

Heiton and Roxburgh Community Council

Meeting Notes

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at Roxburgh Village Hall

Attendees: Chloe Brown (CJB) - Chair, Roger Adams (RA), Nigel Carey (NC), Tom Clark (TC), Mark Briggs (MB), Caroline Brown (CB), Chris Rush (CR).

Draft

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome was made to all with specific welcome to Phoebe Briggs.

Apologies: Scott MacCallum (SMac), Clare Sturla-Nicoll (CN).

2. Minutes of 3rd December 2025

Acceptance of the notes of the meeting, with minor amendments as discussed, of 3rd December 2025 was agreed - proposed by TC and seconded by MB.

3. Matters Arising and Action items

1. Hotel - walking routes and signage – A meeting had been held with Bruno De Schuyter the hotel manager. This issue is now to be managed by the hotel with the possible support of SBC (Denise Brydon). A pamphlet with QR codes for walks is potentially to be produced in the future.
2. Water issues
 1. The stream with outflow adjacent to the viaduct had been walked and examined by Mark and Phoebe Briggs accompanied by Ronnie Knox from the hotel. The water discoloration appears to be coming from south of the A698 Heiton to Jedburgh road and outside the hotel boundaries. The hotel representative agreed to carry out a water sample exercise to check the water quality. (CR).
 2. The Sewage treatment system for the hotel development does not have a reed bed adjacent to the river as shown on the contemporary planning drawings from 2022. The hotel are to discuss this issue with the original designers and the SEPA compliance team will follow up in terms of regulations and outflow testing (CR).
3. Path maintenance grant. The paths maintenance grant application had been approved and a sum of £507.99 had been received on 30 Jan 2026 towards payment for a Stihl trimmer and protective equipment. The acquisition of this is being dealt with by SMac. (post meeting note – a battery charger and invoices for all the equipment have been received on 20th Mar).
4. H&RCC use of Heiton VH website – CJB asked for final input on the content (MB and RA photos, Balsam removal info from CR).
5. The Community Council contact email address is to be on all CC minutes.

6. Driver signage for the Roxburghe Hotel. White lines had been painted and these helped the situation. CR is to follow up with discussions with the hotel about signage (CR).
7. Vermin on the Estate – no update on this issue – this is to be followed up with the Estate.
8. Gate for the Heiton play area – CB had discussed the issue with Heiton residents and it was felt that a pedestrian gate across the narrow entrance to the play area would be helpful. However the land is owned by the Roxburgh estate and it was felt that they should be approached, together with SBC to discuss how the project would be best achieved.
9. Vehicle incident on the lane running alongside the Sunlaws estate down to the viaduct – a vehicle had left the road and entered the stream – this is the second instance in 2 years – and the issue is to be raised with the local constabulary (CR).

4. Communications and Other Issues

1. A letter regarding new trustees had been received from the Lavender Touch – this is to be forwarded to CR.
2. Correspondence had been received from the Jim Clark Rally organisers. CJB had put out an email to locals asking who might be interested in working with the Rally organisers. There had been a few positive responses and CJB will respond to them. CB will consider how support can be provided to the Rally team (CB).

5. Planning Issues

1. An application for the replacement of one of the Roxburgh church windows had been received and circulated to Councillors. No objections had been identified and this information had been passed to SBC.
2. H&RCC had not been advised of any other planning issues.

6. Financial Matters

Treasurer's report:

1. It was noted that current funds stood at £2510.42.
2. Following discussion it was agreed unanimously that funds are to be ring fenced as follows;
 - 1 . £508 for the purchase of a Stihl strimmer for grounds maintenance purposes.
 - 2 . £1800 for the purchase and installation of seating benches at locations as already agreed with Roxburgh Estates – one on the railway embankment between the West End Car Park and the viaduct and the second one overlooking the River Teviot opposite Sunlaws Mill.

7. Updates from SBC Councillors/Staff

No updates received.

8. Any other business

1. MB had identified that small pieces of masonry had fallen from the viaduct and blown, in the unusually strong winds, onto the footbridge. CR said he would follow this up with his contact at Historic Railways Estate (HRE). (Subsequent to the meeting the HRE said that they were aware of the issue but would keep monitoring the site for any further issues.)
2. It was noted that H&RCC must hold a re-election process prior to September this year. The process for this is to be followed up after the AGM meeting.

9. Dates of Next Meetings

1. ***Thursday 28th May 2026 at Roxburgh Village Hall at 7pm – this will be the AGM followed by a general meeting.***
2. ***Thursday 10th September at Roxburgh Village Hall at 7pm.***

Draft