

Hawick Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6.30pm within the Town Hall, Hawick.

Present	Kev Marsh (chair)	Graham Ford
	Stuart Beck	Kyle Douglas
	Michael Robertson	Jock Campbell
	Ian Young	Wilson George
Attending	Councillor Smart	Councillor McAteer
	Councillor Marshall	

There were five members of the public in attendance.

Chair's Opening Remarks- vice-chairman Kevin Marsh welcomed everyone to the meeting, and hoped everyone had enjoyed a good Easter, he apologised for the delay in gaining entry to the venue, and due to the coldness of the lesser town hall, the meeting was transferred to the main hall. Mr Marsh reflected on the tree planting event at Center Parcs since the last meeting which was attended by chairman Cameron Knox and Secretary Graham Ford on behalf of the community council. That evening, there was a 'Is Hawick Ready' meeting for Hawick to be ready for Center Parcs and the Tour de France. Secretary Graham Ford advised that the meeting was attended by the Center Parcs chief executive and five other high-level employees. The latter part of the meeting to look at the Tour De France was attended by representatives from the Hawick Cycling Club and Hawick Belles and both meetings had proved productive. A follow up meeting was planned in around six weeks' time.

Declaration of interest - the vice-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 by Cameron Knox and Stuart Mactaggart, and Councillors Ramage and Richards

Adoption of Minutes - of Meeting of Monday March 9, 2026, which had been circulated to members earlier. There were proposed for adoption by Ian Young and seconded by Jock Campbell.

Matters arising –

Wulliestruthers boardwalk – Cameron Knox was still waiting to hear back from the Criminal Justice Team.

Dog Wardens – Councillor Ramage provided a statement which was read out by the vice-Chair “

One topic that is raised frequently at Hawick and Burnfoot CC meetings is the problem with irresponsible dog owners and the mess that our pavements are in.

Various ideas have been brought forward from posters on lamppost to stencils on the ground, but let's face it, that has done nothing to deter selfish dog owners.

Councillor Smart put forward a motion at the last Full Council meeting to “explore” the reintroduction of community wardens and for officers to look at other areas in Scotland where wardens have been successfully reintroduced by private companies.

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I fully supported this motion, and it is one that I know our communities would also support. As councillors our job is to listen to the people that we represent be it problems with potholes or traffic lights.

However, one that predictably comes up time and time again is the state of our pavements with litter and dog mess.

Here was an opportunity to actually look at how this problem could be addressed by Councillor David Parker's comment about the motion being "political grandstanding" was totally unnecessary and highlights why there should be no politics in Local Government.

This particular conversation has been ongoing for the past 18 months at HCC meetings and I was disappointed (understatement) when it failed, 10 votes to 18. Who is making it political?

Following the statement, Mick Roberston questioned if other ward councillors from across the Scottish Borders were simply not experiencing what Hawick was going through. The vice-chair invited Councillor Smart to share her thoughts. Councillor Smart expressed her disappointment at the motion not being adopted, she was advised that she was unable to present the same motion again for six months but would continue to research warden use elsewhere in Scotland and planned to link wardens with decriminalisation of wardens when she addressed the motion in the future.

Councillor McAteer advised he did not vote against the motion, he believed the requirement to have a way of managing dog fouling was absolutely essential, but felt the motion needed more strength to change the dial. Councillor Marshall who also did not vote against the motion felt that the cross-party working group which had been set up had not provided much information, and more was needed to take the issue forward to cross the line.

It was also felt that while there was a role for Scottish Borders Council, there was also a role for Police Scotland to address the scourge, it was agreed to invite the new area commander to a future meeting.

ACTION POINT –

The secretary would write to the new area commander of Police Scotland to invite him to a future meeting.

Mart Street dog bins –

Mik Roberston asked for clarification on dog bins in the area, Secretary Graham Ford confirmed that he had walked the street himself and had sent photos of bins at both ends to Councillor McAteer.

ATN Flood wall windows –

Mick Robertson also sought advice on three damaged flood viewing panels on the flood protection wall behind the B&M store, Councillor Marshall updated the meeting that he had been advised the replacement of these would cost in the region of £20,000, negotiation was taking place with the contractor.

ACTION POINT –

Councillor Marshall would pass the details of the new flood scheme manager to the Secretary who would invite them to a future meeting.

High Street parking –

The vice-chair advised if the community council were able to provide any funding towards the parking scheme which was current operating on the High Street. It was not something from present funding arrangements, but he had forwarded Ian Young with possible funding avenues to explore.

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Freedom of Hawick –

The written response from Councillor Ramage stated - This was brought up by HCC members, I presented the motion on their behalf, and it was unanimously passed. A draft policy and procedural framework will be drawn up and will return to Full Council at a later date for final approval.

The last freedom of Hawick was bestowed on Sir Chay Blyth in 1971, but with the change from Region to Scottish Borders Council, it will have to be Freedom of the Borders (Sadly)

Wilton Lodge Park trees –

Keith Johnson advised that he had met with council officials and a full report had been compiled around trees in the area, and the results were expected. SBC would then prioritise trees as to how dangerous they were. Anything deemed as dangerous would be dealt with. Councillor Marshall had received a report for Stitches, and any received would be forwarded to the community council.

Campaign for Borders Rail –

At the previous meeting it had been advised that the chairwoman of the CBR would investigate the possibility of a monthly report to the community council, but since then the secretary had received correspondence from Mrs Short, and this was not likely to now go ahead.

Hustings update –

The Secretary advised that the seven Prospective Scottish Parliamentary candidates had all been approached, and the Hustings was booked for Wednesday, April 29 at 7pm.

Mick Robertson asked if Live Borders could be contacted regarding the evenings late access to the building, the Secretary advised that Cameron Knox had previously made the hall booking, and as Secretary Mr Ford had emailed three Live Borders people the Friday prior to the meeting reminding them of the meeting.

ACTION POINT – It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Live Borders about the ongoing issues of being locked out.

Friend's of Hawick Mair-

The vice Chair advised that SBC had been paid for the Pre-planning application, this was in fact £210 and not the £214 reported at the last meeting.

Active Travel presentation Hawick to Denholm –

Joseph Chadderton and Richard Hernan provided a presentation to the meeting on early investigations into extending the Active Travel Network within Hawick to Denholm. Three potential routes had been tentatively explored, either to follow the existing Hawick to Denholm road network, a route which would bring in Cavers, or a route which had the possibility to link in Burnfoot. The project was scheduled to go out to public consultation later in the summer. The presentation and prospect of extending the ATN was warmly welcomed by community council members and elected members.

ACTION POINT- The vice-Chair offered to facilitate a public meeting in the town hall with representation from Burnfoot and Denholm community council's once the final designs are available to get the public fully on board.

Police Scotland reports –

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The vice-Chair advised that he had received apologies from PC Fraser Mortimer and Seargent Ali Granger due to operational constraints and holidays. The reports had been circulated to members.

A discussion ensued around youth provision in the town and Stuart Beck suggested the potential use of the now vacant Business Hub to potentially transformed into a youth facility. Vice-chair Kevin Marsh suggested that if there was the public will, and volunteers, the idea could be taken forward for further exploration.

Treasurer's Report – The vice-Chair presented the treasurer's report which had previously been circulated.

Town issues and public forum –

Moor issues -

The vice-Chair presented two issues which had been forwarded to him by Cameron Knox, a litter bin at the Moor gates had been set on fire, and horses and ramblers were experiencing difficulties in the area due to motorbikes scrambling in the area. Councillor McAteer has advised that this matter should be taken direct to Police Scotland

Teviotdale Leisure Centre –

Kyle Douglas raised his concerns over a need for more supervision in the play area at Teviotdale Leisure Centre, he had witnessed this on several occasions. Councillor Marshall suggested that the community council write to the chief executive of Live Borders to highlight the issues he had observed. It was also agreed to copy in Councillor Richards who is vice-Chair of the Live Borders board.

ACTION POINT- The Secretary and Kyle Douglas would compile a report.

Farmers Market –

Mick Robertson asked if there were any plans to hold a Farmers Market, this had previously been discussed last year. The vice-Chair advised that they had still not held their review meeting of the Christmas market, this would be held on Wednesday, April 22. The meeting would also focus on Fund Raising and Resilience.

Sub-committee report –

Christmas event- this year's event will be held on Saturday, November 29. 17 stall holders have already advised they would like to take a stall.

Hawick in Bloom – members had received a report from the sub-group convenor Margaret Hogg

Resilience Group – meeting scheduled for April 22

Planning- several planning applications had been received and had been forwarded to Cameron Knox and the other members of the sub-committee to comment on.

Bandstand events – Kyle Douglas read out a report on behalf of the bandstand events, confirming that all six music events had been held over last summer. The reason for the report being read out at the April meeting, is that the email had previously not been picked up due to the Community Council being in abeyance for the election.

Community partners -

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell advised that the Trust had supported the Friends of St Mary's and Hawick Boxing Club to achieved SCIO status and were supporting them going forward. Work was also taking place around the Walled Gardens, and an expression of interest was being submitted to Scottish Borders Council.

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Foundation Scotland – the vice-Chair advised that the Pines Burns grant had been received but the Longhope Rig funds were awaiting a submission of a list of community council members and their interests and signed code of conduct. This was agreed to all be signed and sent by Monday, April 20.

A7 Action Group – the next meeting was scheduled for June 25.

Hawick Common Good Fund – this meeting had been postponed, next meeting scheduled for May 20.

Renewables- Cameron Knox had presented a joint statement, via email, from all 69 community councils in the Scottish Borders on the concerns of the proliferation of wind farms across the Scottish Borders.

Councillor McAteer asked if the community council were intending in putting in a submission around the Mid Hill Wind Farm, the vice-Chair would consult with Cameron Knox

ACTION POINT- Cameron Knox to be consulted.

Hawick Common-Riding Committee - The election for Hawick South Ward Reps took place on Monday March 23 between 7pm and 8pm. 139 members of the public came along to vote. Eight candidates stood, with one candidate withdrawing their nomination prior to the vote. The following were elected as Ward reps for Hawick South: Ex Cornet Alan Wear, Robert Halliday, Cameron Knox, Frank Scott, Lindsay Nichol, Braden George. There was a vacancy in Hawick North Caroline Wilkinson will fill this vacancy.

Hawick Reivers – Kyle Douglas had not attended the follow-up meeting, but it was agreed the event had been a huge success,.

Correspondence – there was none.

Any Other Competent Business –

Business Centre pathway – Councillor McAteer advised that the official opening of the new pathway adjacent to the business was expected to take place in mid-May once the Scottish Parliamentary elections had been completed.

High School progress- The vice-Chair advised that members had received an update on the progress around the demolition and re-build of the high school.

Traffic lights/roadworks – Councillor McAteer raised ongoing frustrations around roadworks within the town and the perceived delay between traffic lights being erected and works being carried out.

ACTION POINT – This was noted.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday, May 11, 2026, to be held in the lesser town hall. This would begin with the annual general meeting at 6pm, followed by the regular meeting starting immediately after the AGM.

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