this event and doing some mediation work with local businesses

Please have a look at the website below to find out more information.

[Home - South of Scotland Destination Alliance](#)

8. Proposed Cross Border Connection - Update

The Ettrick & Yarrow Pylons Action Group (EYPAG) has been working with other groups and there is now an umbrella group which has now been set up linking all the affected areas together.

Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) have requested information on future EYCC meetings, perhaps separate meeting to be arranged – **Action: KI**

Anyone interested in contacting the EYPAG should use the email–

ettrickyarrowpag@gmail.com

[Action Against Pylons: Scottish Borders Alliance | Join the Fight Today](#)

9. Ettrick Flooding

JD reported repairs have been done to banking, road is improved but not a final solution.

ET-N continuing to speak to Flooding Team for more permanent solution.

10. Update from EYCDC

In Vicky Davidsons absence AR reported the changes on the board following the AGM – Trevor Timms taking over as Chairman from Michael Strang Steel, Bronwyn Clark the new treasurer, and new board members, Ingrid Earp and Colin Robson. All on the front page of the newsletter. (Attached)

Alistair Moody raised the concern again around issues with the Ring of the Loch, asked for a meeting with all parties – **Action AR**

11. Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund Annual Report 2024 & 2025 Distribution Plan

On behalf of Miranda AR reported that there is money left in the fund which has not been allocated.

EYCDC have been granted an interim funding plan to enable the distribution of the newsletter that EYCDC produce, £900 initially for 6 months. Going forward EYCC propose to set aside funds (Communication Fund) specifically for communication within the Valleys.

12. Community Resilience Planning

AR suggested this is an area where we need to recruit individuals to help with resilience planning – perhaps two people per area.

We are now so reliant on electricity, issues raised around recent storm Eowyn where many houses were without power.

JT suggested Andy McLean (Emergency Planning Officer SBC) meets with EYCC to discuss. **Action: ET-N to make contact and suggest dates**

Barbara Harrison raised the issue around having digital phones now that do not work when there is a power cut. Also during power cuts the mobile phone masts also do not work. **Action: ET-N to follow up**

13. Planning Applications

One application received for alterations and extensions to Hangingshaw South Lodge Selkirk Scottish Borders TD7 5NA

All applications can be viewed at [Weekly List](#)

14. Correspondence

Information received from Borders Community Action re NHS Borders – Consultation on future delivery plans of NHS Borders, possibility of using Kirkhope Hall for meeting. **Action: KI to suggest Yarrow Hall as an option also.**

13. AOCB

Concern was raised re smart meters not working. This seems to be a countrywide issue, not just the Valleys.

Bins were requested to be put in place in latbys near St Marys Loch. Action: **ET-N to look into this and report back.**

Grant Applications

As mentioned in point 11, EYCDC have been granted an interim funding plan to enable the distribution of the newsletter that EYCDC produce, £900 initially for 6 months. Going forward EYCC propose to set aside funds (Communication Fund) specifically for communication within the

Dates of future meetings, all at 7pm;

Monday 7th April 2025 - Yarrow Feus Hall

Monday 2nd June 2025 - St Marys Hall, Cappercleuch (AGM & Meeting to follow)

Monday 4th August 2025 - Boston Memorial Hall

Monday 6th October 2025 - Kirkhope Parish Hall

Monday 1st December 2025 - Yarrowford Hall

Monday 2nd February 2026 - Kirkhope Parish Hall

Monday 8th June 2026 - TBC