

CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CENCC)

Minutes of General Meeting – 11.3.2024 Lothian Hall, Crailing, 7pm

		Actions
1	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>In attendance Charlie Robertson (CR) Acting Chair Myra Hope (MH) Councillor Katherine Pery (KP) Treasurer Carol Spalton (CS) Councillor</p> <p> Godfrey Spalton (GS) Acting Minute Secretary</p> <p>Apologies Keith Bader (KB) Councillor Dinah Faulds (DF) Councillor John Bathgate (JB) Scottish Borders Council Scott Hamilton (SBC) Councillors Sandy Scott (SS)</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting (15 January 2024)</u></p> <p>CR noted these minutes were approved unanimously by email on 8 February 2024 and submitted to SBC (copy signed in today’s meeting).</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising from previous meetings</u> (not discussed elsewhere)</p> <p>3.1 Appointment of Secretary (5.1, 15.1.2024) CR reported that he had approached the secretary of one other community council without success but he was hoping another option would be able to help Sheila Campbell with the CENCC email.</p> <p>3.2 IT Issues</p> <p>3.2.1 Website (6.3, 15.1.2024) CR explained he was concerned about the IT support given the position of the Council. He had met with Sheila Campbell and she had already taken steps to make the website more attractive. CR had looked at the website with SC, felt he now understood it better and asked the meeting to discuss the recommendations in a short Comparison Cost Paper submitted by SC. CS suggested that, as the previous paper submitted to the January GM had not suggested changing the website provider immediately, the discussion of the later paper could be deferred. The meeting agreed the website hosting should remain unchanged for the time being.</p> <p>3.2.2 File Store (6.2, 15.1.2024) GS asked the councillors (CC’s) if those ‘online’ had been able to access and review the trial file store proposed January. KP and CS had accessed the store and found the format acceptable. GS proposed, and the council agreed, to hear the views of KB and DF before confirming the need for, and use of, the store.</p>	<p>GS</p>

	<p>3.3 Defibrillator Funding (4.3, 15.1.2024) KB had written to the meeting (he could not attend) and indicated that he had the promise of a substantial donation from a local business towards one of the defibrillators. He also thought there could also be another smaller donation. The meeting noted the need to consider how this donation was managed, and agreed to continue considering the options for other local businesses, estates, farmers, events, etc who might be contacted. GS suggested it would good to retain a list of all those contacted for the future.</p> <p>3.4 Kalemouth Bridge and Ormiston Access (7.1.1, 15.1.2024) CR noted that efforts were continuing to establish a group to act as 'Friends of Kalemouth Bridge'.</p> <p>3.4.1 Access Road Flooding Issues CR indicated that SBC had cleared the drains where flooding had occurred between the abutments of the now-removed railway bridge at Kirkbank station. KP suggested that it could be better to completely remove the dip that had flooded to ensure no recurrence. CR agreed to include this in a future conversation with SBC (Paul Frankland).</p> <p>KP confirmed she had discussed the use of alternative routes from Ormiston with the Lothian Estates Factor, Ben Burbridge. He had indicated that in times of flood the residents could contact the Estates Office or Upper Nisbet Farm for keys to unlock the gates on the road from Ormiston House to the old railway track.</p> <p>KP noted that it would still be useful to upgrade the gritting status of the road to Ormiston. CR agreed to raise this with SBC (Paul Frankland).</p> <p>3.4.2 SBC Progress Report (included as Appendix 1 below) CR noted that SBC had submitted a Progress Report on their work on the Kalemouth Bridge to CENCC (as promised to their Executive Committee). This indicated that SBC were proceeding to seek funding. CR stated the Progress Report would be shared with Ormiston residents (delivered by hand on 16 March 2024)..</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>4.1 Financial position at 11 March 2024 KP presented the account for 1 April 2023 – 11 March 2024 (see Appendix 2). The bank balance at 11 March 2024 was £824 after receipts of £2525 (SBC - Coronation Celebration, Admin. Grant, Path Maintenance Grant and reimbursement of 2022/23 Hall Costs, plus donations totalling £895) and payments of £2358 (primarily the Coronation Celebration, benches at Nisbet Churchyard, refurbishment of Eckford resilience store/benches and footpath maintenance).</p> <p>4.2 Forecast for Income and Expenditure in 2023-2024 KP noted that future expenditure commitments were estimated as £65 for the website domain name and honoraria. With the provision of £305 for future defibrillator costs, free funds at the year-end could be £454.</p>	

5 Community Updates from Councillors

5.1 SBC Councillor(s) None present.

5.2 Crailing

MH noted that Coffee Mornings have restarted at the Lothian Hall (10.00-12.00 hrs alternate Wednesdays from 14 Feb. 2024) with good attendance and some expectation of regular visitors. Local band 'Real Time' had performed on 9 March with good attendance, and there were many folk at a working session at Crailing Orchard on 10 March. A Table Top/Car Boot sale is planned for 28 April.

5.3 Eckford

CR noted thanks were due to SS for securing the prompt gritting of the Eckford cul-de-sac highlighted in the last meeting. He noted that a number of regular meetings continued to the Village Hall with good attendance. The Hall Committee was considering how to renovate or replace the hall floor. One new house build was continuing.

5.4 Nisbet No report.

5.5 Ulston

CS noted the felt on the resilience store roof had been replaced, and a house construction had started in Easter Ulston on a plot vacant since 2006.

6 CENCC Actions

6.1 Crailing – Visibility onto A698

MH noted that the trees which were affecting visibility in Crailing and at the Kirkmains junction had now been removed by SBC. The beech hedge had also been trimmed. Of the measures agreed in the SBC Petitions Committee, only the installation of additional signage remained to be done. MH stated that using Crailing junction did seem easier. MH will monitor this and ask Nicola Cowe to intervene again if no progress on signage in April.

6.2 Nisbet 20mph Area

GS noted that DF was to follow up her original e-mail request of October 2023 to the SBC Twenty's Plenty team (Samantha Elliot) – status unknown.

6.3 Integrated Path Leaflet, President's Ride and Jubilee Walk

CR reported he had made no progress in obtaining a view from Lothian Estates on his proposal.

6.4 Resilience

Nothing to discuss

6.5 Project List Review

GS reiterated the purpose of the tabulations of short and long-term projects updated and circulated before the meeting (CENCC Activity Programme at 20240304). He noted these were generated from the community feedback and shared in the 2023 AGM. An update could form part of feedback to residents in the 2024 AGM, but the Council needed to be clear what it was

	<p>going to pursue. Given the limited current attendance, he proposed the list be reviewed in the May meeting and used to help set priorities for 2024-5.</p> <p>6.6 Scottish Power Net Zero Fund CR noted that the deadline for applications had passed and the fund was focussed on areas a distance away from the CENCC area.</p> <p>6.7 Community Led Planning CR noted DF had maintained contact with those involved in 'Place Planning' although past meetings of the Council had not expressed enthusiasm. He explained that, having attended an online meeting, he now had an enhanced understanding of the processes used and the progress made in other communities. He felt there could be applications to the CEN area, especially as local plans would not have to encompass the whole area, they could focus on particular settlements.</p> <p>6.8 Stakeholder Meeting CR reported he had attended a meeting organised by SBC to explain the future processes to work towards a revised Local Development Plan. He understood the role that local plans could play in ensuring that local views and priorities were incorporated in wider plans. He thought this was something worth re-visiting.</p> <p>CS noted that in the last Cheviot Area Partnership in January it was evident that SBC had a clearer view of the role and value of local place plans to wider plans in rural areas.</p>	
7	<p><u>AGM Arrangements (3 June 2024)</u></p> <p>7.1 Scheme for Elections The meeting discussed in some detail the election process defined in the SBC's 'Community Council Election Handbook'.</p> <p>The meeting recognised that the first step towards organising elections (in line with the guidance from SBC) was to appoint a Returning Officer. The meeting agreed that CR would ask Peter Jeary (PJ) if he would be prepared to perform this role.</p> <p>Assuming PJ was willing, and SBC approved his appointment, the meeting agreed it would be appropriate for PJ to confirm with Fiona Henderson that all the current councillors would stand down and, if they, and the community, wished, could be nominated for re-election.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that nominations should also be sought as widely as possible, and that the only way to ensure every household was contacted would be to deliver an explanatory leaflet with a nomination form (there being no shop or similar venue regularly visited by all CEN residents where those offline could find nomination forms).</p> <p>The meeting agreed that CS would compile a draft leaflet/form and circulate to CC's by 18 March 2024.</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>CS</p>

	<p>7.2 Retirals/Resignations MH indicated that, for personal reasons, she wished to retire from CENCC with immediate effect. CR thanked MH for all that she had contributed to the community through her two spells (over more than 20 years) on the Council, and wished her all the very best for the future.</p> <p>7.3 Vacancies The meeting noted that the resignation of MH left the Council with only 5 CC's – the minimum for the Council to continue (9 places in total).</p> <p>7.4 Office Bearers CR expressed a view that CENCC should have a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. He noted these appointments would be part of the first GM after the AGM.</p> <p>7.5 Location GS confirmed he had booked Lothian Hall for 3 June 2024.</p> <p>7.6 Presentation CR expressed a desire to find an external speaker who would provide an incentive for residents to attend the AGM. The meeting recognised this might be difficult if no residents actually attended.</p> <p>CS suggested that a topical subject would be the options which would enable a rural area to move to Net Zero over time, particularly with respect to household energy use. The meeting felt this may not be appropriate. CS agreed to look at options for a speaker for a dedicated meeting.</p> <p>GS suggested CC's should review the presentation given by DF in the 2023 (on the website with AGM Minutes) as it used residents' issues as the basis for future action. It might be a frame for reporting delivery and obtaining further input/feedback.</p>	CS
8	<p><u>Planning Applications and Updates</u></p> <p>8.1 Wester Wooden Woodland Management Plan Consultation and Planning Application 23/01622/PN CR noted there had been no feedback on the issues raised by the Council. He was assured there was no impact on the Jubilee Path.</p> <p>8.2 23/00657/FUL Storage Yard and Access Mount Hooley GS noted that the Scottish Government Reporter hearing the appeal by the applicant would make a 'familiarisation' visit to the site on 13 March 2024.</p> <p>8.3 24/00091/AMC Car Park east of Kirkbank House/Teviot Smokery CR reported he had heard only one potential concern so had indicated 'No Objection'.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any Other Competent Business</u> GS requested that the Council should make meeting agendas more understandable and appealing to the general public.</p>	

	<p>GS outlined what DF/GS had envisaged for an 'Oil Scheme Review' and asked that it be included in a future agenda when Jane Vickers could attend.</p> <p>GS asked that meeting dates be set for 2024-5. CR agreed to look at these.</p> <p>GS suggested the Council establish a price it was prepared to pay for printed material for meetings so that printing costs were not a barrier to people becoming councillors or office bearers. CR noted the Council should use electronic media wherever possible.</p>	CR						
10	<p><u>Calendar</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">13/05/24</td> <td style="width: 35%; border: none;">General Meeting</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: none;">Eckford Village Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">03/06/24</td> <td style="border: none;">AGM</td> <td style="border: none;">Lothian Hall, Crailing</td> </tr> </table>	13/05/24	General Meeting	Eckford Village Hall	03/06/24	AGM	Lothian Hall, Crailing	
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Signed

Acting Chair

2024

Appendix 1 Update on Kalemouth Bridge from SBC

Kalemouth Suspension Bridge - Update No. 1 Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council - 11th March 2024

Since December 2023 the Council has progressed the following aspects:-

- WSP, external consulting engineers have been commissioned and are progressing through the design for the replacement and renewal of all timber elements on the bridge.
- Expression of Interest Forms for external grant funding to assist with the refurbishment works have been prepared and submitted to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Heritage Lottery Grant Fund (HLGF). Initial positive replies have been received from both parties and once more detail of refurbishment works are prepared, further discussions will be required as part of the formal bid process.
- In relation to the above future discussions with these external funding bodies SBC have spoken with Conservation Accredited advisors who will hopefully be able to assist with these more detailed discussions with HES and HLGF. Procurement of these advisors will hopefully be concluded soon.
- SBC road teams have undertaken various drainage works recently on roads leading to / from Kalemouth Suspension Br, including clearing of gully gratings at the old railway bridge (Old Ormiston) and re-cutting of road ditches / installation of piped offlets on the approach to Roxburgh. Several other sections of road have been highlighted for 'wet weather surveys' to investigate drainage issues further.
- General signage maintenance has been undertaken around the bridge to replace / repair damaged signs whilst the more permanent signage strategy is progressed as part of the major bridge refurbishment works.

Appendix 2

CEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2023 to 11 March 2024

date	payment id	payee	item	amount	rent	defibs	IT	improvements	events	maintenance	insurance	admin
01/04/2023			Opening balance	656.92								
28/04/2023	BGC	SBC	Kings Coronation Grant	500					500			
08/05/2023	chq 010211	EVH	Kings Coronation party spending	-250					-250			
08/05/2023	chq 010212	L VH	Kings Coronation party spending	-250					-250			
08/05/2023	chq 010214	EVH	picnic table	-100				-100				
08/05/2023	chq 010215	Hugh Wilson	benches	-168				-168				
22/05/2023	chq 010216	EVH	meetings 8 and 22 May 2023	-40								
07/07/2023	chq 010217	D.Scowan	flowers	-70				-70				
07/07/2023	chq 010218	Dinah Faulds	quaich set aside for 2024	-39.99					-39.99			
04/09/2023	N/A	Footprint	leaflet printing	-50								-50
04/09/2023	N/A	Footprint	donation	50								50
13/09/2023	N/A	C Robertson	path maintenance	-745.2						-745.2		
13/09/2023	N/A	C Robertson	donation	745.2						745.2		
18/10/2023	BGC	SBC	CC admin grant & hall rental 22-23	680	140							540
13/11/2023	DD	Sandhu Media	website costs, security cert 04/11/23 (1 year)	-80				-80				
13/11/2023	DD	EVH	meeting EVH September 2023	-30	-30							
13/11/2023	DC	Hugh Wilson	Nisbet plant donation	100				100				
12/01/2024	DD	SBC	SBC Insurance	-61.6								-61.6
12/01/2024	DD	Scottish HART	defibrillator pads	-195								-195
13/01/2024	DD	L VH	meeting LVH July 23	-20	-20							
13/01/2024	DD	EVH	meeting EVH November 2023	-24	-24							
07/02/2024	DC	SBC	SBC path maintenance grant	450						450		
11/03/2024	DD	Sandhu Media	Web Hosting 01/03/23 - 01/03/24	-180								-180
11/03/2024	DD	EVH	Hall rental Jan 24	-24	-24							
11/03/2024	DD	L VH	Hall rental Mar 24	-30	-30							
Debits total				-372.59	-28	-195	-260	-238	-39.99	450	-61.6	540
Balance in bank @ 11/03/24				824.33								
Anticipated debits												
		Sandhu Media	Domain name 01/03/23 - 01/03/24	-15								-15
		Scottish HART	Defib annual set aside, less costs already pd	-305								-305
		Chair/Treasurer	Honoraria	-50								-50
Anticipated free funds at 31/03/24				454.33								