

Heiton and Roxburgh Community Council

Meeting Notes

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at Roxburgh Village Hall

Attendees: Chloe Brown (CB), Roger Adams (RA), Scott MacCallum (SMac) - Chair, Tom Clark (TC), Mark Briggs (MB), Nigel Carey (NC).

Chris Rush (Sunlaws) and Caroline Brown (Heiton).

Apologies: Clare Sturla-Nicoll (CN).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome was made to all with specific welcome to Chris Rush and Caroline Brown. Apologies had been received from CN. It was noted that specific invitation to representatives from SBC had not been made although the agenda had been sent to Scottish Borders Council (SBC) ten days in advance of the meeting.

2. Minutes of 28th May 2025

Acceptance of the notes of the meeting of 28th May 2025 was proposed by TC and seconded by SMac.

3. Co-option

RA proposed the co-option of Chris Rush (CR) from Sunlaws onto the Community Council. This was seconded by SMac and approved by all present.

Caroline Brown (CaB) indicated that she would be available for co-option to the Community Council at the December 2025 meeting. She was thanked for this as this would provide valuable input to the Community Council from the Heiton area. **Provide details of co-opting process and responsibilities to CaB – RA.**

4. Matters Arising and Action items

1. Previous minute - Investigate what walking route information or pamphlets the Roxburghe hotel currently provides to guests and assess how the council can help improve or formalize these materials. Also discuss with them potential signage improvements for walkers and guests, and explore collaboration on costs and implementation. Contact had been made with the hotel but no response had yet been received – **SMac to follow this up.**
2. TC had now received access to a 'final' version of the book, Auld Roxburgh. Ways of updating and making this available to the public are being investigated. Once this has been achieved we can add QR codes to new village signs, linking to relevant historical information and excerpts from Brian's book. Going on from this we can plan for the 25th anniversary of the book's publication in 2002, including new signage, immersive walking experiences, and collaboration with local businesses – **TC to continue investigations.**
3. The issue of sewage in the stream adjacent to Sunlaws had not been resolved. It was noted that the water here was invariably cloudy. Investigation of arrangements for water sampling to identify the source and address the issue were to be made - **MB to action**

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4. RA had contacted Scottish Water about discharge from the Heiton works. We were advised that as this is a Septic Tank process there is always discharge and that in times of heavy rainfall raw sewage can be discharged. Scottish Water had checked the site following our report and responded that the works were working as expected. Following this it was also noted that the discharge of sewage had stopped. The issue of discharge from the Roxburghe Hotel was also discussed. - **RA to contact SBC about this.**
5. Review and update the village map with Teviot Lodge. Investigate village map orientation to improve visitor navigation --- **MB to action.**
6. Bus stop signage – CR had contacted SBC who had said that a bus stop sign would be erected when funds permitted. It was also noted that the buses will stop anywhere in Heiton if flagged down.
7. Village Maintenance. CB reported that a resident had indicated that he would be pleased to do this work from next spring. MB said that he had cleared Lovers Lane and noted that it had taken him 3 hours to complete the work.
8. It was noted that Plexus in Kelso would provide support for communities and this could be targeted at Balsam removal next year. **Publicise Balsam removal to Heiton and Roxburgh communities – CR**
9. Local Place Plan – this was discussed and it was agreed that a plan such as this was inappropriate for settlements such as Heiton and Roxburgh. It was noted that local residents are welcome to form a 'community formed body' to develop a local Place Plan as per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

5. Communications and Other Issues

None.

6. Planning Issues

No applications currently under consideration.

7. Financial Matters

Treasurer's report:

1. A payment of £97.50 had been made to Roxburgh Village Hall for Hall hire in 2024/5 which has been reimbursed by SBC. We have also received the SBC grant for 2025 amounting to £693.00. As a result there is £2,037.43 in the H&RCC account. No issues were raised.
2. The subject of Path Maintenance Grant was discussed. This cannot be claimed unless expenditure is incurred. The purchase of a vegetation trimmer and protective equipment was discussed and agreed by all. RA suggested that Stihl had appropriate equipment available. **SMac said he would investigate this and report back so that purchase could be made. This to be done soon to fit with the funding timetable – November.**
3. The subject of notice boards for Heiton or Sunlaws was discussed. CaB indicated that the notice board in the Village Hall in Heiton was felt to be acceptable. **CR agreed to look into the potential for a site in Sunlaws** – though he did indicate that an effective *WhatsApp* group managed to reach many residents.

8. Updates from SBC Councillors

No updates from SBC Councillors were available. It was noted that SBC Councillors need to be individually sent copies of minutes and meeting agendas prior to meetings. **Dates of, agenda and invitation for future meetings to be sent to SBC councilors – RA**

9. Any other business

- 1.** Jim Clark Rally 2026 – potential for running past Roxburgh. This was discussed - **TC agreed to follow this up.**
- 2.** Website for H&RCC discussed. We were advised that Heiton VH have offered to 'piggy back' this on the Heiton VH new website which is being developed by David Jeffrey – **CB to follow up with CaB.**
- 3.** SBC contact – **this is to be re-established with our previous contact, Roddy Martin, who is the community engagement officer - CB.**
- 4.** Driver signage for the Roxburghe Hotel – following issues of drivers losing their way when approaching the hotel. CR suggested that improved signing could be installed. **CR to follow this up. SMaC to flag with the hotel.**
- 5.** CR had reported a fault on the viaduct footbridge to the historical Railways Estate.

10. Dates of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at Roxburgh Village Hall at 7pm

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at Roxburgh Village Hall at 7pm