

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 7pm**

Present: Fiona Thompson (FT), Susan Stewart (SS), Paul Freeland – Cook (PFC), Kevin Lee (KL), Euan Gibson (EG), Denise Allan (DA), Sarah Elliot (SE).

Community Police Officer: P.C Paul Owenson.

Scottish Borders Councillors – Simon Mountford (SM), Euan Robson (ER).

Apologies: None

Members of the Public: 38 in attendance

1	<p>Apologies for Absence: As above.</p>	
	<p>FT welcomed all to the meeting and intimated that she was going to read out a statement re the Licence Application from the Deli in Town Yetholm which had been approved and checked by the Licensing Team. She went on to say that after this had been read out there would be an opportunity for any queries or comments to be made. This would take the usual format i.e. five minute maximum.</p> <p>The statement was read out, and a couple of queries were raised as to why objection to licence submitted and what benefit another licensed business would bring. MOP read out a statement to the meeting.</p> <p>All these were noted and FT said that CC had submitted their response by the deadline. Queried why no discussion with community prior to this submission and noted that anyone in the community could have objected or supported this application on an individual basis if they so wished. FT also commented that CC response had not been unanimous and that no conflict of interest had arisen as SS and PFC were not part of the new Management Committee for the community shop when submissions had to be in by. Community asked to now await the decision of the Licensing Board on 20th February 2026.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting, approval and signature The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved with no amendments and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising from minutes/outstanding ER updated on the following points –</p> <p>Haugh Steps – this was not a task that the Community Justice Team could undertake. However, there is still scope for this work to be carried out and paid for as noted in previous minutes.</p> <p>Bottle Bank – this continued to be an issue and ER commented that he had suggested that they review the route that was being taken. The contract with Biffa was also being renegotiated at this time.</p> <p>Salt Bags- unclear as to whether they were still at school. SE said she would query this when next at the school.</p> <p>Burst Water Main – had been dealt with by Scottish Water.</p> <p>Dow Brae – Manholes had been inspected.</p>	SE

	<p>Deanfield Bank – Eildon Housing to trim both sides of the hedge and remove all debris.</p> <p>Boat and Caravan – no permission for them to be on this site. Permission needs to be obtained for these items to remain on this site as is SBC land.</p> <p>SS said there was no further update on notice board in Town Yetholm. She would continue to look into replacement.</p> <p>Grant application – this had been submitted to Lottery Fund for various works at the Pavilion</p> <p>Spine Race – Report read out by FT re this year’s race. 8 complaints/issues had been raised and had been dealt with during the week. MOP requested that the signage in KY went up much earlier. FT said that this continued to be work in progress and that firm lines of communication were now in place.</p>	SS
4	<p>Christmas Trees and Lights No comments made or feedback received.</p>	
5	<p>Members of the Public- Issues and or Concerns</p> <p>Unnamed Streets – noted that this had been commented on in July and September meetings in 2025 and that until there was unanimity from residents in the street then this could not be progressed any further. ER said that if this unanimity could be reached then there could be some limited funding available.</p> <p>Grafton Court – a request had been submitted for the sign to be moved. Hope was that this could be achieved in this financial year.</p> <p>Cemetery Gate – still awaiting information re costs. FT to follow this up. MOP raised the issue of the access down to Allans Cottages and could it be designated as a cul-de-sac and have a streetlight fitted. ER said that it had to be in an adoptable standard to before SBC would consider it being adopted. ER and SM agreed to look into the possibility of a streetlight being put in situ.</p>	FT SM /ER
6	<p>Festival Week 2026 FT reported that we had two Principals “in waiting” for this year’s Festival in June and the monthly planning meetings had resumed at the beginning of the year.</p>	
7	<p>Portfolio Discussions Housing and Planning – Vacant Nil noted.</p>	
	<p>Finance – Angela Walker AW gave an update on finances and commented that to date expenditure was £1410. The school had been reimbursed their half share of any rag bag monies received.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance – Euan Gibson EG noted issues re bottle bank which had been commented on above. Query raised as to whether we could request a further Rag Bag at the school. SS to investigate.</p>	SS
	<p>Education – Sarah Elliot SE gave update on ELC numbers which at this time were at 15. There had been an excellent uptake from 2-year-olds which may prove to be issue going forward as an extra staff member would be required. School classes were now on the cusp of needing two teachers once again, but this would continue to be monitored</p>	
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook PFC thanked SBC for moving soil out of the ditches in the valley. The work undertaken to restore and repair the road was also noted and appreciated however</p>	

	comment also made that there was still a large amount of timber to come out this year so the road condition could deteriorate once again.	
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee SBC thanked for work carried out on Yetholm road however noted that the Yetholm to Morebattle road still required extensive repair. ER said this had been reported previously but he would do so again. Noted that lane from Heritage Society down to Haugh very slippery and muddy as was the path from gate to Waukford - this could be something Criminal Justice Team could assist with. KL said that we had one defib pad left in stock and requested that we purchase some new ones. They have a five-year lifespan and all agreed that this was an essential purchase but noted that they were costly - £200 per pack. Defib in Bowmont valley to be checked as well to ensure all in order there.</p>	<p>ER ER SS</p>
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson Nil further to report as mentioned above.</p>	
	<p>Pavilion/Tourism – Denise Allan Smart Meter to be installed in Pavilion in February. Spine Race had been very happy with recent rental/use and had booked again for June event. They had asked if sofas and or chairs could be put in situ and were happy to pay for this. Items to be sourced in coming months.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant Nil to report</p>	
8	<p>Police Report PC Owneson thanked for his presence at the meeting. He explained his remit and said that he hoped to be available again in the Community Police Van on a regular basis. Query raised re the car in the field at Catchapenny which still needed to be removed. This was known to Police and would be acted on.</p>	
9	<p>Scottish Borders Council Update ER commented that there was now a consultation in place re flooding and SEPA which was available to all to complete. SS said had been sent to all CC and was available on the Resilience Facebook page. He also noted that work was still ongoing to reduce the gap in this year’s SBC budget and was now reduced to £3million. New Budget would be announced in mid-February. He also commented that in the last ten years the council had removed £100 million out of the base budget they held.</p>	
10	<p>Additional Correspondence All had been sent out by email</p>	
11	<p>Community Council/A.O. B MOP said phone box in KY not working. ER to investigate. DA commented there was a large pothole on Grafton Bank. EG noted that there were a number of pallets containing glass bottles located on Back Lane.</p>	<p>ER ER</p>

The meeting closed at 2030

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7pm in The Youth Hall