

## **Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

#### **Kirkhope Parish Hall**

**Present:** Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Karen O'Brien-Barrett (KO) (Secretary), Paul Scott (PS), Jane Telfer, Douglas Walker (DW), Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nichol (ETN), Councillor Caroline Cochrane (CC), PC John Murray (JM) & three members of the public.

**Apologies:** Kirsty Irving (KI), John Davidson, (JD), Betty Williamson (BW) Leigh Douglas (LD). AR confirmed that Neil Chalk has resigned from the Community Council

#### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August were proposed by PS and seconded by JT with the following amendment:

At the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 JT agreed to be a representative of the Langhope Rig Wind Farm Fund. KI has been requested to share contact details with all relevant parties.

#### **Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

##### **Resilient Communities**

Work around the telecommunications issues arising from loss of power are ongoing.

Stephen Mitchell has agreed to come out to meet with Community Councillors and the local resilient communities coordinators. This will be arranged in due course.

##### **Defibrillators**

New cabinets have been ordered and paid for. Following a site visit it was agreed that the defibrillator at Boston Hall should be relocated due to its current inaccessible position.

#### **Police Report**

JM confirmed that there was little to report for Ettrick and Yarrow with the exception of the theft of a car. JM took the opportunity to raise the issue of rural crime, particularly quad bikes, and advised that owners should be aware of the security of their vehicles e.g. not leaving them unlocked and with keys in situ.

JM further advised that any suspicions should be reported and gave assurances that all reports were triaged and progressed accordingly. If individuals don't raise issues as they occur, they're not logged making it difficult to note patterns

emerging. JM advised that information relating to the area affected is included since officers will review reports to find any relevant to them. ET-N stated that the “contact us” system works very well and is easy to access.

Police Scotland Contact Us can be found at:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

It was recommended that the monthly police reports are uploaded to the EYCC website. These often include crime prevention advice.

## **Councillors' Reports**

Caroline Cochrane reminded us that the Community Conversations meetings were ongoing and encouraged members of the public to attend. There is a survey available from the SBC website. This, and further information can be found at:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/community-learning-development/community-conversations>

CC stated that the petition in favour of a one way system on Yarrow Terrace had received 779 signatures of support. This will now be submitted by Selkirk Community Council.

Live Borders review is ongoing. All of the public consultations are complete and data analysed. A paper will be submitted to SBC on 29<sup>th</sup> October with suggestions on how to proceed.

Selkirk Christmas lights switch on is 6<sup>th</sup> December with a market in Victoria Hall.

Ettrickbridge roadworks had started. DW stated that an email through the school and PTA had been received stating that all households in the affected area would receive a letter from the road department detailing the schedule but only one household received a letter. CC had shared this via her Facebook page.

Elaine Thornton-Nichol confirmed that the budget is, again, under review. She urged anyone with thoughts about cost savings to send them to her.

ET-N raised the issue of pension credits. She urged older members of the community to check their eligibility and confirmed that she would provide a briefing to be circulated via The Eye and the EYCC mailing list. ET-N stated that pension credits were viewed as a “passport benefit” and those in receipt can go on to apply for additional support.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/help-applying-benefits/benefits-available/3>

## Financial Report

AR delivered the financial report in KI's absence.

### Expenditure

#### *Direct EYCC expenditure*

Hall hire - Boston Hall (Aug meeting)	£20.00
D Hewat - Paths maintenance (Ettrick & Yarrow)	£250.00
Paths maintenance (Ring o' the Loch)	£451.05
Production of EYE (September issue)	£150.00

#### ***Wind Farm Expenditure***

Grant awarded - Yarrow Feus Hall - Running costs	£500.00
--	---------

<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£1,371.05</b>
--------------------------	------------------

<b>Balance as at 1 October 2025</b>	<b>£18,677.10</b>
-------------------------------------	-------------------

There is a future expenditure of £2730.00 for 6 new defibrillator cabinets

AR confirmed that there would be a direct payment of £500 to each hall in the valleys towards running costs.

JT stated that the Ettrick Parish Church notice board needed to be replaced. AR confirmed that someone would need to make an application to the EYCC, on behalf of the church. DW agreed to contact the Church's Session Clerk.

### Ettrick flooding

AR confirmed that the work to reinstate the original route of the Ettrick Water had been complete and is working as it should. However, it doesn't seem to have completely solved the problem of the road flooding and water is still coming from the other side of the road.

A communication has been received from the managers of Honey Cottage caravan park stating that the dredging has had an adverse affect at Honey Cottage resulting in waste tanks being under two feet of water.

ET-N asked that this communication be sent to her and she will discuss it with the flooding officer, Duncan Morrison. AR said that she would also follow it up with an email to ensure they're fully aware of the ongoing impact to the local community.

### Update from EYCDC

None available since EYCDC representative unable to attend.

## **Local Plan**

AR stated that Vicky had been approached by SBC for further clarification as to her intentions in developing a local plan.

CC confirmed that a separate Local Place Plan had already been developed for Selkirk and the Valleys and that the intention is for there to be a more joined up approach.

AR confirmed that it was agreed that the EYCC and EYCDC would work together to develop the community action plan which would be developed in direct consultation with the community in the valleys.

An application for funds to support this project has been submitted by EYCDC and we await the outcome.

## **Planning Applications**

KO confirmed that the following had been received and circulated:

- Erection of replacement dwelling house – Sunnybrae Yarrow Feus EYCC were asked to submit observations. AR confirmed that EYCC would not make any formal observation.
- Craik Forest land management plan. These remained on the public register until 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Correspondence**

KO confirmed that the following had been received and circulated:

- Community Conversations – engagement events.  
Community Council Chairs meeting would be held online on 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Details of timber haulage from Shorthope following a felling notice.

A communication was received from an organisation called Giant Tree Circle who would like to plant a tree at St Mary's Loch. AR confirmed that the person to contact is Martin Andrews of Weymss and March and that she would provide his contact details for KO to forward the communication.

SP Energy Networks are holding a Resilience Event at Moffat Town Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

AR provided details of the revamped Scottish 4G Infill (S4GI) Community Fund. Ettrick is one of the six S4GI masts located within the Borders Council area.

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to support initiatives focused on digital projects, community wellbeing, learning & development and more.

Communities and organisations interested in applying can find further information about eligibility criteria and a link to the application process on Cellnex's website: [S4GI Community Fund - Cellnex](#).

Further information can be obtained by contacting:  
[community.relations@cellnextelecom.co.uk](mailto:community.relations@cellnextelecom.co.uk).

Details of the 55 S4GI locations and map can be found at:

[Scottish 4G infill programme: progress update](#).

## **AOCB**

- **Tour o' the Borders** – AR stated that the last conversations with SBC confirmed that this event would go ahead but that a review would follow. AR noted, however, that next years event has already been advertised.

CC confirmed that conversations had been taking place but wasn't expecting the next event to be advertised. She agreed to follow this up.

Despite leaflets circulated ahead of the event described it as an "open road" event, parts of the road were closed, with cones put across private drives. Residents in affected properties were unable to travel to organised appointments despite contacting the organisers to request support.

AR expressed frustrations that valid workaround solutions had been put forward but these had been completely ignored.

- **Recruitment of Community Council Members** – AR stated that it has proved difficult to recruit and retain members and that there is the need to recruit new members.

AR confirmed the CC and ET-N had agreed to support with this.

- **Fencing around James Hogg statue, St Mary's Loch** – The question of replacing the fence had been discussed previously but concerns were raised that no action had yet been taken. AR confirmed that, whilst an application to the maintenance fund to cover the costs could be made, no action can be taken without the permission of the land owner.

AR agreed to chase this.

ET-N agreed to check who had responsibility for the statue.

- **Antisocial behaviour** – A report of issues arising on land owned by Sir Michael Strang Steel. It was requested that contact details of the relevant parties be passed on so that such issues can be raised directly with them. CC agreed to pass details on.
- **AA Box** – AR confirmed that she had received an email confirming that a maintenance team would be dispatched to carry out repairs.
- **Pylons** – it was agreed to add this to the next agenda. AR confirmed that land owners had been contacted in relation to the surveys of the land.
- **Potholes – Woodend Road, Ettrickbridge** – DW stated that this needed attention since the potholes are becoming increasingly problematic. CC agreed to check if this could be absorbed into the upcoming work at Ettrickbridge.
- **Bleed Control Kits** – A suggestion was made that the Community Council might consider purchasing these for use in local communities and located in village halls. Kits can be obtained via the Connor Brown Trust. AR confirmed that this would be discussed further within the Community Council.
- **Community Council Review** – CC reported that a review of non-financial support offered by SBC to community councils was under review.

An example of potential support was the recording of meetings and writing of minutes undertaken using AI where it's difficult to recruit minute takers.

AR felt the need to have a forum for community councillors to discuss issues that affect them. CC confirmed that part of the portfolio was to explore that opportunity to hold an annual community council conference with workshops covering issues such as recruitment, membership etc where best practice could be shared.

A panel of interested parties has been convened who will consult with community councils.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at 7pm in Yarrowford Village Hall

### **Community Council Website**

[Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council Website](#)