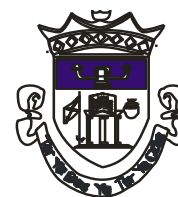

Hawick Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held on Monday, September 14, 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

Ian Young

Graham Ford

Stuart Mactaggart

Wilson George

Attending

Councillor Ramage

Councillor Marshall

Councillor McAteer

Councillor Smart

Councillor Richards

There were 31 members of the public in attendance.

Chair's Opening Remarks – The chairman welcomed everyone following the summer break. He began the meeting by wishing member Jock Cambell a speedy recovery after a recent fall, he would be visiting him in the community hospital over the next few days to deliver a get-well card.

The chairman congratulated everyone involved in the inaugural Great Street Day which had incorporated the Farmers' Market and Ridonkulous event, it brought the community, young and old, together creating a busy high street.

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 – Jock Campbell and Nikki Finnigan, and councillor Jane Cox

Adoption of Minutes - of Meeting of Monday July 13, 2026, which had been circulated to members earlier.

There were proposed for adoption by Wilson George and seconded by Ian Young

Matters arising

Park benches – Stuart Beck advised that work had begun to restore and recycle park benches within Wilton Lodge Park and the next phase would be to look to locate other updated benches and picnic benches.

Co-option of new member – Graeme King was welcomed back onto the community council.

Community Council newsletter – Graham Ford updated the meeting, he was working behind the scenes on this, he asked Kevin Marsh if there were any funding avenues for the community council to explore.

Core paths – the chairman advised that the first cut of these paths had been completed earlier in the summer, and the second was due within the coming week.

Dunk Corner path – no update.

Princes Street, street furniture – Councillor Marshall advised that various works were scheduled towards the end of October including the removal of the temporary barriers.

Hawick Hotel – Mick Robertson updated members that the rear entrance to this building had now been boarded up. Councillor McAteer explained that a few people, including the local police had been investigating this and Scottish Borders Council had this on the radar.

Pop-up Policeman – The chairman unveiled the latest incarnation of pop-up Bob, which had previously been used to help regulate speeding drivers on the entrance to the town from the A7 south. he thanked Colin Wilson, from Wilson Signs for helping create both.

Police Scotland reports – The chairman welcomed deputy area commander Rory Caverhill to the meeting. He began by asking if there were any plans to increase patrols around the Trinity Gardens area following some serious antisocial issues. The inspector thanked the chairman for the invite, he confirmed that patrols would be increased and encouraged members of the public to report, this included boy racers behaviour and shoplifting. He confirmed that more money would be available from the proceeds of crime initiative run by the Scottish Government towards tackling shoplifting.

Mick Robertson raised issues around the Shop Watch scheme, and he relayed the feeling from members of the WhatsApp group that the 101 line was proving to be ineffective. The inspector agreed to take Mr Robertson's details and would take this up.

Hawick High School presentation - Stacey Grieve, vocational officer from the school, headteacher Lisa Scott and three senior pupils were in attendance. Stacey provided a comprehensive report on the work the school

had undertaken around providing positive destination for pupils, and the work on developing a construction industry course for career minded pupils. The revival of monthly pupil reports to the community council was also agreed.

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 –

Flood prevention scheme – manager Conor Price attended the meeting for the final time and provided an update on snagging issues ahead of the scheme being handed over to Scottish Borders Council. No official opening date could be confirmed. Councillors McAteer and Marshall both praised the scheme and the outstanding achievement of delivering flood protection to the town. Ian Young also highlighted, how he had been flooded at his home in Teviot Crescent many times prior to the works starting. He was now able to sleep safer in his bed at night.

Concerns were raised around dumpy bags in the riverbed, defects on Commercial Road and at other locations. It was agreed that elected ward representatives join Mr Price on a community walkabout the following day.

Farmers' Market – the chairman reported that 22 stallholders had booked stalls for the event with many sold out by lunchtime and read out several thank you messages from stallholders.

The chairman thanked the volunteers from the community council and other volunteers who contributed to the day. He believed 40 stalls were scheduled for the Christmas market. Graham Ford congratulated Cameron Knox on his leadership to make the event such a success.

Graham Ford asked about the possibility of working towards reviving or reinvigorating the town volunteer group. He would approach John Hogg to attend the next meeting of the community council to take this forward.

ACTION POINT- Graham to contact John Hogg

Summer flags – The chairman asked if the community council was happy to look to fund the purchase of these in an effort to brighten up the High Street for next summer, especially with the Tour De France coming to town. This was agreed.

Banking hub – The chairman congratulated the decision to open the temporary banking hub at the Heritage Hub

Van – Common Haugh – the chairman highlighted a van which had been parked at the Common Haugh for a considerable period of time. Councillor Clair Ramage advised that this has been reported to the police.

Reports from subgroups-

Christmas market – the chairman indicated that the community council needed more support if the erection of the Christmas lights was to go ahead this year. He also issued a plea towards obtaining and erecting a Christmas tree at Trinity Gardens.

Hawick in Bloom – Councillor Stuart Marshall praised the work of the group over the summer.

Bandstand events – Keith Johnson indicated that the summer of music at Wilton Lodge Park had been another considerable success.

Planning – The chairman advised of two planning submissions around the Howegate toilets development, and the Gretel bar development – these were noted.

Fund raising – plans were being investigated around a coffee morning to generate funds in the spring.

Community partners and representative groups–

Hawick Development Trust – Bryan Bell had no report.

Foundation Scotland – no report

A7 Action Group – The AGM was to be held on September 24.

The chairman highlighted signs still in position in the Borthwick valley which were out-of-date.

Mick Robertson enquired if there had been any progress on the Sandbed, Councillor Ramage advised this was being put to Tommy Deans for the update. He had indicated that there would be an improvement in August.

Kevin Marsh raised his frustrations around signs being erected for road closures, with the signs being put up long before the advertised sign. Speaking from the public benches highlighted his issue over signs indicating road closed were put up on the Friday before the Monday. Which caused unnecessary confusion.

Renewable developments –

Councillor Ramage provided an update on the Stitches development for members.

Hawick Common-Riding Committee – No report

Hawick Reivers – the chairman praised Cath Elliot-Walker who was sitting in the public gallery for another successful year, according to the annual report. Cath advised funding applications were now being worked on for the coming year.

Correspondence – there was none.

AOCB

Non-financial working group – Kevin Marsh updated members on a meeting which he had attended, and recommendations put forward to Scottish Borders Council had been approved. second group is reviewing financial contributions towards community councils.

Parking permits – Ian Campbell asked from the public gallery why the cost of parking permits had risen so dramatically. The elected members present advised this had been agreed through the budget process.

Date of next meeting – this was agreed for Monday, October 12 within the lesser town hall starting at 6.30pm