

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18th August 2025

Boston Memorial Hall Ettrick

Present: Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Kirsty Irving (KI) (Treasurer), Karen O'Brien-Barret (KO) (Secretary), Jane Telfer (JT), John Davidson (JD), Paul Scott (PS).

No members of the public were in attendance. Since those present formed a quorum it was decided to continue.

1. **Apologies** Douglas Walker (DW), Neil Chalk (NC), Betty Williamson (BW), Vicky Davidson (EYCDC) and councillors Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Leigh Douglas, Caroline Cochrane

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2025 were proposed by AR and seconded by JT

3. **Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

Resilient Communities:

Stephen Mitchell (SM) from the SBC planning team has provided AR with a copy of the Resilient Communities Plan. He confirmed that all coordinators receive relevant general communications, including weather and wildfire alerts, a bi-annual newsletter and an invitation to the coordinators event held at SBC headquarters in November.

SM confirmed that there were 8 local coordinators for the valleys and that Barbara Harrison was listed as the overall coordinator. Each group has in provided with a plan template which is reviewed and refreshed annually.

AR will contact Barbara to see if she is willing to continue.

SM offered to facilitate an awareness event. AR welcomed this and will make the arrangements with invitations being extended to the local coordinators, EYCC members and other interested parties.

Telecommunications Issues:

JD raised the issue of the loss of phone signal (both landline and mobile) when there is a loss of power. This is a significant risk to vulnerable members of the community. Recent weather warnings contained the

advice that such individuals should be checked on but this is reliant on members of the community being available.

It is understood that relevant telecommunications companies are responsible for providing a solution but nothing formal has been received or put in place. It is anticipated that this is something that will be addressed in the resilient communities plan.

Defibrillators:

BW has ordered £2760 6 new cabinets to replace those that are no longer fit for purpose.

It was agreed that the defibrillator at Boston Hall would be relocated due to the difficulty of access.

Website:

At an earlier meeting NC suggested that he could upload information, minutes, the EYE newsletter etc, to the EYCC website rather than going via the supplier which is time consuming. KI has provided contact information to both parties. PS agreed to support with this if needed.

Having access in this way would also allow us to look at analytics to see how widely the site is being used. It was agreed that the web address should be listed on all minutes going forward.

[Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council Website](#)

4. Police Report

The report for July has been received. Two issues were reported locally; an attempted theft of a wheelie bin from Bowerhope Farm and acts of vandalism at Catslacksburn Farm.

5. Councillors' Reports

It was requested that we highlight the petition in relation to the proposed one way system in Selkirk. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.change.org/p/one-way-system-selkirk>

6. Financial Report

Opening bank balance - 1 st June	£23,449.15
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Expenditure

Direct EYCC Expenditure

Yarrow Hall (April Meeting)	£52.50
D Hewat – Paths maintenance (Ettrick & Yarrow)	£205

Windfarm Expenditure

EYCDC – First Aid Course	£340
Yarrow Feus Hall – Part funded smoke alarm installation	£2,803.50

Total Expenditure	£3,401.00
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Balance as at 1st June 2025	£20,048.15
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Whilst the EYCC supports applications for funds from local community halls we are aware that halls face an increasing financial burden with increases to the costs of utilities, insurance and hall upkeep.

It was felt that additional support could be offered in the form of a one off payment for each hall from the Langhope Rig Community fund. This money would be specifically for the upkeep of the hall, including towards utility bills.

Further information will be provided to the relevant Hall contact in due course.

7. Local Development Plan

SBC are in the early stages of preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP) and are inviting communities to contribute by submitting a Local Place Plan (LPP)

Whilst there is an LPP for Selkirk and the Valleys it is felt that this isn't specific enough for this community's needs.

Since the EYCDC need their own plan, in order to apply for funding, and the EYCC needs to fulfil our community action plan it has been agreed that we will work in collaboration to develop our LPP.

A consultancy company has been engaged to work on this and the EYCDC have made a bid which states that the plan will be run jointly with EYCC.

Comments, thoughts and suggestions will be captured, initially, in the form of a questionnaire to communities. We need to know what's important to communities, what they want more or/less of and what the main concerns are.

This will inform a draft for presentation & consultation with the communities before being put forward to inform the final plan.

The EYCC are not sure if a financial contribution is needed but have already agreed to this if needed..

The deadline for submission of LPP is 30th September 2027 but both EYCC and EYCDC anticipate making a submission ahead of the deadline.

8. **Ettrick Flooding**

Planned remedial work is ongoing.

9. **Update from EYCDC**

A number of activities are taking place:

Watercolour Workshop – Kirkhope Mill Saturday 23rd August

Ring of the Loch Walk – 1pm Sunday 24th August
to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the route. Funds raised will be donated to the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue

First Aid at Work course - 9th September 2025.
Some places still available for a contribution of £20 payable towards the cost. Email vicky@ettrickandyarow.org.uk if interested.

10. **Planning applications**

Planning applications can be found at

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/planning-applications/viewing-planning-application>

The Center Parcs planning application has been submitted. The code for the search is 25/00888/FUL

An application for an extension to dwelling house at 2 Yarrowford Road has been submitted. The code for the search is 25/00781/FUL

11. Correspondence

Has been circulated by email

12. AOCB

The Yarrow Show takes place on 13th September 2025. Further information can be found at www.yarrowshow.com

13 Date & Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th October 7pm at Kirkhope Parish Hall, Ettrickbridge.

The meetings for the rest of this session are as follows:

Monday 1st December 2025

Monday 2nd February 2026

Monday 6th April 2026

Monday 8th June 2026