

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 Boston Memorial Hall, Ettrick

Present: Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), Kirsty Irving (KI) (Secretary), , Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Jane Telfer (JT), John Wildish (JW) (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Williamson (EW), Karen O'Brien-Barret (KO), Jane Telfer (JT), John Davidson (JD), Paul Scott (PS), Councillor Caroline Cochrane (CC) and 12 members of the public

1. Apologies

Councillor Leah Douglas (LD), Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol (ET), PC John Murray

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 were proposed by KO and seconded by JT.

3. Matters arising (Not on agenda)

EW reported that a SIM card had been sourced by CC. This telephone number will be available onsite at all defibrillators to report of any issues.

MA to follow up with Karen Moakes re fencing around James Hogg statue.

4. Police Report

Disappointingly no police presence at meeting.

Nothing to report for either valley in police report.

Action – KI to contact PC Murray to request police presence at next meeting

Possibility of a site meeting at East End of St Marys Loch before next meeting.

AR stressed to all to report any concerns to the police.

It was noted by a member of the public that speed limits are not being adhered to or enforced. **Action: KI to report back to PC John Murray**

Councillor CC stated that “dragons teeth” had been painted on the road either end of Yarrow Feus, this may be an option for Yarrowford. **Action: CC to take forward.**

5. Councillors Reports - ET-N

Councillor CC reported that due to the General Election SBC activities on hold.

Reminder that photo ID is required for voting in General Election.

Live Borders concern – Review in place and difficult decisions may have to be made regarding finances.

Action: CC to update at next meeting

6. Financial Report

Balance as at 1st June 2024 is £15,756.23

£400 received back from Ettrick Forest Sports & Recreation Club, grant previously awarded for new fencing came in less than the original estimate.

Paths maintenance grant from SBC has been increased £600 to include;

Ring of the Loch path, Yarrow Primary – Yarrow Hall path, Ettrickbridge community woodland path.

MA asked if anyone knows of any other paths to be maintained to please let Community Council know.

7. Scottish Borders Climate Action Network (Unable to attend this meeting)

AR asked Councillor CC to update the meeting on Selkirk and Valleys Placemaking progress.

£7.3m was awarded to Hawick, Jedburgh, Eyemouth & Galashiels through the Borderlands growth deal to come up with ways to regenerate the towns. This has now been rolled out to all towns within SBC area.

Consultations have taken place in Selkirk which were very well supported, with a lot of suggestions as to how to improve the town.

5 categories;

- People & well being
- Tourism
- Business development
- Natural built environment
- Arts, culture & heritage

Suggestions have been submitted, eg. Developing more along the riverside, more housing, leisure facilities, bus services for valleys etc.

More information can be found on Selkirk Community Council website [Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council | Background \(selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk\)](https://www.selkirkcommunitycouncil.co.uk)

9. Tour O' The Borders

AR confirmed open road event taking place on 6th June which should have no negative impact on businesses.

There will be a closed road event in September 2025.

Inside Outside have been in touch with AR as have been encouraged to be more communicative and open with the community. Offering to send a monthly email with updates.

The Touro Trust has been set up and is funded by the organisers of Tour of the Borders to support community initiatives around the event route. Funded by donations from event participants, the idea being that they will give something back to areas along the route of the event. Community Councils and local groups will be invited to suggest projects which could benefit from some support with funding of up to £5k for any single project being awarded after the event takes place.

£1000 has previously been promised to Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council for community benefit from Hillside Outside but this has never come through, therefore there is an element of scepticism around this.

10. Ettrick Flooding

JD updated that Duncan Morrison (SBC) has finished the design of proposal, there will be three sections with a more permanent bund and has applied to SEPA for a license for one of them. Hoping to start work mid July.

Blocked part of river – this has now been passed on to River Tweed Commissioners and Nature Scotland to take the next steps. These bodies are interested in the ecology issues of the river i.e. reduced salmon levels but may not be so worried about the road flooding issue, however, if the flow of the river is repaired then this will be beneficial.

Nature Restoration Fund may be an option but this would be a lengthy process over many years. This application would be made by Tweed Commissioners and Nature Scotland.

Possibility of nature media productions to be contacted to raise the profile of the issue.

Action: AR to write to Tweed Commissioners

11. Telephone Kiosk at St Marys Loch

EYCC have taken ownership of disused kiosk at St Marys Loch, although no payment of £1 has never been requested.

AR suggested the possibility of a digital noticeboard?

There is power supplied to the kiosk but unsure of level. **Action: AR to check**

AR asked if anyone has any other suggestions on how best to use this facility then please do get in touch.

12. Community Council Co-Option of member

Jonathon Rowley from Yarrowford has agreed to join Community Council and AR thanked him for volunteering.

Action: KI to send JR documents including Community Councillors code of conduct

13. Update from EYCDC

Vicky Davidson updated on successful willow workshop completed

Hogg exhibition is now open for summer, electric bikes available for hire.

New newsletter available to highlight what's going on in the Valleys. Action: KI to distribute, this may unfortunately lead to duplication but should settle in time. This could also go on the new Community Council website.

Forestry felling behind Honey cottage – planning to fell trees along boardwalk up to first bird hide, this was supposed to start end May, however now mid June. This will be detrimental to red squirrels / birds breeding and the boardwalk would need to be closed all summer for safety reasons. EYCDC has asked if felling could be postponed till autumn.

Red squirrel conservation group have been contacted but have no authority over forestry felling.

13. EYCC Website

JW talked the meeting through the website which is now up and running.

[Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council \(ettrickandyarrowcc.scot\)](http://ettrickandyarrowcc.scot)

Borders Web design from Hawick has created the website for us and once training has taken place this will be updated by members of E&YCC

- Home Page
- News
- Village Hall info
- Community Plans
- Calendar / Events
- Minutes / AGM Archive
- Links
- About Us
- Contact us

AR thanked JW for all his hard work on this and this work is ongoing.

14. Planning Applications

Nothing received for EYCC to comment on

All applications can be viewed at the following web address:

[Weekly List \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](http://scotborders.gov.uk)

Search by Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council and by date.

15. Correspondence

- Letter received from Yarrowford SWI to thank E&YCC for the grant they received.

16. AOCB

Nether Phawhope New Woodland Creation – Members of the public stated they had written to the developers RDS Forestry in opposition to the planting but had had no response. Andrew Dixon from RDS Forestry attended a Community Council Meeting last year and had promised to consult with locals. **Action: KI to contact RDS Forestry and update**

JT brought up the plans for Church of Scotland to close one but possibly two of the churches within the Valleys. Congregational meeting to be held in August. **Action: JT to keep updated**

17. Grant applications

One grant application was considered – EYCDC applied for a grant to reprint James Hogg booklet (book of poems) - £1475.00 was approved.

Dates of future meetings, all at 7pm;

Monday 5th August 2024, St Marys Hall, Cappercleuch

Monday 7th October 2024, Kirkhope Parish Hall

Monday 2nd December 2024, Yarrowford Hall

Monday 3rd February 2025, Kirkhope Parish Hall

Monday 7th April 2025, Yarrow Feus Hall

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