

Hawick Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6.30pm within the committee room of the Town Hall, Hawick,

Present	Cameron Knox (Chair)	Kev Marsh
	Stuart Beck	Stuart Mactaggart
	Michael Robertson	Jock Campbell
	Ian Young	Wilson George
	Graham Ford	
Attending	Councillor Ramage	Councillor Marshall
	Councillor Smart	Councillor Richards

There were eight members of the public in attendance

Chair's Opening Remarks –

we do apologise; council was informed that we would be holding a meeting here tonight. Nobody was contactable, we will make enquiries, we will be in contact with officials to say this is not good enough. As has been discussed tonight we will be putting forward a suggestion for either a keypad or keys going forward. We will keep everyone updated.

As you all know it was extremely disappointing and frustrating to learn that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service results of the consultation on the future of the fire service in Hawick will not be available until at least June of this year following the Scottish Government elections.

This leaves our community in disarray regarding the future of the Hawick fire station and the level of cover for the town and around about Hawick. It is a poor show following the level of public engagement at the town hall meetings which were part of the consultation process. Hopefully there will still be a positive answer for Hawick and retaining our 24-hour cover, fingers crossed that will be the case.

When it was first mooted that the cover may be reduced to daytime cover only, it was stated that it was not a cost cutting exercise. But funnily enough when the chief fire officer appeared in front of the Scottish Government committee he was asking for more money. So, it seems strange when we were told otherwise.

Declaration of interest - the Chair reminded members of their obligation to declare any conflict of interest ahead of discussions during the meeting. This was noted.

Apologies for Absence - Apologies had been received from Councillors McAteer and Cox. The chairman expressed the well wishes of community council members to Councillor Cox after her stay in hospital and wished her a speedy recovery, and to Councillor McAteer.

Adoption of Minutes - of Meeting of Monday January 12, 2026, which had been circulated to members earlier. These were proposed for adoption by Wilson George and seconded by Jock Campbell.

Matters arising –

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Active Travel Network – the chairman advised that due to Councillor Cox to being unable to attend the meeting the action would be held over.

Dangerous trees at Wilton Lodge Park- The chairman advised that due to Keith Johnson not being in attendance this would be held over. Stuart Beck asked if the matter could be addressed by ward members. He felt due to the trees being dangerous, action needed to be taken soon. Councillor Marshall advised that there is a five-year council document, which would be helpful if the community council could have this document in their possession.

ACTION POINT – Councillor Marshall to point Stuart Beck to this document

Wulliestruthers boardwalk – the chairman updated the meeting that representatives from the Criminal Justice team will be looking at the upgrading plans with a view to undertaking the work in the spring.

Center Parcs Longford Forest – the chairman updated members that a letter had been sent to our Irish counterparts and a reply received. It was extremely positive and this would form the basis of the Hawick Ready meeting which is scheduled for March. Representatives from Center Parcs, Hawick Development Trust, Burnfoot Community Council, the Town team, and ward representatives. There would also be representatives from Hawick Cycling Club and Hawick Belles to attend the Tour De France part of the meeting.

Decriminalised parking –

This was still ongoing

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 sought advice from the SBC legal team and would now be looking to put a motion to the Council at the March meeting.

Albert Bridge – BEAR Scotland network manager was in attendance and would speak on the matter later in the meeting.

Dog warden – Councillor Marshall advised that such an opportunity would centre around funding, he felt there were ways to approach such an idea. he felt everyone would want to see such an initiative come to the fore. It would need the pulling power of ward members and the community council to look for funding. It would go a long way to tackle the issue. Cameron Knox felt it needed the irresponsible dog owners to take a different approach. Councillor Marshall felt this role could be multi-tasked to include antisocial behaviour.

Councillor Smart advised that she had a motion prepared to be put before the Council in March around community wardens. She felt it was important to look after the environment. She had held off with the motion until the work of the pay-parking group had been concluded. It was hoped the wardens may come under this remit. To have it under the council rather than police could help generate funds to pay for wardens.

Mick Robertson felt positive that progress could finally being made on this long-standing agenda item.

ATN path – Councillor Marshall had looked to progress the concerns over the slippy paving slabs, and water retention on parts of the path. The secretary had also written to Conor Price the project manager but had not received a reply. Mr Marshall advised to write to the Chief Executive.

Peter Scott buildings – Marilyn Wright spoke on behalf of four residents who were in attendance at the meeting following discussions the previous month. Mrs Wright was concerned at the lack of progress in developing two derelict buildings around their homes.

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Antisocial behaviour – Marilyn Wright also raised her concerns over the behaviour of unruly youths. She described a series of incidents that residents around the Pesco Mills area were exposed to. PC Alan Paterson, who was in attendance, advised that work was ongoing and he was confident that the issue was on their agenda.

ACTION POINT- Councillor Smart agreed to meet with the residents.

Police Scotland reports –

The chairman welcomed PC Paterson who apologised on behalf of sergeant Ali Granger for not being able to prepare a police report. She had been active at a three-week Crucial Crew schools' event in Kelso. Alan presented details on a number of local issues. The update included the latest success in removing a dirt bike from public roads.

Members were also updated on a prolific shoplifter, who had been released from jail just days earlier being apprehended after an incident at Boots. Mick Robertson celebrated the success of the Shop Watch scheme which had been launched in November, that had played a vital part in this positive result.

BEAR Scotland – Tommy Deans, network manager for BEAR Scotland presented an update on concerns around the Albert Bridge. Ahead of the meeting Mr Deans had re-visited the location to refresh his memory. He advised on various options he was now looking at to solve the issues of lorries mounting the kerb at the Sandbed side of the bridge.

Graham Ford asked if the sequence of traffic light signals at the Princes Street junction could also be looked at. This had been raised on several occasions at previous community council meetings. Tommy advised that this would be taken to the road safety team, along with a further look at the whole Dovemount area. Councillor Marshall also informed members he had also been in discussions around this issue with Scottish Borders Council officials.

ACTION POINT- Scottish Borders Council officials would be invited to a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report – vice-chairman Kevin Marsh presented the treasurer's report which had previously been circulated in the absence of a treasurer. The chairman advised that some money would be soon used for the Christmas lights and Hawick in Bloom projects.

Town issues and public forum –

A7 Action Group – Mick Robertson asked if there had been a decision on donating money to the group. Kevin Marsh advised that due to the group being seen as a lobby group, the community council were not allowed to donate to them.

Mote Park noticeboard – Mick Robertson made members aware that he had received the keys for the refurbished noticeboard at Mote Park, which had been carried out by Councillor McAteer.

High Street parking – Jock Campbell asked if the community council could contribute towards the new parking initiative which had been launched by Northport owner Tommy Mulvee. The chairman indicated that he would need to check with Scottish Borders Council to see if they would be allowed to support this.

ACTION POINT – Cameron Knox to investigate

Dunk Corner deterioration – This had been brought to public attention over the previous weekend. Councillor Marshall updated the meeting that Council departments had been alerted.

Antisocial youths – following the earlier discussion on antisocial behaviour. Kyle Douglas highlighted his concerns over the high volume of youths congregating in the centre of town. He felt this was intimidating to people and there was a need for a better approach to tackle this growing issue. The chairman felt much of the behaviour was down to

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a total lack of respect and pressed for members of the public to report incidents to the police so they can build up a picture of the behaviour patterns.

Haugh toilets – Councillor Marshall raised the latest vandalism incident at the Haugh toilets. This was the fourth episode since October and he felt that public money was being thrown at this issue, but a new approach was needed.

Defibrillators – Mick Robertson informed the meeting that he had been working behind the scenes to establish a list of available defibrillators in the town. Kevin Marsh reiterated previous advice that the straightforward approach to seeking the nearest available defibrillator was to dial 999. The call handler would then direct the emergency advice.

Sub-committee report –

Christmas lights – the chairman thanked Ryan Patterson and Keith Johnson for their support with this project over the previous months, and members Stuart Beck, Ian Young and Stuart Mactaggart. He felt the current lack of volunteers towards this project was not sustainable going forward. It was agreed to investigate hiring a company to erect the lights. It was also agreed to buy new gazebos for community use.

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell presented his monthly report. He raised his particular concerns over the progress of a town banking hub following the presentation from Cash Access UK in October.

ACTION POINT- the secretary would write to Gemma Mackie for an update

Hawick in Bloom -Wilson George had attended the most recent meeting but had to leave early in the meeting. He was expecting a report from the convenor.

Resilience – Stuart Beck asked if a meeting could be organised to establish what equipment and what was all required. Kevin Marsh would coordinate this.

Planning – The chairman indicated that he had received one planning application.

Hawick Common Good – the next meeting was scheduled for March 18

A7 Action Group – the next meeting was scheduled for February 26

Bandstand events – Kyle Douglas relayed a request from organiser Duncan Taylor to ascertain if the summer events would be supported financially by the community council this year. This was agreed.

Renewable developments – the chairman will issue an update to members on a new development on the horizon

Hawick Common-Riding Committee – Kevin Marsh presented an update to members

Hawick Reivers – volunteers were required on the weekend of the festival to help.

It was agreed to ask if the Campaign for Borders Rail could provide a monthly update to the meetings.

Correspondence –

The secretary read out a letter from an Earlston businessman who was looking to hold a plant sale in the town in late May, the letter was to make members aware of his plan.

Date of Next Meeting – It was agreed hold the annual general meeting on May 11, and in accordance with previous years dispense with the August monthly meeting. The next community council meeting would be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, in the committee room of the town hall, starting at 6.30pm