

Heiton and Roxburgh Community Council

Meeting Notes

Thursday 28th May at Roxburgh Village Hall

Attendees: Chloe Brown (CJB), Roger Adams (Treasurer) (RA), Chris Rush (Secretary) (CR), Mark Briggs (MB), Scott MacCallum (Vice-Chair) (SMac), Tom Clark (TC), Nigel Carey (NC), Clare Sturla-Nicoll (CN), Caroline Brown (CB), John Bathgate (JB) – SBC Councillor

Apologies: None

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome was made to all, with specific welcome to John Bathgate our SBC Councillor for Jedburgh and District.

2. Minutes of 18th March 2026

Two minor updates of the draft minutes were proposed by CR and the notes of the meeting of 18th March 2026 were accepted. A 'finalised' version of the minutes is to be provided to Heiton for placement on the H&RCC area of the Heiton Village Hall website (RA).

3. Matters Arising and Action items

Meeting with SCHLOSS Roxburghe hotel

A positive meeting with Bruno De Schuyter, General Manager of the SCHLOSS Roxburghe Hotel on 27th May was reported by SMac and CR, specifically

1. Walking routes on SCHLOSS Roxburghe grounds

The hotel are keen to meet with Denise Brydon of SBC Active Travel and align their activities, across guest, employee and community active travel. SMac/CR will attend.

2. Signage at junction of hotel and Sunlaws Road

The renewed Give Way markings appear to have had the required effect.

3. Biodisc Sewage Plant and connection to Heiton Sewage Plant

SEPA have engaged to review, and there are no issues flagged to date which is great news.

4. Cloudy discharge on irregular basis in Sunlaws Stream

It was agreed that this is coming from outside the hotel grounds, from the stream that points towards Ladyrig and is surrounded by agricultural land. This will be tested by hotel and CR is to log with SEPA in the autumn if this returns.

5. Improved Bus Stop proposed for end of Sunlaws Road

It is good news that this should form part of the plans for SBC this financial year, JB suggested that CR follow up in a number of months to check this was on track.

6. Balsam Bashing

A balsam bashing session is planned for 17th June in conjunction with the Tweed Forum and Roxburghe Estates. A further session was discussed with Bruno to tackle the infestation in the Malting Pool on the hotel grounds, CR to follow up.

7. AOB

SMac highlighted that residents would appreciate notice of firework displays put on at the hotel as it would allow pets to be brought indoors and assist with awareness. Bruno supports this and the hotel will work with CR on a process to enable the communication.

4. Communications and Other Issues

1. SBC have confirmed the same levels of grant for H&RCC at £693 annually.
2. H&RCC bank account is with TSB which has been taken over by Santander, no impact is anticipated currently.
3. SBC are trialling weed control without glyphosate in two areas of the County.
4. SBC highlighted that parents and carers of any child who is five years of age before 28th February 2027 need to enrol their child for primary school. This can be done during enrolment week from 17-21 November, details on SBC website.
5. There was a discussion regarding communication generally and CR volunteered to look at the incoming emails once he has access. The objective being to reduce their volume, and set up rules to follow as to how they were communicated onwards. For residents the Tell Me Scotland website is a better source for notices such as planning and traffic information.

5. Planning Issues

No applications currently under consideration.

6. Financial Matters

Treasurer's report:

An update was provided within the Annual General Meeting and the annual accounts are now available.

7. Any other business

1. Insurance

CR had offered to find out what Community Council insurance was available, specifically to cover the clearing of paths using the recently acquired equipment. After a delay and immediately before the meeting SBC had provided a schedule and policy document for the Zurich cover which SBC arranges. From that CR found it difficult to identify what our cover is.

CR to pursue SBC as to what cover is provided and whether it includes Councillor and Volunteers undertaking such work.

2. Bird Scarer Timing

Comments were made about the louder and possibly earlier bird scarers, but it may be where they are currently located relative to Roxburgh. JB will investigate whether any restrictions apply. On checking online after the meeting CR found an NFU code of practice allowing use between 6am and 10pm.

3. Road Safety along Sunlaws Road near viaduct

After the engagement of the Community Beat Officer around fast traffic down to the viaduct causing pedestrians concern CR has formally lodged a request with SBC to provide a DoT 544.1 "Pedestrians in Road" sign to warn drivers as they round the corner near the old railway siding. SBC have the request and supported material and it is being reviewed.

8. Dates of Next Meeting:

Thursday 10th September 2026 at Roxburgh Village Hall at 7pm

This is a DRAFT of the minutes of 28th May 2026 which has been reviewed by members of the Community Council, and will be formally accepted as a record at the next meeting.

It is to be noted that there will be an election process for a new Community Council membership before the next meeting.