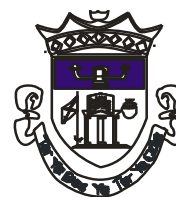

Hawick Community Council



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

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

There were ten members of the public in attendance.

Chair's Opening Remarks- chairman Cameron Knox welcomed everyone to the meeting; he remarked on how nice the weather was

Declaration of interest - the Chairman 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 Ian Young

Adoption of Minutes - of Meeting of Monday June 8, 2026, which had been circulated to members earlier.

There were proposed for adoption by Wilson George and seconded by Stuart Mactaggart.

Matters arising –

Park benches – Stuart Beck advised that a meeting and quote had been received from Criminal Justice to begin the restoration of benches located within the Walled Gardens. It was agreed to look to have the picnic benches at a cost of £1000.

Action point – Stuart Beck to take this forward, the idea of pursuing match funding would be continued.

North Bridge Street – the chairman advised that he had attended a meeting at the Duke Street junction with Michael Robertson and councillor McAteer, with project manager. Increased signage was seen as the best option to remind drivers of no right turn towards North Bridge Street. This is now being taken forward to the design team.

There had been a number of outstanding issues around the flood scheme/Active Travel Network, and it was hoped Conor Price would return to the September meeting to allow this concern to be posed before he stepped away at the end of September

Action point – Conor to be invited to the September meeting

ATN flood panels – Mick Robertson asked if the damaged flood windows had been fixed, Councillor Marshall reassured him that they had but made it clear that there was no further money in the budget for any future replacements. Graham Ford pressed why a lot of equipment, including fencing was being left at locations following works completion. Councillor Marshall would take this to Conor Price

Action point- Councillor Marshall would address this with Conor Price

Hawick Market Banner – The chairman welcomed an enforcement order from SBC to have the giant shop banner removed. At the point of the meeting the banner had been rolled up.

SRFS reduction of hours and cover – The Chairman updated the meeting that a letter had been sent to the SRFS fire chiefs from the community council, with attachments from several other surrounding community councils. A reply was being awaited, the belief was to ask fire chiefs to attend a future public meeting. And it was agreed that the consultation process was felt as being nothing more than a tick box exercise.

Action point- MP John Lamont was to take the concerns to a scheduled meeting the following week

Co-option of new member – The chairman was delighted to co-opt, and welcome back Graeme King back to the community council. He explained that the returning officer Councillor Marshall would check Mr King's electoral number, and this meant the community council had now completed its quota of co-options for this term.

Action point- Councillor Marshall to report back to September meeting

Police Scotland reports –

The chairman advised the meeting that no reports had been received, he understood it was a busy time for local Police but felt a report should have been submitted. Mick Robertson raised an issue around a thief who

had been in Hawick over the previous week. The ShopWatch WhatsApp members had attempted to call 101 and were left on hold for 25 minutes. He felt the system was a waste of time. After calling 999 they were told it wasn't an emergency, but when it was discovered the man had two kitchen knives on his possession, Police had turned up.

Action point-It was agreed to invite area commander David O'Rourke to the September meeting

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

Town issues and public forum –

Gap Site Oliver Crescent -

The chairman read out an email regarding the naming of this site from Councillor McAteer. After a discussion three suggestions were put forward. St. John's Path; St John's Peth and Arthur Armstrong's Way. Following a vote it was agreed to proceed with St. John's Peth.

Hawick Paper future-

The chairman shared the concerns of many when the future of The Hawick Paper had been reported in the newspaper the previous Friday. The feeling was the prospect of no local newspaper would be a black day for the town. A suggestion was put the meeting around setting up a community council bi-monthly newsletter. This was supported by members. The secretary would look to take this forward.

Farmers Market –

The chairman updated the meeting of plans for the inaugural Farmers Market to be held in September. This plan had been formulated at a member meeting in June, the date of the event was scheduled for Saturday, September 12, from 10am to 2pm at the Wee Haugh.

Hawick Ready –

Around 20 people had attended a meeting in the committee room of the town hall in June to look at Hawick being ready for the Tour De France. Many organisations were on board, and plans were already shaping up. Further updates would be forthcoming.

Core paths –

The chairman asked permission from members to approach Dan Wolf to cut the core paths, this was agreed by members

Action point- Cameron to book Dan Wolf

High school senior team –

The chairman asked if we could invite the high school senior team to the September meeting with a view to rekindling a regular agenda item from previous years. It was agreed to contact Stacey Grieve from the High School to progress this.

Action point- the secretary to contact Stacey Grieve

Pop-up Policeman –

Stuart Beck asked if the community council could make a move to try to get a replacement Pop-up Policeman. It was agreed to approach Colin Wilson

Action point- Cameron to approach Colin Wilson

Vandalism – Councillor Marshall provided feedback to the meeting that goal nets which had been bought for the play park at Anderson Place had been vandalised. He advised there wouldn't be extra money to replace them. Speaking from the public gallery Alex McPherson raised that groups of kids had been causing a mess in the same area over the previous month. Councillor Marshall proposed adding signage to the area, while Nikki Finnigan suggested asking local schools if there could be a job of education around this issue.

Action point- Councillor Marshall to explore possible signage for the area

Freeperson of the Scottish Borders – Stuart Beck was encouraged that the progress on this was to be raised at the next meeting of Scottish Borders Council September, Councillor Ramage advised that the legal department had been investigating the proposal and an update would follow.

Dunk Corner - Councillor Marshall provided an update on work at the Dunk Corner, his last correspondence had been in February, funding would be a major issue to repairing the existing erosion problems. The Council had felt the path would have to be move while any possible erosion works were undertaken. A site meeting would be organised for Councillor Marshall and McAteer to attend.

Princes Street works – Kyle Douglas asked about the removal of street furniture and planned roadworks. Councillor Marshall was concerned that this had not been progressed and would chase this up.

Action point- to check progress with Council officials and report back in September.

Elm Guest House (Hawick Hotel) – Mick Robertson highlighted perceived movement within the former Hotel, this gave him cause for concern. Councillor Marshall would relay the concerns to his colleague Councillor McAteer.

Haugh toilets vandalism – Mick Robertson asked about vandalism to the Haugh toilets, he was under the impression they were still closed, and this was proving a bug bear for campervan users within the car park. He was advised they had been re-opened. There was a discussion around the need for improved CCTV in the area and to be pointed in the right direction. Councillor Ramage was concerned over pockets of mindless vandalism in the town, with limited consequences. Councillor Smart felt there was a need for more control over access to the facilities by way of payment.

Cemetery grass cutting – Mick Robertson felt the town was being shortchanged over the level, and regularity of this process. It was asked if a letter could be sent to Carl Cooke to be updated on this. He also felt that weeding within the town had also faltered and he felt this needed clarification.

Action point – the secretary would write to Carol Cooke

Central Square cigarette ends – Speaking from the public benches, Anne Edwards highlighted a growing amount of discarded cigarette ends and the mess around the bus shelter which didn't present a positive image of the town to visitors arriving by bus. Councillor Marshall praised the work of the Hornshole Greenway team for continuing or organise litter picks, and also the Hawick in Bloom group who were spotted undertaking their duties ahead of the meeting.

Skips on the High Street – Graham Ford highlighted a skip which has been located outside the former LA Gems shop and had been full for months. He was advised to find the owner of the skip and give them a call. He would do this.

Sub-groups –

Christmas event – no report

Christmas market – letters had been sent out to last year's stallholders

Hawick in Bloom – there was no report, but the chairman echoed the earlier comments around the work being undertaken.

Bandstand events – the July and August events were imminent; all acts had been finalised and booked.

Planning – the subgroup has received an application from the owner of the former Peter Scott factory

Fundraising – there had been a meeting of members between monthly meetings, the Farmer's Market, a coffee morning, and a quiz were all being looked at. There was no member willing to take this on.

Resilience – Stuart Beck asked what the role of the group was? It was to be taken off the agenda going forward. Ian Young had offered to head up this as a group.

Community partners –

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell provided a brief update on ongoing work behind the scenes regarding the long-term future of St. Mary's Kirk and to progress becoming a SCIO. He updated members on plans for the Tour de France – Tour de Hawick event.

Foundation Scotland – no report

A7 Action Group – The meeting scheduled for June 25 was cancelled due to a BEAR Scotland meeting which clashed that day concerning plans for Selkirk. A new meeting date is September 25, which will also be the AGM.

Mick Robertson asked if there was any update on enhancing safety on the Albert Bridge which had been raised several times at community council level. Councillor Ramage invited Mick to the next group meeting. Graham Ford reminded members that Tommy Deans from BEAR Scotland had promised some work would be undertaken, and he was always good at sticking to such pledges.

Hawick Common Good – next meeting was scheduled for August 19

Renewable developments – the chairman felt things had gone quiet – most work was underway at Scottish Government level, and any updates would be provided in due course.

Hawick Common-Riding Committee – Kevin Marsh indicated that the Greeting Meeting of the group was scheduled for the end of July.

Hawick Reivers – Kyle Douglas had received a report from the chairwoman Catherine Elliot-Walker, which would be sent out to members and provided a summary of what had been another successful festival and had celebrated some new venues which had been used.

Correspondence – the secretary read out an email regarding duck boards which were noted to be broken near Whitlaw Woods. The email was to be forwarded to ward member Annette Smart

Any Other Competent Business -

Havelock Bank trees - Jock Campbell praised Councillor Marshall for assisting in finally getting the problem trees in the area addressed.

Voluntary work – Jock Campbell was concerned that former and current councillors were being asked to do various voluntary tasks within the town such as weeding. Mick Robertson praised George Turnbull for his community spirit. Jock felt people from the Criminal Justice Team should be undertaking such tasks. The

chairman supported the view but still felt voluntary work should be encouraged, while Councillor Ramage highlighted her sense of satisfaction from voluntary work was part of the reason why people take on voluntary work. Councillor Smart also suggested that more volunteers could lead to more areas of the town being brought up to standard.

Date of next meeting – Monday, September 13.