

Hawick Community Council



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

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

There were eight members of the public in attendance.

Chair's Opening Remarks – The chairman encouraged the community council to support the soon to be launched Scottish Borders Council consultation on the conservation and management plan on preserving the heritage of Hawick. Everyone was urged to participate in the process.

The chairman praised the new walk-in clinic to be launched at the community hospital which he felt would be a great benefit to the town and a relief to the existing GPs.

Darcy Graham was highlighted for becoming Scotland's leading try scorer of all time following his impact against France the prior Saturday.

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.

Adoption of Minutes - of Meeting of Monday February 9, 2026, which had been circulated to members earlier. There were proposed for adoption by Kev Marsh and seconded by Kyle Douglas.

Matters arising

Wulliestruthers boardwalk – The chairman advised that the Criminal Justice team were currently costing the upgrading of areas of the boardwalk and that this was expected to progress imminently.

Center Parcs – Is Hawick Ready – this meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. Senior representatives from CP had already confirmed their attendance, alongside representatives from the Town Team, Hawick Development Trust and Burnfoot CC.

Decriminalized parking – this was currently not progressing any further.

Dog wardens – this was on the agenda for the full Scottish Borders Council meeting in March.

Active Travel Network – no response had been received from Connor Price. Mick Robertson advised that a fourth viewing window has been vandalised to the rear of B&M supermarket. This would be raised by Councillor Marshall the following day. It was hoped for Connor to attend the April meeting.

ACTION POINT- the secretary to confirm Connor Price attendance.

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High Street parking – The chairman advised he was still to receive a response from Scottish Borders Council to determine if Hawick Community Council would be allowed to donate to the parking initiative currently underway on the High Street, initiated by Tommy Mulvee.

Dog bins on Active Travel Network – Mick Robertson indicated that he had been approached by members of the public regarding the lack of bins at both ends of Duke Street.

ACTION POINT- This would be double checked by Councillor McAteer who was convinced bins were in place.

Freeperson of Hawick – Stuart Beck asked if this could be added to the April agenda. It was part of a motion being put to the full council meeting of Scottish Borders Council for March. Councillor Ramage would update members.

Police Scotland reports –

The chairman welcomed sergeant Ali Granger and soon to be superintendent Stuart Fletcher. Members were advised that a shoplifting / shop watch meeting was scheduled on the Wednesday which would be attended by sergeant Granger. PC Patterson was praised for continuing to pursue parking issues around primary schools and on the High Street. He stated that while the public may view parking as a minor issue, outside schools in particular the lack of thought could eventually lead to a child being hurt.

Graham Ford asked if there had been progress on the antisocial issues around the Drumlanrig Square area. There had been talk that a ward representative meeting would take place. Councillor Smart advised the meeting had focused on the Peter Scott building development.

Seargent Granger also updated members on the most recent success on apprehending another dirt bike. Attention was beginning to turn to e-scooters, which would be pushed via schools and youth clubs on the legal issues around their use. It was felt the issue of dirt bikes had reduced considerably in recent months.

Donnie McLeod highlighted his concerns around the recent upsurge in antisocial behaviour within the Common Hagh area. He made the meeting aware of the issue of youths throwing cheese slices at cars, and campervans. Councillor McAteer advised that he has looked at the costings around a stand-alone CCTV camera, this had been priced at £41,000. He wasn't convinced on this cost and would continue to investigate this.

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 –

Wilton Park trees – Stuart Beck thanked councillor Marshall for providing him with the paperwork regarding the SBC tree policy. He again raised his concerns over a dangerous tree at the north end of the Volunteer Park. He felt this tree remained dangerous. Keith Johnson advised that work was already underway on this. Jock Campbell updated members on work that had begun at the Wellfield area. Councillor Marshall advised that work was on hold due to the muddy conditions in the area, work was suspended until the weather had improved.

ACTION POINT – It was agreed to write to neighbourhood services regarding the Volunteer Park tree.

Walled Gardens benches – Stuart Beck asked if some money could be spent on refurbishing the benches at the Walled Gardens. The chairman was happy with this if the price was right. It was felt there would be value in assessing the various benches around the time.

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Campaign for Borders Rail – Stuart Beck asked if this was to be added to the agenda. Graham Ford advised that the chairwoman Marion Short had been on holiday – she had returned to Hawick that night, she was comfortable to have these reports submitted.

Leisure Centre opening times – Stuart Beck advised the meeting that he had received numerous reports about the Teviotdale Leisure Centre closing early afternoon's on both a Saturday and Sunday. He felt this was a time for it to be open to ease the pressure on parents to find meaningful activities for their children. Councillor Richards advised the mantra was for people to use the facility to demonstrate public demand. Councillor McAteer advised that the new Live Borders CEO was undertaking a review of opening hours for facilities across the region, and it would be worth checking where this review stood. Kyle Douglas also highlighted the challenges he faced – along with other users – to access the booking system.

Litter picking- Graham Ford praised the community spirit which was currently evident from a significant number of townspeople who were undertaking litter picking. While it was a sad reflection on society that this was needed, but he commended the people who were taking it upon themselves. The chairman the Hornshole Greenway initiative who had tidied up areas to the rear of the Howegate. Catherine Elliot-Walker suggested the need for members of the community to take a level of responsibility for looking after their own area. The chairman also raised his concerns that volunteers were needed to clean up, on the back of the recent 8.5% Council Tax rise.

Planters / international bunting - With the new planters and hanging baskets, the chairman felt it would be a positive idea to hang international bunting during the summer months. This was an idea which had proved successful previously. It was agreed to check costs, but all members were in favour.

Hustings – The chairman hoped that the community council could hold a husting, ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections on May 7. Members agreed this.

ACTION POINT – Graham Ford would write to the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates; he would also enquire if TD9 Radio would broadcast the event.

Sub-committee reports –

Christmas Lights – the chairman advised that four new gazebos had been purchased and new Christmas lights will also be bought. It was noted in the SBC Budget that they would cease to supply Christmas trees to towns, he was concerned how that would impact Hawick. Councillor Marshall explained that along with fellow councillors this discussion had been taking place. Every councillor he had spoken too were of the opinion that each community would not go without a Christmas tree, if this money was to come from the Small Schemes Budget, so be it.

ACTION POINT - a debrief meeting following the Christmas event was still to be scheduled.

Hawick in Bloom – Wilson George had sent through the minutes of the latest meeting; Graham Ford provided an appraisal of events scheduled.

Resilience Group – Kevin Marsh advised of plans for a full day's training at Craikhope Centre, this was felt too long of a day from members. Kevin explained the minimum of hours required was eight hours. He also asked for members to be more diligent in replying to correspondence around various issues being sent out.

Planning – The chairman indicted that things remained quiet. Stuart Beck asked about an update on the community council making a £214 donation towards the Friends of Hawick Mair and a planning application. The chairman declared an interest at this point. Mick Robertson questioned the decision to pay the money towards what he described as an unconstituted organisation. This was a fee towards an SBC planning application. Cath Elliot-Walker who was in attendance advised that the group was working on becoming constituted. Jock Campbell asked about the

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Common Good Fund role in the process, at which point all five elected members, and the chairman left the room for the debate to continue. Mick Robertson felt the FofH should be asked to attend a future meeting to make a presentation on their plans. Kevin Marsh was of the opinion that the group needed to know if there was worth in the pre-planning application before proceeding towards a fully constituted body. Graham Ford felt that for such a small amount of money, which could attract significant sums of money, that as a Hawick Community Councillor he had to support the investment. Stuart Beck was in agreement, that to go against the proposal wouldn't show the town body in a good light.

Following a show of hands it was agreed to pay the fee, with Mick Robertson against the proposal.

Bandstand Events – Kyle Douglas had spoke to Keith Johnson about the forthcoming summer programme, everything was moving at pace.

Community partners -

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell was on his way back from Edinburgh therefore was unable to present his report. Graham Ford read out a letter he had received from Gemma Mackie, from Cask Access UK assuring members that a Banking Hub was continuing to be progressed, and offered reassurances that a Hub, even if needed in the short-term a temporary banking hub, would be in place before the closure of the Bank of Scotland later this year.

A7 Action Group – Councillor Ramage provided an update.

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

Renewable developments – Cameron had received a statement on a planned joint community councils' proposal which would be circulated around members for approval.

Hawick Common-Riding Committee – Kevin Marsh informed the meeting that an election for the south ward was scheduled to take place on Monday, March 23.

Hawick Reivers – Kyle Douglas explained that the finishing touches were put into place. 30 stalls were booked for the Saturday; He renewed the cry for volunteers to assist erecting stalls.

Correspondence – there was none.

Any Other Competent Business –

Vape shop fire – Stuart Beck raised his concerns over the Glasgow vape shop fire and the impact vape shops could have locally. This was noted.

Princes Street barriers- Councillor Marshall updated members that plans were designed and priced to have the temporary barriers removed, and he assured that this project was progressing.

Stuart Fletcher – the elected members, community councillors and townspeople were all thanked by the outgoing Area Commander for Police Scotland.

Community council website – Jim Adams raised his concerns that the community council minutes were not being displayed on the community council website. Graham Ford advised the meeting that he had since spoke to Graeme Webb – who updates the website – on this. He would go back to Mr Webb to ascertain what the problem was.

Date of next meeting –

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The chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held within the lesser town hall, on Monday April 13, starting at 6.30pm.