

Hawick Community Council



The chairman thanked Mick Robertson for providing photos of areas of the boardwalk that needed upgrading. This would be used to access the Longhope Rig Fund for money to improve this boardwalk.

ACTION POINT- Longhope Rig funds to be sought.

Center Parcs Longford Forest –

The secretary advised that a letter had been sent to neighbouring community councils in Ireland to seek support and advice ahead of a planned meeting between various town representatives, which was hoped would take place in March. To ensure Hawick was ready for Center Parcs in 2029

ACTION POINT- It was agreed for the secretary to write to Center Parcs, and other town representatives, and adjacent community councils to coordinate a meeting around the title 'Hawick Ready'.

Decriminalised parking –

The chairman advised that they had experienced a problem trying to get contacts for all other 69 community councils across the Scottish Borders, to allow them to write to the seeking their support to press for the decimalising of parking, and other antisocial activities.

The secretary asked the ward representatives present if there was an available list. Councillor Ramage would investigate if there was a list.

ACTION POINT- email to be sent to Clair Malster

Freeperson of the town –

This was following a request by Stuart Beck to make Bowls World Champion Julie Forrest freeperson of the town, in recognition of her achievements. Councillor Ramage advised that she had spoken to the SBC legal department, they had advised that the community council couldn't take that forward, the Honorary Provost Council. It would have to be through SBC, Councillor Ramage had sent an email to SBC and was awaiting a response.

ACTION POINT – Councillor Ramage to provide an update.

Borders College building –

Councillor Ramage advised that South of Scotland Enterprise had taken ownership of the Borders College campus in Hawick. It was currently being transformed into a cutting-edge innovation advanced manufacturing hub. This was expected to be opened in Spring 2026.

Albert Bridge –

Mick Robertson asked if there had been any progress towards installing safety signs at either end of the Burns Club bridge to alert drivers to oncoming HGVs. Councillor Ramage advised that this has been passed to Tommy Deans from BEAR Scotland.

ACTION POINT – It was agreed to invite Mr Deans to the next community council meeting.

Police Scotland reports –

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The chairman welcomed sergeant Ali Granger and PC Fraser Mortimer to the meeting and thanked them for the monthly reports. The chairman stated they made interesting reading about what was happening within the town in both electoral wards. He noted that antisocial behaviour had been prevalent over December with a focus on youths kicking doors in both wards, which he described as totally unacceptable.

The police were praised for carrying out patrols at primary schools, and he hoped that parents had learned that it was totally unacceptable to park on both zigzags and yellow lines outside schools.

He congratulated PC Paterson and PC Mortimer for tracing two individuals for road traffic offences using unregistered bikes. PC Paterson had said at the previous meeting in December that it was a matter of time before individuals would be caught. This had proved correct.

Sergeant Granger advised that this had taken a lot of work to reach this conclusion. Mick Robertson suggested that it was important to now focus attention on e-bikes and e-scooters, which he had witnessed directly himself on the way to the meeting when he had been passed by kids on an e-scooter, on the pavement. The chairman questioned the choice of parents to buy such machines when they knew they were illegal to be used in public areas. Mick Robertson suggested that the schools could be part of this, to help educate youngsters.

Graham Ford asked if the issue around people riding bikes without lights on pavements, if that could be another area to be addressed, if and when a town warden was appointed. PC Mortimer advised that he had spoken to around six cyclists, children and adults. Many seemed unaware they shouldn't even be riding on the pavement.

ACTION POINT- The secretary would write to the chair of the cluster of head teachers asking if this could be addressed.

Stuart Beck expressed his concerns that the new road layout in and around North Bridge Street incorporating traffic between the leisure centre and Morrison's roundabout, in his opinion, wasn't working. The chair advised it had been designed by roads engineers. Michael Robertson raised safety concerns around access for Fire Brigade access. He had witnessed a fire engine being unable to progress through traffic within the Mart Street bottleneck. The size of both roundabouts was questioned. Concerns were also raised by Graham Ford over the road layout of Mansfield Road, particularly the close proximity of a speed hump, and the extension of the footbridge into the road, he felt this was causing a traffic build up near to the nursery, with children exposed to excess traffic fumes.

ACTION POINT – It was agreed to ask Tommy Deans, and Conor Price to be invited to attend the next community council meeting.

Local trader Andrew Bannerman looked to highlight two issues. He shared his experience of his Teviot Wines shop window being subject to an attack by a youth using a clawhammer the previous weekend. The incident had seen three windows on the High Street attacked – the former Dorothy Perkins shop, Farmfoods and Teviot Wines. He was particularly alarmed to see someone walking along the High Street with a clawhammer. He estimated the damage to his window would be around £2000.

Responding to the incident sergeant Granger believed there would be a positive outcome to the incident.

The police were praised for their quick response in being able to take a statement to the Farmfoods within two hours, despite the huge pressures on police time currently.

Mr Bannerman also highlighted a recent incident of dog fouling outside his shop. Sergeant Granger was also working behind the scenes with her colleagues to tackle the incident. Michael Robertson pressed for the creation of a WhatsApp group to address dog fouling similar to the Shop Watch group he had helped create in the build-up to Christmas. He had put posters on Duke Street the previous weekend which he had received from the dog warden at

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SBC. He aired his frustrations that he had been attempting to address the dog fouling issue for around 18 months. He asked if a town dog warden could be considered, if an SBC warden wasn't looking possible. Councillor Marshall agreed to investigate this.

ACTION POINT – Councillor Marshall to investigate the possibility of financing a town dog warden.

Anne Edwards speaking from the public gallery indicted that she had carried out a recce on bus shelters prior to Christmas. She raised her concern over the condition of bus shelters in the Stirches are, adjacent to the high school, outside the Iceland supermarket, at the Station, and on Weensland Road. She identified graffiti, missing windows and general cleanliness. Councillor Marshall raised the success of using money from the SBC Small Schemes Budget to tackle two shelters in the town in November, namely at Dovemount Place and on Burnfoot Road. he advised that once money became available in that budget in the new financial year, the identified bus shelters could be tackled.

The chairman thanked sergeant Granger and PC Mortimer for their attendance.

Treasurer's Report – vice-chairman presented the treasurer's report which had previously been circulated in the absence of a treasurer.

Town issues and public forum –

ATN path

The chairman asked Graham Ford to address his concerns over slippery parts of the Active Travel Network, which had come to the fore during the recent sub-zero conditions. Graham was particularly concerned about the section of the ATN between the Mansfield footbridge and Trinity footbridge. He felt significant sections of the path were not draining water, and were presenting hazardous walking conditions, particularly for schoolchildren walking to and from the nearby Trinity Primary School.

Library paving slabs –

Mr Ford also raised his concerns over the dangerous condition of thee recently laid paving slabs outside the library. He had been made aware of, and witnessed for himself, how dangerous the slabs were in freezing conditions. Councillor Marshall asked if details of the issues could be passed to him, which would include photos. He would raise this with SBC officials.

ACTION POINT- Councillor Marshall to investigate.

Flood group praise –

Ian Young congratulated the town's flood protection group on their 20-year history. He felt that they had not received proper recognition for their two decades of voluntary service. Councillor Marshall, who is also chairman of the flood group, thanked Mr Young for his kind words, and these would be relayed to group members.

Peter Scott's building –

Stuart Beck raised the poor condition of the front and rear of the former Peter Scott Knitwear building. He had been asked to highlight the matter by members of the public. Councillor Marshall indicated that he would pass this issue to Hawick and Hermitage ward members.

Pop-up policeman –

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Stuart Beck asked if a new pop-up policeman would be purchased, following the disappearance of the previous one in the Autumn. The chairman advised they would need to wait to see if funding would be made available from the Council.

Ward member attendance –

Mick Robertson asked if the community council could write to Councillor Neil Richards, to ask him to attend community council meetings. Councillor Ramage advised that it was not mandatory to attend meetings.

Sub-committee report –

Christmas event – the chairman advised that what was put up, had to come back down again. Members of the community council were asked to meet at the town hall on Sunday at 9am to begin the task of dismantling the lights.

Hawick in Bloom – no report

Resilience Group – no report, Stuart Beck asked if a meeting could be held to get the group active. Kevin Marsh agreed to progress a meeting.

Planning – the chairman advised that he had received a planning application from McDonalds for their proposed Drive-Thru on Commercial Road. He checked if members supported this application going forward, which was agreed. Stuart Beck agreed to join the subgroup.

Community partners -

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell advised that no meeting had been held over the Christmas break.

Foundation Scotland – no report

A7 Action Group – the next meeting was scheduled for February 26 and is to be online. Stuart Beck asked if the community council could make a donation of £50 towards administration costs. The chairman advised that they had previously been advised that this was not allowed,, due to the group being deemed a political organisation.

Hawick Common Good Fund – no report

Renewables – The chairman advised that consultation had begun on the Mid Hill Wind Farm

Hawick Common-Riding Committee – there was a meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 15.

Hawick Reivers – Kyle Douglas was unwell and unable to provide an update but Keith Johnson from the group advised that things were moving along nicely, it was set to be held over the weekend of March 28.

Correspondence – there was none.

Any Other Competent Business –

Wellfield Trees – Jock Campbell asked Councillor Marshall if he could provide an update on plans to cut down the dangerous trees in the Wellfield area. Councillor Marshall advised that a licence had been applied for, and work was expected to begin before February. He had also made residents in the area aware of the planned works.

Christmas market no parking signs – Jock Campbell enquired if all the no parking signs had been removed following the Christmas market. It was understood that one was still in Croft Road.

ACTION POINT- Jock Campbell to remove the sign.

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Bandstand events – Keith Johnson enquired on plans for the summer events at Wilton Lodge Park. The chairman would check on who the community council representative was to ensure there was a liaison between both parties.

ACTION POINT – Chairman to consult.

High Street traffic direction – Brian Tait spoke from the public gallery, and asked given the Center Parcs announcement, would it be better for traffic to use the High Street from South to North. This would reverse the current arrangement. He felt this would enable people heading to the Center Parcs village to travel along the High Street and see what Hawick had to offer. The chairman endorsed this view. Councillor Ramage advised that Center Parcs will be asked to attend a future A7 Action Group meeting, and this would be added to the agenda.

Flood protection scheme – Brian Tait raised concerns about the number of trees planted inside the walls of the scheme. He asked if a programme could be run to investigate if the trees would end up raising the level of flood waters. He had attempted to contact the flood scheme manager Conor Price without success. Councillor Marshall indicated that there had been a number of issues raised at the meeting around the flood scheme and ATN and suggested that Council officials and professional experts should be invited to a future meeting.

ACTION POINT- the secretary to write to Conor Price and Duncan Morrison to attend next community council meeting

Weensland Road ATN access point – Bryan Bell asked if a poo bin could be installed near to the Weensland access point on the ATN. He asked if some of the temporary fencing which was used last year, could at some point be removed.

ACTION POINT- Councillor Ramage to enquire about new poo bin and to ask for the fencing to be removed.

Campaign for Borders Rail – Stuart Beck suggested that the CBR be added to the list of community council partners. He felt with the feasibility study on the horizon; it wasn't important to be kept abreast of developments.

ACTION POINT – This was noted.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday, February 9, 2026, to be held in the committee room of the town hall, starting at 6.30pm