

# CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CENCC)

## Minutes for General Meeting - 11 Sept 2023 Eckford Village Hall

<b>1</b>	<b><u>Welcome</u></b>																																									
	In attendance	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Dinah Faulds (DF)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myra Hope (MH)</td> <td>Councillor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katherine Pery (KP)</td> <td>Treasurer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlie Robertson</td> <td>Councillor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carol Spalton (CS)</td> <td>Councillor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugh Wilson (HW)</td> <td>Councillor</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-top: 10px;"><i>Scottish Borders Council</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sandy Scott (SS)</td> <td>Councillor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Frankland (PF)</td> <td>Design Services Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stuart Moir</td> <td>Sen. Structural Engineer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Godfrey Spalton (GS)</td> <td>Acting Minute Secretary</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-top: 10px;"><i>Members of the public</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicola Cowe (NC)</td> <td>Ray Jones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alastair Kay</td> <td>Michael Kyle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jill Kyle</td> <td>Malcolm McGregor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bob Muir</td> <td>Colin Mooney</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert Neill</td> <td>Andrew Newies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Smith</td> <td>Samantha Smith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jane Stone</td> <td>Alan Stone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iain Williams</td> <td>Gill Wilson</td> </tr> </table>	Dinah Faulds (DF)	Chair	Myra Hope (MH)	Councillor	Katherine Pery (KP)	Treasurer	Charlie Robertson	Councillor	Carol Spalton (CS)	Councillor	Hugh Wilson (HW)	Councillor	<i>Scottish Borders Council</i>		Sandy Scott (SS)	Councillor	Paul Frankland (PF)	Design Services Manager	Stuart Moir	Sen. Structural Engineer	Godfrey Spalton (GS)	Acting Minute Secretary	<i>Members of the public</i>		Nicola Cowe (NC)	Ray Jones	Alastair Kay	Michael Kyle	Jill Kyle	Malcolm McGregor	Bob Muir	Colin Mooney	Robert Neill	Andrew Newies	Ian Smith	Samantha Smith	Jane Stone	Alan Stone	Iain Williams	Gill Wilson
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<b>2</b>	<b><u>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (3.7.2023)</u></b>																																									
	The minutes of this meeting were approved unanimously.																																									
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Matters Arising from previous meetings</u></b> (not discussed elsewhere)																																									
	3.1 Kalemouth Bridge (Item 5.1 3.7.2023)																																									
	<p>PF presented the current situation regarding the Kalemouth Bridge which is currently closed. (Unfortunately, a technical issue prevented all of the supporting slides being seen in the meeting – the full written presentation forms Appendix 1 and is stored with these Minutes). PF explained why the bridge had been closed and how engineering studies by SBC, supported by the WSP engineering consultancy, had led to the conclusion that to repair the bridge for vehicular traffic (with a maximum gross weight of 3 tonne) would require very significant expenditure (thought to be £ 3-5 million). This is beyond the funds available within the SBC. The timber deck could be repaired to allow a limited number of cyclists/pedestrians (potentially no more than 10 at a time) for a lower cost (maybe £1 million). A full estimate for this type of repair is not yet available. The next steps are to amend the signage and work up a full estimate for repairs to allow future access by a limited number of cyclists/pedestrians.</p>																																									

The presentation was followed by an energetic question/answer discussion in which the residents present expressed serious concerns about the process to date and conclusions reached so far. Given the importance they place on the bridge, they also gave a number of ideas for its future and/or replacement. These concerns and ideas have been summarised and forwarded to SBC by DF as below (it should be noted they were raised without sight of the text slides included Appendix 1):

#### Concerns:

1. The residents were concerned that no "Options" document has been provided with costings to enable informed debate. They point out that a 3-year delay with no maintenance has left the bridge in poorer condition than originally. The longer the delay, the higher the final cost will be.
2. Residents are sceptical of the consultant's report on load bearing capacities especially the idea of restrictions to a maximum of 10 people on the bridge at any one time. The residents suggest that signage to this effect would be ignored and asked how such a restriction would be enforced.
3. The residents questioned the inconsistency of some of the facts as presented for example, "the metal work is not bad" vis a vis "the chains and hangers are failing".
4. Closure affects more than the residents in the immediate vicinity - it affects traffic from Eckford, and it results in an increased flow of vehicles through Nisbet and Roxburgh. In discussions after the meeting, they noted vehicle and pedestrian safety at the turning from Nisbet (B6400) on to the A698 is already an issue for the CEN CC community and was raised as part of the community engagement which took place last year. This matter is to be taken up separately by CEN CC as part of their 3-year plan.
5. Cost to Residents - The cost in extra fuel and "wear and tear" for longer journeys should be factored into considerations; one resident calculated the closure costs him £45 per month extra in car fuel alone; and, additionally, the social impact of isolation, the frustration and stress caused by the inconvenience, etc.
6. The Grade "A" listed bridge is an historic tourist attraction and nearly 200 years' old. The closure of the bridge would reduce the attractions in this small Community Council area at a time when it is trying to make the most of its attractions to bring income to the area.
7. As a Grade "A" building SBC has a duty to maintain the bridge in fair and reasonable condition. This means it cannot be demolished. Residents argue it should not just be kept as a pretty historical show piece but as a functioning bridge for cars and pedestrians. They argue that it was carrying vehicles 3 years ago and this should be part of its function going forward.
8. They would like to see a report on possible funding partners and what monies could be raised to cover costs e.g. Lottery Funding, Historic Environment Scotland etc.
9. They noted it felt as though "the decision has already been made" on the grounds of budget considerations only.

#### Ideas Proposed for Future:

1. Build a new bridge alongside to carry vehicles. Existing bridge to be made safe for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians (horses could be led across).
2. Make the current bridge safe for bearing single cars and instal a "key" gate for locals only.
3. Just re-open the bridge and accept affidavits from residents to absolve SBC of responsibility, in event of a collapse.

	<p>4. Investigate thoroughly funding options and report before decisions are made on long term future.</p> <p>5. Bracing bridge from underneath/strengthen the iron work/an extra chain to bear load.</p> <p>6. Ask the REME for a Bailey Bridge.</p> <p>3.2 Projection facility in Lothian Hall (Item 10.2 3 July 2023)</p> <p>HW indicated this would be discussed at a Lothian Hall meeting now moved to 18 September.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Status of transfer to online banking</p> <p>KP reported that she now had online banking access to the CENCC account and this will be enabled for the other signatories who use online banking.</p> <p>4.2 Financial position at 11 September 2023</p> <p>KP indicated that the bank balance at 10 September was £278.92.</p> <p>The meeting noted that the expenditure of £100 covered the work by the Youth Justice Team on repainting benches and resilience stores – (minute 12.4 13 March 2023 refers).</p> <p>4.3 Forecast for Income and Expenditure in 2023-24</p> <p>KP indicated she knew of future payments totalling £330 due in the next two months so no further expenditure can be considered until the Admin. Grant is received from SBC. KP noted she would apply for this in the next two weeks.</p> <p>KP stated she would work on a full forecast for the next meeting. The meeting noted this should include the funds required for the defibrillators (new pads and battery replacement provision totalling circa £465).</p>	<p><b>KP</b></p> <p><b>KP</b></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 Progress on Crailing Visibility and Speed/Noise on A698</p> <p>NC explained that a petition from residents had been submitted to SBC and would be considered by their Petition Committee on 26 September (this has now been deferred to 19 October 2023). DF will speak for the petition at this meeting. In preparation for this, a site meeting will be held on 21 September involving SBC, Police Scotland and two residents. MH noted that residents were also concerned about safety at the the Kirkmains Road junction.</p> <p>5.1.2 Progress on Nisbet 20 mph Area and Speeding</p> <p>HW explained although initial contact with SBC suggested they would not consider moving the speed limits (they would consider more signage), he</p>	

	<p>was close to complete a petition for submission to the SBC Petitions Committee. Most residents support the changes, and Lothian Estates are also comfortable with these. HW will pursue support from farmers and submit the petition.</p> <p>5.1.3 Defibrillators (funding options) – No progress as KB away on family matters.</p> <p>5.1.4 CC Boundary Request</p> <p>CS reported that a letter had been sent to the Clerk of SBC outlining the case for amending the CEN CC boundary at Wester Ulston. This included historical data to illustrate how the existing boundary was no longer appropriate.</p> <p>CS noted that a letter from DF had been delivered to the three households affected by the transfer of the Calderwood Wood area to the Jedburgh Community Council. DF confirmed no concerns had been expressed by the deadline of 1 September set in the letter. CS noted the next step was for Jedburgh CC to formally propose the change in CC areas.</p> <p>5.2 Funding Proposal for communication activities and projects</p> <p>DF summarised the briefing note she had submitted to the CENCC councillors (included here as Appendix 2). She highlighted that funds from the Place making Budget required community involvement and it was key to have a volunteer to pull together the application. SS suggested that Emma Husband could provide advice as to where and how to apply. Councillors gave a number of suggestions as to who may be able to compile the request. DF will consider options.</p> <p>5.3 Any other Short-Term matters - None</p>	<p><b>HW</b></p> <p><b>DF</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><u>Feedback to the Community</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Plan for Leaflet Distribution</p> <p>CS provided councillors with address lists and leaflets for the distribution to take place <u>by end October</u>. CR agreed to liaise with KB as to how to cover Eckford given KB's commitments. MH subsequently agreed to cover Crailing itself and NC agreed to deliver to the outlying Crailing addresses.</p> <p>6.2 Residents' Meeting</p> <p>DF indicated that she felt the council's workload made it impossible to arrange a meeting with residents in 2023. It should be postponed until 2024, potentially at the AGM scheduled for 13 May 2024. The meeting agreed.</p> <p>DF indicated the objective, scope and format should be discussed at the GM on 15 January 2024.</p>	<p><b>KB, NC, DF, MH, CR, CS, HW</b></p>

	DF noted that the Chair's Chat issued at the end of August was not very accessible on the website, she will ask for a link on the Home Page for any future editions. She will also consider if some of the content can be submitted to the Jed Eye or Kelso Life.	DF
<b>7</b>	<b><u>Planning Applications</u></b> 6.1 Position of 23/00657/FUL Storage Yard and Access Mount Hooley DF noted that SBC had requested more information from the applicant.	
<b>8</b>	<b><u>Community Updates from Councillors</u></b> 8.1 SBC Councillor(s)  SS gave a comprehensive review of recent events in and around Jedburgh. He noted plans for housing at the Howden Burn school site were progressing into consultation. He also highlighted that the incidence of the RAAC in school buildings was close to being fully defined.  8.2 Crailing  MH noted that one collection of kerbside recycling had been missed due to staff shortages. SS outlined the difficulties experienced by SBC to retain HGV drivers.  8.3 Eckford Nothing to report 8.4 Nisbet Nothing to report 8.5 Ulston Nothing to report	
<b>9</b>	<b><u>Oil Scheme Review</u></b>  DF noted this has had to be postponed as the administrator is dealing with pressing family issues. Hopefully, it will be discussed in the November meeting.	
<b>10</b>	<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b>  DF handed out posters from the Childrens' Panel and Scottish Borders National Park campaign to be displayed on notice boards.  The meeting discussed how future reviews would be included in meetings and agreed that the IT Review and, possibly, the Oil Scheme Review, could be discussed on 13 November 2023. The Resilience Review would either be in January or March 2024. The idea of a Footpath Review may be revisited at a later date.  A useful half day meeting had been held by DF and GS with Sheila Campbell in August regarding the Website function and CC email.	
<b>11</b>	<b><u>Calendar</u></b>  11/11/23 Armistice Day Ceremony Eckford (10.30 am) 12/11/23 Remembrance Ceremony Crailing (10.30 am) 13/11/23 General Meeting Currently Lothian Hall, Crailing 15/01/24 General Meeting Eckford Village Hall 11/03/24 General Meeting Lothian Hall, Crailing	

13/05/24	AGM	Eckford Village Hall
03/06/24	June	Lothian Hall, Crailing

## **Appendix 1**

### **Kalemouth Bridge – Presentation Slides**

These are available as a pdf file entitled ‘Kalemouth Bridge – CC 11 Sept 2023 v0.7’ stored in the same place as these Minutes.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Funding for the Community Council**

As you will notice when the treasurer reports tonight, we are short of funds. We have no source of income other than the annual administrative support grant (£540) and the Paths Maintenance grant (£450). I agreed last time we met to look into possible sources of funding. It appears that, for relatively quick funding decisions there are 2 funds we should consider, the Neighbourhood Support Fund and Place Making funding.

#### **Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund**

- Groups can request up to **£5k** to support projects which benefit their local community.
- Applications up to £500 can be decided relatively quickly and do not require a contribution from the CC; £500+ do require a contribution.
- Only one application can be submitted per financial year.
- The closing date for the next round of funding is **November 2023**, with funding decisions being made at the next Cheviot Area Partnership meeting.
- Contact is Emma Husband, the Communities Engagement Officer [emma.husband@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:emma.husband@scotborders.gov.uk) (I am currently arranging a meeting for me and our treasurer with Emma Husband for guidance.)

#### **Place Making Budget**

- Budget is limited and determined annually at SBC level
- Funds are still available in this financial year
- To qualify, must be linked to local place planning
- Contact is Jess Houghton, Community Place Planning Officer [jess.houghton@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:jess.houghton@scotborders.gov.uk)

#### **Funding Requirements**

We need to fund the following: -

- Outcomes of the IT Review – Website, e-mail and administrative support - managing without a secretary. Currently we are looking at c £200 for the website if we decide to upgrade the current system. (Decision to be made at Nov 2023 meeting.)
- Public Feedback Event from our community participation exercise and next steps.
- Developing Local Place Planning – the long-term projects in our current plan and the other three areas of annual review – paths, resilience and oil purchase scheme.
- Items on our Annual Calendar of events such as the Callant Quaich presentation

#### **Administrative Requirement**

- A councillor or a member of our community with the skills to head up funding, actively take this matter forward and secure funds.