
Hawick Community Council



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2023/24) held on Monday, 13th May 2024 at 6pm
within the Lesser Town Hall, Hawick**

Present	Cameron Knox (Chair) Jim Adams (Treasurer) Stuart Beck Wilson George Michael Robertson	Kevin Marsh (Vice-Chair) Margaret Hogg (Secretary) John Campbell Stuart Mactaggart Duncan Taylor
Attending:	Councillor McAteer Councillor Ramage	Councillor Marshall

There were 6 members of the public also in attendance, as well as Graham Ford on behalf of the Hawick Paper.

- 1. Chair's Opening Remarks** – The Chair welcomed HCC members and members of the public to the AGM for 2023/24.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of HCC members Braden George, Graeme King, Euan Welsh and John Wilkinson, and Councillors Cox, Richards and Smart.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes of 2022/23 AGM held on 8th May 2023** – These Minutes were approved as an accurate record of that meeting – Proposed by Kevin Marsh and Seconded by Wilson George.
- 4. Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 5. Chair's Report** - The Chair stated it seemed only a matter of weeks since the first meeting of the current HCC members, but it had in fact been 8 months now.

As a Community Council, he said it was great to see new faces within our membership and everyone had come together as a team, working for the benefit of the town on various projects, and promoting our town to the best of abilities.

As a team, along with volunteers, he stated the members had all worked together to produce a Christmas Lighting Display which other Border towns were jealous of, and our High Street had been extremely colourful over the last festive period. Many positive comments from townsfolk had been forthcoming.

HCC's Christmas Event and Market signalled the start of the Festive Season for many in the town, and December 2023 was no exception. Once again teamwork rose to the fore with the market stalls erected in record time. The market itself saw brisk trade throughout the day and many a Christmas bargain picked up. Our entertainment over the afternoon he said was out of the top drawer, with a host of young and old faces entertaining a large and appreciative crowd.

HCC's new Santa's Grotto had been a highlight for the many children who came along to visit Santa there. Their smiling faces certainly made all the hard work worthwhile and were great to see. The Chair went on to say that he hoped this year's event would see more kind weather.

The Reivers Festival weekend saw many of our HCC members volunteer throughout the day to help that Committee and the success of that event.

Teamwork again came to the fore he said, when HCC held its Annual Spring Town Clean-up on Sunday, 7th April last, when a small but enthusiastic group of Community Councillors along with volunteers ventured out in some atrocious weather to make a difference to our town's streets. After a few hours spent, some 30 bags of rubbish were accumulated.

Volunteers of Hawick in Bloom had certainly brought colour onto our streets with their planters and hanging baskets and more recently with changes made at the War Memorial. The members and volunteers of that group should he said be commended for all the work they do throughout the year. Their efforts were much appreciated both by our townsfolk and visitors alike.

HCC's CCTV project would be a great asset to the town and was 'shovel ready', and it was great to see that SBC would finance a number of new CCTV cameras in the town, into which hopefully HCC's own system could be integrated.

HCC's Resilience Group had been called out to an incident of flooding at Craik Village during a storm a couple of months ago. It had been great to see HCC members working alongside fellow neighbouring Community Council members towards a common cause.

The Chair went on to say members were looking forward to the Summer months and the very popular Music in the Park Sundays, and hopefully once again those events at the Bandstand in Wilton Lodge Park would be supported by the townsfolk and visitors. It was a good way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Along with the Farmer's Market and other proposed fundraising events, members were looking forward to those coming to fruition this coming year.

In conclusion, he thanked his fellow Office Bearers and all the members of HCC as well as Elected Members for their help and support over the past months, which was much appreciated. HCC was the people's council, working as a team for the benefit of the town.

That concluded the Chairman's Report for 2023/24.

6. Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer spoke to his Financial Report for 2023/24, which had been previously circulated to members and was also available on HCC's website.

The opening balance as of 1st April 2024 was reported as being £14,705.13, and he detailed income and expenditure from each of the accounts held, as follows:

HCC 1 – Opening Balance - £5,727.18, Income £5,249.23 and Expenditure £7,343.27 resulting in a Closing Balance of £3,633.14. Of that balance, £1,566.67 from the Fallago Grant for pathways was ring-fenced, leaving an operational balance of £2,066.47 until receipt of the Annual Support Grant for 2024/25.

Christmas Lights & Events – Opening Balance £1,870.86, Income £2,467.94 and Expenditure £3,381.25 leaving a Closing Balance £957.55.

Hawick in Bloom – Opening Balance £5,743.00, Income £2,088.00, Expenditure £5,007.26 and Closing Balance £2,823.74.

Community Fund/Foundation Scotland – Opening Balance £1,364.09 Income £10,888.22, giving a total of £12,252.31. Expenditure on projects totalled £12,103.60 leaving a Closing Balance £148.71.

Total income for all accounts including the Opening Balance was £35,398.52 and total expenditure was £27,835.38 resulting in a closing balance for all accounts of £7,563.14, of which as mentioned above, £1,566.67 was ring-fenced.

Accounts for 2023/24 had been examined and signed off by Lorna Notman, Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA) on 8th April 2024. He requested a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs Notman for all her work, at no cost to HCC.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for all his work and the Annual Accounts were approved by members.

7. Election of Office-bearers: The following Office-bearers were appointed:

(a) Chairperson – Cameron Knox – Proposed Kevin Marsh, Seconded Wilson George

(b) Vice-Chairperson – Kevin Marsh – Proposed Cameron Knox, Seconded Michael Robertson

(c) Treasurer – Jim Adams – Proposed Stuart Beck, Seconded Duncan Taylor

(d) Secretary – Margaret Hogg – Proposed Jim Adams, Seconded John Campbell.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts – The Chair advised that the Accounts for HCC for 2023/24 had been examined and signed off by Lorna Notman, and asked if members were happy to continue with that arrangement. All Members agreed Lorna Notman be appointed as Examiner for 2024/25.

9. Acceptance of SBC's Code of Conduct for Community Councils – A copy of the Code had been re-issued with meeting papers to all HCC members, and all members attending had signed acceptance of that Code. Absent Members would also be requested to sign-off.

10. Any Other Competent Business – There were no other items of business raised.