

# CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CENCC)

## Minutes of General Meeting – 13.11.2023 Eckford Village Hall, 7pm

		Actions
1	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>In attendance      Dinah Faulds (DF)                      Chair                                  Myra Hope (MH)                      Councillor                                  Katherine Pery (KP)                      Treasurer                                  Charlie Robertson (CR)                      Councillor                                  Carol Spalton (CS)                      Councillor                                  Hugh Wilson (HW)                      Councillor</p> <p>                                 Godfrey Spalton (GS)                      Acting Minute Secretary</p> <p>Apologies              Pam Brown                                  Scottish Borders Council                                  Scott Hamilton                              (SBC) Councillors                                  Sandy Scott</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (11.9.2023)</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of this meeting were approved unanimously.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from previous meetings</u></b> (not discussed elsewhere)</p> <p>3.1      Projection facility in Lothian Hall (Item 10.2 3.7.2023)</p> <p>HW indicated that this would be installed, together with WiFi, once the current renovations were complete.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b></p> <p>4.1      Financial position at 13 November 2023</p> <p>KP presented the account for 1 April 2023 - 13 November 2023 (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>The bank balance at 13 November 2023 was £909 after receipts of £1330 (SBC - Coronation Celebration, annual Admin. Grant and reimbursement of 2022/23 Hall Costs, plus donations totalling £150) and payments of £1078 (primarily the Coronation Celebration, benches at Nisbet Churchyard and refurbishment of Eckford resilience store and benches).</p> <p>An application has been made for the Footpath Maintenance Grant.</p> <p>4.2      Forecast for Income and Expenditure in 2023-24</p> <p>Future expenditure commitments were estimated as £560 for replacement of defibrillator pads (£170), website costs and past/future meetings. These costs would leave the free funds available at year end as £349.</p> <p>KP noted that the long term cost of providing the defibrillators required annual funds of between circa £500 (only new batteries in 2026-27) and circa £1200 (new machines in 2026-27). The meeting agreed any decision</p>	

	<p>on the total financial provision for the defibrillators or other major expenditure in 2023-24 must await reimbursement of the footpath costs.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b><u>CENCC Activity Programme</u></b></p> <p>5.1 Status of Short-Term Projects for Immediate Action</p> <p>5.1.1 Kalemouth Bridge – plan for further consultation</p> <p>DF noted that SBC had hoped to report back to residents before end 2023 but had not proposed a date for a specific meeting (CENCC business had precluded the use of the current meeting). The meeting agreed it was important that SBC provides a full list of the engineering options and costs as soon as possible to allow all stakeholders to consider funding options. DF agreed to write to SBC asking when this will happen.</p> <p>5.1.2 Report &amp; Forward Plan for Crailing A698 safety issues</p> <p>MH reported that the work by Nicola Cowe, DF and others to bring the issue to the Petitions Committee had achieved a commitment from SBC to provide enhanced roadside signage, extra carriageway ‘slow’ signs and work, partly completed, to enhance visibility by pruning vegetation. Residents themselves had agreed to cut back the beech hedge that backs their properties to the west of Crailing junction and this is in hand. DF thanked NC and MH for their efforts and, although no speed reduction was achieved, they should be proud of achieving 2 out of 3 targets. MH noted the community accepted the outcome but concerns remained about exiting the Kirkmains Road junction with the A698. This has been raised with SBC staff.</p> <p>5.1.3 Progress on Nisbet 20 mph Area (Petition) &amp; Speeding</p> <p>HW reported he was close to being able to submit, with almost total support, a petition to SBC asking to extend the 20mph area. Submission to SBC is awaiting the outcome of a similar request to the SBC Twenty’s Plenty team (Samanthan Elliot) in October 2023. DF agreed to follow up her original e-mail request.</p> <p>5.1.4 Defibrillator funding options</p> <p>KB reviewed his work exploring options and the meeting made note of particular organisations that might provide sponsorship. The meeting was in favour of ensuring all avenues were pursued as the community strongly appreciated the defibrillator provision. It was thought that a CENCC local fund-raising effort would be well received along with seeking contributions to a ‘Defib. Fund’ distinct from the general CENCC account. KP agreed to ask Peter Jeary for his view why this idea had been rejected in the past.</p> <p>5.2 Funding Application for communication activities and projects</p> <p>DF noted this was in abeyance without a volunteer to formulate a request.</p> <p>5.3 Resilient Communities Co-ordinators Meeting Report (1 Nov 2023)</p>	<p><b>DF</b></p> <p><b>DF/HW</b></p> <p><b>KP</b></p>

	<p>CS summarised this meeting, noting that SBC were considering if Resilience Co-ordinators could help with certain ‘social care’ needs, and that the table-top exercise on a major power outage was extremely stimulating. She committed to circulate more details of the meeting.</p> <p>CS proposed initiating a process to ensure CENCC’s Resilience Volunteer list was up to date in terms of who still lived locally and the skills/help they could offer. She also would appeal separately via eNews for more volunteers and co-ordinators. The meeting agreed unanimously both actions.</p> <p>CS proposed that, in order to update and improve resilience in the CENCC area, she would bring to the January CENCC meeting an agenda/process for a future meeting between interested CEN councillors, the resilience co-ordinators and representatives of the village hall committees, about how to improve coverage, understanding and provision of local support and rest centres.</p> <p>The meeting noted any changes should not lose the good things that were in place, and equipment needed to be considered as well as process. It agreed to receive the proposal.</p>	<p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b><u>Feedback to the Community</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Status of Leaflet Distribution</p> <p>Leaflet distribution was complete apart from a couple of building groups. There were no changes to the address list.</p> <p>6.2 Proposed Residents’ Meeting – Objectives, Process, Resourcing</p> <p>DF reiterated the intent to hold a residents’ meeting as part of the 2024 AGM in June which would review what had been achieved, summarise what CENCC wanted to do and seek further requests from residents. The meeting noted that the format, process and resources for this meeting must be on the agenda and agreed in the March CENCC meeting.</p>	<p><b>GS</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>Planning Applications and Updates</u></b></p> <p>7.1 23/00657/FUL Storage Yard and Access Mount Hooley GS advised the meeting that a new design for access, storage yard and landscaping had been submitted.</p> <p>7.2 23/00839/PPP Land South of 2 Wester Wooden Farm Cottage GS advised the meeting the applications had been withdrawn.</p> <p>7.3 23/01553/CLPU Wester Ulston Farm House Garage Conversion The meeting agreed the scope of this application, straddling the CENCC boundary, did not require consideration.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>Community Updates from Councillors</u></b></p> <p>8.1 SBC Councillor(s) No reports.</p>	

	<p>8.2 Crailing MH noted their Remembrance Sunday commemoration and highlighted the community's appreciation for the grass trimming and memorial restoration work completed beforehand.</p> <p>8.3 Eckford CR highlighted that another house was under construction in the east of Eckford. The Hall had supported the recent road race, held a Guy Fawkes Party and Armistice Ceremony.</p> <p>CR and KB highlighted the concerns of residents at the speed, risks and damage to verges created by agricultural vehicles in Eckford and Grahamslaw, particularly during potato harvesting. The meeting agreed that CR should talk to the Crailing Tofts business about these concerns in 2024 once the distribution of fields is known and before the harvest begins.</p> <p>8.4 Nisbet HW highlighted the concern of West Nisbet residents about blocked culverts upstream of the cemetery. DF noted she was waiting a response from Lothian Estates.</p> <p>8.5 Ulston Nothing to report.</p>	<b>CR</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b><u>Wester Wooden Woodland Management Plan Consultation Planning Application 23/01622/PN</u></b></p> <p>DF summarised the proposal and asked for views on a response to the consultation. Key points raised were the status of footpaths, potential wildlife enhancement and change towards contractor farm management. CR agreed to create a consultation response in time for the 30 November 2023 deadline.</p>	<b>CR</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>SBC Community Council (CC) Scheme Proposed Amendments Consultation</u></b></p> <p>The committee had no comments on Documents 2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11.</p> <p>On the 'Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme' the meeting comments were summarised as:</p> <p>Para 11.4 On-line meetings – It was felt that SBC should make available a system for on-line meetings so that each community council is not required to purchase its own package</p> <p>Schedule -1 It was agreed that 9 elected members was adequate for CENCC and that there should be no classification by village area.</p> <p>It was noted that a contradiction exists between para 11.4 of the Scheme, Doc 4 Standing Orders (1.1), and the Training Handbook (Doc1 para 7.4). The first states "Meetings of each Community Council shall be convened at intervals of not more than six months and at least three meetings shall be held annually, one of which shall be the AGM. The Standing Orders (1.1)</p>	

	<p>state:- “at least 3 meetings per annum, excluding the AGM” . The Handbook states at 7.4 “The frequency and timing of ordinary meetings will be determined by the CC, subject to a minimum of 6 ordinary meetings and one AGM being held each year.” This needs to be standardised.</p> <p>The Chair questioned whether it is necessary to state in Standing Orders (1.1) the months when meetings are to take place, as this is restrictive and does not allow for changes, for practical reasons e.g. Hall unavailability.</p> <p>Doc 9 – Retention Policy There was some disquiet over the necessity to destroy documents e.g. Minutes after a fixed period of time. The use of historical minutes has been useful to researchers and this could not happen if no records were retained. Would SBC hold records for longer and pass on for heritage storage?</p> <p>What would be the consequences should CCs hold on to data for longer than the stated periods?</p> <p>Doc 12 is out of date. It was noted that it is due for review.</p> <p>The committee wished to highlight the proposed boundary change that was forwarded to Jenny Wilkinson in August 2023 for consideration by this review. (An email was received on 21 August 2023 that confirmed Ms Wilkinson would pass the request to the SBC CC review team). Also we are aware of the boundary changes proposed by Jedburgh Community Council, the formal proposal of which we are awaiting for consideration.</p> <p>The Chair will submit these comments to SBC as requested by 12 January 2024.</p>	<b>DF</b>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>DF intimated to the meeting that she did not wish to continue as Chair after the CENCC meeting scheduled for 15 January 2024. She stated she was unable to manage the workload expected of the Chair to her satisfaction, which currently includes 50% of the secretary’s remit. The role of secretary has been vacant for about 5 years. The amount of administration, complex systems, inadequate support and lack of wider thinking has created continual pressure and unacceptable anxiety.</p> <p>DF asked if anyone was willing to take over the role of Chair.</p> <p>On behalf of the Council, CS offered thanks to DF for the leadership, commitment and sacrifice she has given.</p> <p>CS, HW and KP said they would not take on the role of Chair. KB indicated he needed time to think as he had joined only this year. CR noted he had been Chair in the past. He was reluctant to see the Council go into abeyance and stated that there should be a way to make the role work.</p> <p>DF agreed to advise Emma Husband (SBC Community Engagement Officer) of her decision and discuss if any facilitation could be provided to enable CENCC to find a way forwards.</p>	<b>DF</b>

