

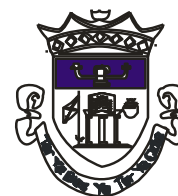
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# Hawick Community Council

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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 within the Main Town Hall, Hawick at 6.30pm

Present:	Cameron Knox (Chair)	Kevin Marsh (Vice-Chair)
	Jim Adams (Treasurer)	Margaret Hogg (Secretary)
	Stuart Beck	John Campbell
	Graeme King	Stuart Mactaggart
	Duncan Taylor	Euan Welsh
	John Wilkinson	
Attending:	Councillor Cox	Councillor McAteer
	Councillor Marshall	Councillor Ramage
	Councillor Smart	Colin Hope, HDT
	Keith Johnson, Town Team	

There were 154 members of the public in attendance as well as Graham Ford from the Hawick Paper.

- 1. Chair's Opening Remarks** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting of Hawick Community Council. As a result of the breaking news the previous week, there was an addition to the Agenda, and he welcomed representatives from Center Parcs, to present to HCC and the wider community of Hawick attending on a Center Parcs Development coming to Hawick. That news had created a great buzz within the town and would be a great asset to the town of Hawick itself and the other towns within the Borders. Time was of the essence, as the representatives also had to attend Selkirk Community Council Meeting that night to present there too.

He reminded everyone in attendance that the meeting would be recorded by HCC and on behalf of the Hawick Paper for minuting and reporting purposes.

**Presentation by Center Parcs Representatives (additional Agenda item) –**

Colin McKinlay introduced himself as CEO of Center Parcs and advised he was joined by two colleagues Rajbinder Singh-Dehal, Chief Corporate Officer and Steve Hustler, Chief Development & Construction Officer.

Colin thanked HCC for allowing him and his colleagues to attend tonight. He had been keen following the launch last week to invited guests, to bring Center Parcs to Scotland, to also consult quickly within the wider local community.

That type of news did not come along often, and he wanted to share that over the last 10 years, Center Parcs had built two villages – one in England and one in Ireland. Engagement and communication were key to success, and tonight was the start of that engagement process for Hawick. There may be many questions people would have – some would be happy at the news however some would not, and he would try to answer any questions later.

In the early stages, engagement was about listening to what people had to say, and whilst they may not at this stage be able to answer all queries, so long as the engagement continued, then working together would pave the way. There was a specific team at Center Parcs to help drive the project forward and that included engagement within communities.

And so, on to what was announced the previous week – Colin advised that Center Parcs had five villages in England, and one in Ireland. Each village was set in a forest setting and the one planned for Hawick would be slightly different, in that they planned to create a forest. They had found a specific site 3 miles outside of Hawick on the main A7.

Accommodation would include 700 lodges, ranging from 1-bed apartments right through to luxury tree houses. There were a huge range (c.150) of indoor and outdoor activities within each village, as well as bars, restaurants, retail shops and an award-winning Spa. Their ethos was all about bringing families together. Engagement therefore within communities was vital.

So why Scotland and the Borders? Colin advised that their existing villages were full and were full generally every single day of the year (97% occupancy throughout the year). From that, they had determined there was demand for a village in Scotland. Center Parcs were not represented in Scotland however they did have guests who travelled to their other villages but in bringing Center Parcs to Scotland, that would afford their experience to more Scottish people.

He was a proud Scotsman, and he considered the economic benefits, founded on outcomes of their last village built in Ireland, were substantial. An independent assessment had been carried out and c.58m euros of Gross Value Added had been identified to the Irish economy, with 44m euros benefit specifically within the local community of County Longford itself over a 12-month period.

Employees of Center Parcs were in year-round, non-seasonal jobs. Because of that, staff turnover was much lower with product knowledge being higher, and accordingly guest experiences was what differentiated Center Parcs from other businesses. The benefits went beyond the employment and economy, as all of their villages genuinely engaged with the local community in which they were situated, particularly as the villages became more established within those communities.

Last week was about launching their proposals, and Colin advised they had found a site, 3 miles from Hawick, and the engagement process started now. A planning application would be submitted during the course of 2025, and as part of that application, there would be varying types of engagement within the community, including businesses. There were a number of milestones to achieve during that process. They were super excited about coming

to Scotland and particularly the Scottish Borders. As the process moved forward, it was natural that people would have questions – what about this and how does that work and I'm concerned about that and so forth. They would certainly listen to everyone who had questions, and they looked forward to that engagement towards a positive conclusion.

That was all he really wanted to say, and Colin then opened the floor to questions. Tonight was about saying hello and making the right contacts.

A flavour of the questions asked were:-

Would it be possible to have cycle tracks to and from the village to include other surrounding towns and to reduce the impact on traffic?

Colin advised that he did not know however those were the types of things they would look at. They had lots of examples where they had built footpaths, even roundabouts and it would be a question of doing the right things to suit. That would be the type of work which would be included within any planning application and following a full Impact Assessment. In terms of traffic management, they had always come to a suitable consensus on that. That was a specific requirement.

What would be the formal route for communication of progress?

It was noted that Center Parcs had a website to find regular updates. As they progressed, they would ensure those updates were in place, however that would work as a dual approach, with the ability for questions to be raised.

Marion Short, Chair of the Campaign for the Borders Railway said she welcomed Center Parcs consideration of Hawick for their next village and said that linked well with her group's endeavours for the railway to come to Hawick and on to Carlisle. She merely wanted to introduce herself as an interested party for engagement. She considered transport connectivity should see them working together. Marion also commended Scottish Borders Council for their role in securing Center Parcs to the region. Colin confirmed they indeed had common aims regarding transportation.

Gordon Muir advised that Hawick was known as the Town of the Horse and wondered if horse-riding would be considered as part of the activities for Center Parcs. He went on to ask if Center Parcs took into account the nuances of the particular areas in which they had villages.

Colin advised they had horse and pony activities within specific villages but were keen to do that in the right way in terms of welfare of animals. He could not specifically give a Yes or No response, just that it had been done in some villages. More broadly, they did take into account nuances of the community within their villages, most recently in Ireland. They were a while off as yet in determining activities with step one being to create the Master Plan for the planning application, but thereafter those types of considerations would absolutely be able to influence activities for the Hawick Village.

Colin Hope, Chair of Hawick Development Trust (HDT) said the Trust were very much behind the development. One of the matters his Trust had been looking at related to developing

tourism within the town, and the Center Parcs development would go a long way to help achieve that. He was interested in having further information on the benefits identified for their most recent village in Ireland. Colin (McKinlay) confirmed they would be happy to share the data they had. It was noted that in terms of the village in N.Ireland, the community in which that had been built, had been in the bottom decile in terms of poverty and last year it had been noted to be the fastest-growing county in Northern Ireland. The report did not state that was due entirely to Center Parcs however there had not been that level of investment in that area previously, and so the presence of Center Parcs had added economic benefits and growth. An Impact Assessment on benefits etc would also be done in terms of the Hawick Village.

The question was raised as part of their delivery whether local trades would be used for construction as opposed to ferrying other businesses in. The response was absolutely and they had previously used local contractors where there was availability. The whole development would be in the region of c.£300-400m and there were not many contractors able to take on a contract of that scale. They tended to break down works into small packages lending itself to local contractors being able to manage those.

On the jobs front, they preferred to determine those as careers as opposed to just jobs. There were over 1000 construction jobs in building a village, and virtually all of those would be local people. So there would be huge opportunities locally across a broad spectrum of tasks to be undertaken. In terms of careers, they hoped to engage with the local Schools and Colleges too.

It was asked if Center Parcs were aware of a proposed Solar Energy Park in process of development less than a mile from their proposed site. It was advised that would not be a deterrent to their progressing with their village. It was not for them to judge on that development but they were fully aware of it.

Another question raised was in regard to the charitable aims of Center Parcs. Colin advised that as a business, they had two streams of charitable activities – one being Together for Short Lives which supported local hospices to their Villages. The hospices were specifically for children with life-limiting illnesses. They had raised over £2m for that Charity, with much of that being contributed from Center Parcs and their employees. That fitted well with their values. The various Center Park Villages were run by Village Directors, and their other stream of charitable work followed from engagement by those Directors within those individual communities to choose their own Charities which were important to them, and for Center Parcs to support those.

A member of the audience said he was delighted and very pleased with the news of Center Parcs coming to Hawick. His father had resided near Alton Loch from the 40s-60s so he was familiar with the site chosen. The loch was full of brown trout and good for fishing. He hoped that the Loch would be encompassed into the Village rather than be discarded and filled in.

It was stated that in previous Villages where there were burns or other particular features, those were preserved. Center Parcs took their environmental responsibilities seriously. The

Hawick site was mainly grassland, but they would be planting trees and would take advice on the best type of trees to plant, as well as preserve those trees currently there. Each Village had a rolling 10-year Forest Management Plan to ensure that the best was being done to preserve and enhance the forest environment but also the biodiversity, flora, fauna and general ecology of each Village. They could measure the impact on biodiversity and carbon emissions, and as a group they had reduced their emissions by 20%. They had then set a new target to achieve a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and they were on track to deliver on that target. They hoped to get to net zero emissions ultimately.

The timescale for the development was asked and Colin advised that processing through planning typically took 2 ½ to 3 years. They had to accept due process including engagement throughout.

The Chair thanked the representatives for coming along to the meeting and looked forward to further updates and engagement through the HCC. Any other questions could be emailed to [Hawickcc@gmail.com](mailto:Hawickcc@gmail.com) which would be forwarded to Center Parcs for responses.

The Chair invited those who did not wish to remain for the monthly meeting to leave the Hall.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – The Chair advised that if any members had a conflict of interest in any agenda items, they should please make it known at the start of the discussion.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of HCC Members Braden George and Michael Robertson and Councillor Neil Richards.
4. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024** – The previously circulated Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting - Proposed for adoption by Jim Adams and Seconded by Duncan Taylor.
5. **Matters arising** –
  - Melgund Place & cutting of bushes and hedges and road safety on corner – Councillor McAteer advised he had a report to provide to the lady who raised those matters at the last meeting. Parks personnel would look into the bushes and hedges issue. On Road Safety at the corner, SBC had looked at that area and advised they were not convinced there was a safety issue with vehicles on that corner but would however monitor that situation going forward.
  - Langlands Bridge – regarding the resurfacing of that Bridge, Councillors Ramage and Marshall reported that monies would be made available for resurfacing but there may be sufficient funds to paint the bridge too. There were SBC Officers working behind the scenes to pull all the required work together and funding may come from the Small Schemes Budget, with approval of the other Councillors.
  - Teviot Day Care Services – Stuart Beck queried, given that Brian Fowler was unable to present to HCC at the last meeting, if there were any plans for Brian to present to a later meeting. The Secretary advised that only an offer was extended to the Office-bearers to visit the Teviot Day Care Centre, but not for any future presentation. The daytime slot provided did not suit any Office-bearers, however if any HCC member

were interested in a visit, they should let the Secretary know and she would try to arrange.

6. **Hawick High School – Senior Pupils Update** – The Senior Team were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. Nevertheless, the Chair extended HCC’s congratulations to the Team on their performance at laying wreaths at the War Memorial and at Stobs. They were a credit to the High School in their dignified performances.
7. **Police Scotland Reports** – Police Scotland Reports had been circulated previously to Members. There were no queries raised by Members.  
Crossroads, known as the 4-road ends – A member of the public wondered if the police carried out patrols around that area. Councillor Marshall was happy to take that query forward to the CAT Team.

Councillor Marshall went on to congratulate the CAT on their great successes in Burnfoot where figures on antisocial behaviour had reduced greatly. Sourcing of mobile CCTV units were in hand and whilst they were in high demand throughout the Borders, he hoped that Hawick would benefit from use of those. Temporary CCTV units had been in place and had been a lead driver in reducing that antisocial behaviour in Burnfoot.

8. **Treasurer’s Report – October 2024** – The Treasurer reported an Opening Balance of £15,576.50. There had been only one expense in the month for compost and plant feed amounting to £65.67 and deducted from the Foundation Scotland Grant for Hawick in Bloom planting. There had also been only one item of income of £135 from stallholder fees for the Christmas Market. As a result, the Closing Balance was £15,645.83. That figure included £1,566.76 Fallago Grant for use on pathways.

Members approved the Treasurer’s Report.

#### 9. **Public Forum and Town Issues**

Allars Crescent – The Treasurer reported that area as being full of debris – plastic bottles and general debris in the kerb ways. It may be that access to the kerbs to remove rubbish by the road sweeper or manual means, was hampered by the area suffering from parking issues. The area was always full of cars parked.

He also advised that the shrubbed area in O’Connell Street was full of rubbish. Councillor Smart agreed to have those issues progressed.

Colin Hope, Chair of HDT advised that last year, HDT had arranged a gutter clean and a gully clean with SBC, and that had been quite effective. The parking was addressed by preventing parking on one side of the street at a time, to allow cleaning. That had worked and the public adhered to notices not to park cars. It may be that same method could similarly be used within other streets requiring cleaning and having issues with parking which prevented proper access.

Traffic Lights at the north end of Commercial Road – It was advised those lights had caused some confusion as well as traffic jams during the past week. The Chair wondered when those were due to be removed. Councillor Marshall advised he believed that works were being done in that area by Scottish Water and he would chase up on that matter. Weensland Road was also mentioned as being a traffic nightmare with lights there as well.

Street Sweeping – Stuart Beck asked if it would be possible for street sweeping, which currently stopped at the 30mph signs at Weensland, to continue on to Haughhead. Emtelle kept their area spotless however the stretch from the 30mph signs to Haughhead was a mess with overgrow vegetation on both sides of the roadway.

In addition, the super-sweeper stopped at the Volunteer Park and it would be beneficial if that could also continue on to Parkdail. That would alleviate all the mud on the pavements there.

Councillor McAteer considered that the A7 would be for Bear Scotland to rectify however Stuart Beck advised he had spoken with Bear Scotland and they had said they had no responsibility for road sweeping on the A7. Councillor McAteer queried that Bear Scotland may not be actually doing the work, but they contracted that out. Councillor McAteer said he would be happy to investigate that matter further.

A member of the public advised that he witnessed the street sweeper every day, however, every day he covered the same route. It was considered that was not beneficial and his resources may be better utilised covering different areas. Councillor McAteer said he would ask the question as to why that was happening. He understood that routes were in place to be covered, however if it was the case that the same route every day was only being covered, that would need to be addressed. He would find out.

A query was raised regarding footpaths and pavements sweeper and what their routes actually were, and Councillor Marshall advised he would enquire into that too and report back.

A member of the public raised that Hawick in Bloom did a wonderful job in planting throughout the town but around a lot of the planters, pavements were covered in weeds, detracting from the benefits of having the planters. Roadside and pavement vegetation along the High Street was frequently discussed by volunteers at Bloom Meetings.

## **10. Reports from Community Partners & Representative Groups**

(a) Christmas Event - The Chair advised the Christmas Event was being held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and hopefully on a dry day this year. Hawick Youth Rugby had intimated they would be unable to assist with erecting and dismantling of gazebos for the Market, but nevertheless HCC wished the team well in progressing in their competition. He asked for volunteers to help at 7am on that Saturday morning and to dismantle at 4pm and load back into storage facilities. Selection boxes were now being collected, with collection points at Johnstons of

Elgin, Barries, Scott & Charters and Wetherspoons. 400-450 selection boxes were required and if anyone wished to make a donation, those would be gratefully received. The next meeting of the Christmas Event Group would be held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November. Christmas Lights would continue to be erected on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November and the following 2 Sundays thereafter starting at 9.30am, and again any volunteers/use of ladders would be welcomed. HCC would have a stall and any donations of cake & candy for that stall would be gratefully received.

It was noted that Jewsons had kindly offered to donate a ladder to HCC which was very generous, however unfortunately the ladder would not be available for erecting the Christmas lights. It would be available hopefully for their taking down.

- (b) Hawick in Bloom – The Secretary reported winter planting was now complete and it was now a case of ongoing maintenance throughout the winter months. It had been heard on the grapevine that the Walled Gardens were apparently closing use of their polytunnels which Hawick in Bloom used for delivery of plants twice yearly and as a point of collection by volunteers, as well as for storage purposes. It would be helpful to know a date when use would be withdrawn. Councillor Ramage confirmed the polytunnels would be removed, however, if Hawick in Bloom were interested, she thought there was a willingness by SBC for other organisations to remove and make use. The polythene was not in great order, however, the structures may be of use.

It was agreed that a polytunnel would be required for use to bring plants on before planting, including the hanging baskets. If plants were able to be nurtured in polytunnels they would have greater impact on planting. Maureen Toogood advised, as a member of Hawick in Bloom, she had a polytunnel albeit that may not be big enough and so perhaps use could be made of a structure from the Walled Gardens. Acquiring a polytunnel from the Walled Gardens would be progressed if required, however the location for that would need to be determined.

Marjorie McCreadie wondered if one of the local allotments would be willing to help Hawick in Bloom out and Stuart Beck said he would take the matter on board to see if that were a possibility.

- (c) CCTV – Councillor Ramage advised it was hoped to now set up a face-to-face meeting with John Curry, Service Director.
- (d) Resilience – Annual SBC Resilience Training Day was scheduled for this Sunday at SBC's Bunker at their HQ for those who had registered previously to attend.
- (e) Fundraising – Nothing further to report. It had already been mentioned earlier in the meeting that contributions of Cake & Candy would be welcomed for HCC's stall at the Christmas Market Event.
- (f) Planning – There were no major planning applications to report in the month.
- (g) Bandstand Events – No update to report at this time. Events were held annually in the summertime.



## 11. Reports from Community Partners & Representative Groups

- (a) Hawick Development Trust (HDT) – Colin Hope, Chair, advised there was not much to report on since the last HCC meeting held only a couple of weeks previously (due to a change in meeting date).

HDT were still working on the 80 High Street Project, which was progressing reasonably well. The wind and watertight works were almost complete.

The other project related to the former Sonia's Guest House. HDT had expressed an interest in a transfer of assets of that building into the Trust's ownership. There had been plans done but in relation to a Café and Restaurant which was not what was now required in that part of the town, with Colin's view being that building be converted into some sort of accommodation/tourist information place. A meeting was awaited between HDT, SBC and the Flood Protection Group to further on those discussions.

Tourism Development – the town he considered really needed a serious Tourist offering to cover retail, hospitality and attractions of the town. He looked to set up within the next couple of months, particularly after the breaking news around Center Parcs, a Tourist Body for the town. He proposed a meeting to take place with invited representatives from the different interest groups within the town - hospitality, licensing and so on, and to set up a proper offering to take to the Destination Alliance and see progress on that.

- (b) Foundation Scotland – Nothing to update.
- (c) Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership – Councillor Ramage advised the next meeting would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November. That would be a hybrid meeting starting at 6pm within the new Business Centre. Hopefully the more rural community councils would be able to benefit from the meeting being online.
- (d) A7 Action Group – It was noted the next meeting would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November within the Council Chambers.
- (e) Hawick Common Good - Councillor Ramage advised that the next meeting of that group would be held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10am.
- (f) Wind Farms – The Chair reported he had attended a meeting with Muirhall Energy, along with other affected parties, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October regarding the Teviot Community Wind Farm Limited by Guarantee. That meeting was to discuss community benefits. He had quite a bit of information gathered from that meeting, which he would share with HCC members for their review and information.
- Stirches Energy Park – The Chair reported that group had held a consultation within the Town Hall the previous week. Feedback received suggested there had been no further detail on the information presented to HCC at their meeting in September. Any progress with that Energy Park would be closely monitored.

Stuart Mactaggart confirmed that all of the wind farms, battery storage units at Calaburn and Stirches Energy Park needed to be kept an eye on. He asked who had the final say on providing approvals or otherwise for these projects. The Chair

advised that it was for the Scottish Government to have the final say. HCC, along with SBC, were only consultees.

Stuart went on to ask how HCC and SBC then made their concerns known regarding these projects. Councillor Marshall advised that Councillors could certainly be made aware, and in turn make SBC aware to cascade those concerns to the Scottish Government.

Councillor McAteer confirmed that the Scottish Government had an Energy Consents Unit (ECU) who were responsible to evaluate any applications and it was possible at any stage to write to them, even as individuals, with concerns. He thought that those who were not supportive, were better to raise their concerns collectively as a group rather than individually which appeared to have more clout. SBC would send a consultee response which would primarily be measured against the criteria to have a wind farm for instance.

A member of the public raised that instead of the HCC Agenda only mentioning Wind Farms, due to there now being battery storage units and an Energy Park, that reference to Wind Farms be extended to read Renewable Developments. It was further noted that IbVogt were advancing on trying to form groups for consultation purposes especially with local residents affected.

The Chair agreed to the change in the Agenda to read Renewable Developments rather than solely Wind Farms.

(g) Hawick Common Riding Committee – no update.

(h) Hawick Reivers – Nothing further to report, other than plans were progressing on the Programme of Events for the next Reivers Festival in March 2025.

**12. Correspondence** – There was no other correspondence to discuss.

### **13. A.O.C.B.**

Euan Welsh considered that this being the end of the year, it was appropriate to reach some end goals and in particular given the good news of Center Parcs, it was time for a conclusion on our town being tidied up in order to be in a position to attract visitors into the town both now and in the future.

Many people had also approached him regarding a conclusion on the continuing high charges for use of the 3G pitches – football clubs in particular. That had been spoken about previously but the Clubs were now saying that charges were becoming unmanageable for them. The Youth Team considered it had cost them £10k for a season for use of one-third of the pitch, for one hour twice weekly, and at the weekend. Costs were having to be placed on kids' parents and as a consequence teams were starting to struggle to get numbers fielded. Euan did not know what the answer was because he had reviewed pricing and those were in line with what was being charged elsewhere in Scotland. However, coaches were concerned that affordability was a real issue and would lead to further problems down the line.

Councillor Ramage said she was aware of that issue and was trying to get some sort of help to alleviate those concerns. She would keep pushing and continue discussions with her fellow Councillors.

Euan advised that it was well known that Live Borders had no monies and there were concerns being raised by Clubs about whether that body were adding to costs, in order to make money. Another issue appeared to be lack of communication and Live Borders not issuing invoices timeously, sometimes 2/3 months at a time, leading to a bill of c.£500 at times, which was then not manageable. That issue needed to be highlighted to them.

Councillor McAteer advised that SBC were assuming legal responsibilities over Live Borders and they would now be in control of the local authority. There was a whole programme of work underway presently with one aspect being to review pricing structures. Rather than Live Borders having responsibility for pricing, going forward SBC would be responsible, and would be reviewing pricing structures. Euan was correct he said that pricing was in line with that elsewhere in Scotland, which did not help in an area of low pay, poverty and attempting to look after our youngsters. Mitigators needed to be looked at around costs, and SBC were acutely aware of that.

It may not be in the immediate term, but pricing would need to be focused on. Live Borders did not have monies and were not a sustainable model, and that was why SBC had taken back control with a view to making them more efficient.

In terms of Euan's first point on tidying up Hawick, Councillor McAteer advised that the Levelling-Up funding, put on hold as a result of the National Elections, was now being released, and so plans in place to do specific works would now see some movement. There were some indicators already to show that. Hawick was sitting on the verge of change and everyone needed to play their role – tackling weeds on the street – not just Hawick in Bloom doing planting.

A member of the public asked if there was any sort of community fund in place to help with issues raised, such as the affordability of the 3G pitches. The Chair advised that Community Benefits Funding (c.£11k in 2024) was received by HCC from which £5k went to Bandstand Events held at Wilton Lodge Park in the summer, c.£2.5k to purchase new Christmas Lights and maintenance, with other funding towards Hawick in Bloom planting. Those projects were previously carried out by SBC and without HCC's use of that community funding, those projects would not happen.

Duncan Taylor advised he was a Committee member of one of the youth football teams. Their coach had won an award a couple of weeks previously and the teams had been successful in obtaining grants in the past. He was quite resentful of that grant funding process which meant someone having to complete a form to get £5k grant funding which then was simply passed over to Live Borders. It seemed inappropriate to get funding from one Council fund to give straight back to Live Borders, now being managed by SBC itself. Duncan did not see that as good use of volunteer time. The amount of money raised by Hawick Youth Football over the last

few years was incredible, and they had also benefited recently from the Music Event 'Tunes by the Teviot' and other concerts over the summer. Duncan considered there needed to be a more sustainable long-term way of help with funding for Sports Clubs for use of any sports provisions within the town.

The Vice-Chair said he did not consider that the model of Live Borders seemed to make sense as libraries for example were a public amenity and were not able to make money. They were simply not able in many areas of their activities to actually make any money for what they provided. Historically, Council Tax and Government funding paid for public amenities as opposed to trying to make any profit out of them.

Councillor McAteer confirmed that SBC provided a sizeable grant to Live Borders for them to manage and the potential to earn money was in their hands. In all honesty, they were not good at that he said. SBC had now taken back control of that body, and by reviewing each aspect of their activities and costs, they would hopefully now get much of those back on track, and where they could earn any money that would happen. He agreed a more sustainable and efficient method needed to be in place, to get to a better position for our youngsters.

Finally, on a more positive note, lighting in the Howegate area, highlighted by a member of the public at the last meeting, had now been fixed.

- 14. Date of Next Meeting** – It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6.30pm within the Assembly Hall at Hawick High School.