MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026 AT 7 PM IN TEVIOTHEAD HALL

	PRESENT	ACTION
	CCllrs Douglas, Cooper, Fleming, Steele, Butlin, Friell, Little, Growden, Cllr Smart P Douglas (recording minutes) Chair welcomed all to the meeting	
1	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**	
	Apologies were received from CCllr Claire Nowicka Price, Cllr McAteer, Cllr Cox	
2	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2025**	
	Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 3 November 2025 had been circulated and were taken as read	
	Proposed by CCllr Little and seconded by CCllr Cooper	
3	**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**	
	A couple of triangles have been put up at the Harden Bridge.	
4	**TREASURER'S REPORT**	
	Treasurer G Cooper reported the following transactions since last meeting Outgoings - £32.50 Grants Paid - Forman Hall (Christmas Party) £400. Forman Hall (Bowling Club) £570 Balance as at 4.1.26 - £5730.54 Langhope Rig B Fund £797.44 and CC £4933.10 Annual payment will be paid from Foundation Scotland next Wednesday	
5	**POLICE REPORT**	
	Nothing to report on this area at the moment. Tyres and batteries in forestry had been removed in the summer by forestry A couple of thefts from hotels in Peebles and Innerleithen have been noted. A safe was recovered dumped at Midgehope in Ettrick Valley.	
6	**WIND FARMS**	
	Teviot update - pre examination meeting was held in December for the Public Inquiry. However Muirhall Energy submitted a letter from their lawyers asking for the Inquiry to be delayed until August. No alterations now to be made as initially suggested. Eskdalemuir noise budget is in question. Time is going to slip however the Reporter is delaying the Inquiry until 31st March. Energy Minister is going to make a statement in May. MOD not objecting to the timetable laid out.	

	Mid Hill Planning Application response Number of Turbines reduced from 44 to 13 Photographs and all booklets are available Mast still planned at Broadlee Loch despite all the objections and concerns Still very visible with aviation lighting, total ruination of the landscape Roads, borrow pits and infrastructure still all in the plan so looks like they might intend to increase in size. In conjunction with Teviothead would have huge impact visually, abnormal loads, transport Roman and Reivers route used extensively and increasingly by horse riders - important to tourism - British Horse Society have not objected Fears that the whole area will be deer fenced with keep out signs - impact on countryside access - are supposed to allow access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Responses Access - CCllr Friell Increased numbers in future Transport access - construction traffic access on the A7 at the Vales to be made into 7/8 metre wide road with a new junction. Joins onto the Chapelhill road. Huge impact on local properties at Newmill. Lack of information / transport plan. View from A7 in particular Colterscleuch straight - on a main tourist route where there are none at present Residential Visual Amenity - closest 1.5 km Properties at Philhope and Eilrig have not been included Suggested help from S Lucking and the Mid Hill opposition group Borthwick Water Landscape Conservation Group Could ask for a public meeting. Not considered necessary. Results of survey from Roberton almost ready to publish. There is a feeling of is this worth it? No matter what is done they will probably go ahead anyway. Responses to be in by 31st January - ask for an extension? Yes Walter will circulate a list of headlines for people to work on	DF WD
	Capel Rig - exhibition in Langholm assumed not much different to when it was held at Teviothead. MOD position key in this case as well	
	Hartsgarth - … turbines up to 200 m high - impact on Hermitage Castle and on Newcastleton	

	Pines Burn Community Benefit - Resiliance and Sustainability Grant - options have been circulated to various local groups - 1 - similar to Langhope Rig 2 - divide money up and give groups an annual grant. 6 out of 7 goups would prefer option 2. Await word from Teviothead Show after their AGM in February. No word back from Foundation Scotland to indicate whether or not they approved. Chair suggested that the CC goes ahead with this. Teviothead Hall, Foreman Hall, Roberton Show, Teviothead Show - main groups which deal with most people throughout the year so should get more money. Borthwick Water CDT , Cogsmill Hall, Newmill & Teviothead WI, who are a constituted body. Cogsmill WI should be added also. Craikhope Outdoor Centre (In2Venture) which is a charity as well? Tamsin will ask Kevin Marsh if Craikhope can give a presentation to the CC detailing their work. 4 main and 4 lesser ones - £600 per share (£1200 for halls and shows) £600 for WIs and CDT Groups would have to report to the CC at the end of the year to outline what they have used the money for but would be up to the groups to decide what the grant is used for. Since Pines Burn has been operational from two years now there is £14000 available.- try to pay one quickly then another mid summer. Then annually thereafter. All OK with this so Walter will organise with Foundation Scotland	TG WD
	Community Councils Meeting 17 January in Jedburgh Town Hall arranged by Eccles Community Following the HIghland area convention joining all the groups together to oppose. If any Community Councillors would like to attend a place requires to be booked.	
7	**CROSS BORDERS CONNECTION / SPEN PYLON LINE**	
	Nothing moved forward in terms of route. SPEN gave a presentation to SBC but don't want any details released. The action group will take part in meeting at Jedburgh. Area near Threepwood going to be the focus - area of natural conservation Webinar for the Public on 28th January 1 -2 pm Annette has sent details to Walter who will forward details to CCllrs Talk about Community Benefit	WD
8	**LOCAL PLACE PLAN / COMMUNITY WEBSITE**	
	Nothing happened since early December. Place Plan was out for consultation and some adjustments had been made. Community Enterprise perhaps having staffing issues. Walter will chase this up. Meetings were to take place on Community Website but no further action. Draft Place Plan was sent out to all adjacent Community Councils.	WD
9	**A7 ACTION GROUP**	

	Walter attended meeting on 27th November just following fatal accident at Ewes. Bear Scotland were there. Clearly there are issues with drainage. Bear emphasised that if there are any issues they should be reported. Moss Paul straight always has water running and also at Skelfhill road end . Bear should be picking up these things themselves. Another fatality South of Langholm since then but did not appear to be due to road conditions. Planned Schemes - resurfacing on A7 South of Hawick to Parkdail - 19 Jan - 22 Jan 4 nights and 26 - 29 January 4 nights south of Teinside Drainage work from Linhope to Moss Paul then Terrona	
10	**SBC COUNCILLORS**	
	Budget discussions - gap in Council finances. Motion passed in December - 2 acre site behind Wilton Lodge Park which had fallen into disarray. Annette proposed that this area be made into a community / school market garden. Tree nursery for fruit and nut trees and a commercial side - garden centre where high school work experience students can work along with Borders College for horticultural practice. Working alongside various local groups and schools to develop this scheme. Feasibility study being carried out. Since last meeting Live Borders meeting where no closures now going to happen. Community Asset Transfer - lack of staff could be an issue Communities don't have to buy the asset but could have a long term lease New CEO of Live Borders seems to be very good Live Borders will continue to be supported by the Council at present Contact with Planning Dept - extremely difficult to get in touch with. Not at all helpful. They are very busy and an certainly extent of re organisation.	
11	**LOCAL ISSUES**	
	Newmill Phone Box	
	CCllr Douglas Correspondence to say the Community wished to buy it, eventually Buccleuch agreed to the land. Mo and Jim McManus were going to adopt but had to be a group - Community Council - Waited 2 years to hear from you so it was taken away - despite being stated quite clearly that the community wished to buy. Apparently the person dealing with this has retired. Walter will write about this. CCllr Little. No mobile signal if power is off. Supposed to be a backup at the mast so Jan will look into this. Sandy will try to find out who Jan should contact. CCllr Friell. Accumulation of new containers being dumped on the old showfield and other locations. Makes the valley look very scruffy, this is agricultural land and there should be a change of use application to being a scrap yard. Someone has written a complaint to Environmental Health but if no action the Community Council might be asked to do something. Issues with batteries? Councillors should be contacted as well. Johnnie Armstrongs Grave - part of a historical route - suggest anything which might help with tourism - possibly a seat? Paving stones are quite uneven	WD JL
12	**DATES AND VENUES FOR NEXT MEETINGS**	
	Monday 2 March at 7.30 in Forman Hall, Roberton	