

## **Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm Community Council**

### Minute of Annual General Meeting

1 April 2025, 19:00, Smailholm Village Hall

Present

Councillors

Nicholas Biddulph  
Andy Carter  
Tony Kime Via MS Teams  
Ian Malcolm  
Jane Roberts  
Veronica Ross  
David Stark  
Ian Topping

Philip Green FMNS Treasurer  
SBC Councillors  
Euan Robson SBC Councillor  
Tom Weatherston SBC Councillor

Apologies

Roddy Martin

### Minutes

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

### Convenors Report

Andy Carter presented a brief Convenors Report. He looked at the work done in the year, which has included a significant amount of work on the Smailholm Place Plan. He also looked at the role of the Community Council. His main concern was that the council be seen as friendly and welcoming, which may at times mean that we set aside our agreed procedures in order to be more inclusive of those who join with us.

### Finance

Philip presented the examined accounts (appendix 1). These show that our expenditure remains low, and this creates opportunities for us to support local initiatives to improve our area.

### Election of Office Bearers

It was recognised that with Community Council elections due to be held in October all officers will only hold office until the elections.

Councillor Tom Weatherston took the chair for the election of the Convenor.

Ian Topping proposed Andy Carter for Convenor, Ian Malcom seconded. Andy was elected unopposed.

Councillor Tom Weatherston congratulated Andy and handed the chair back to him.

Veronica Ross proposed Philip Green as Treasurer, Nicholas Biddulph seconded. Philip was elected unopposed.

Veronica Ross proposed Tony Kime as Secretary, Ian Malcolm seconded. Tony was elected unopposed.

Veronica has indicated that she will be stepping down as a Community Councillor in October, however Ian Topping proposed that she remains Vice-Convenor until then, seconded by Ian Malcolm. Again Veronica was elected unopposed.

#### Constitution and Code of Conduct

Following a brief discussion all Community Councillors agreed to abide by our Constitution and the SBC Code of Conduct.

Appendix 1

Floors Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smallholm Community Council

Finance Statement for the Period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Income and Expenditure				
Source	Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Balance brough forward				£479.43
05/04/2024	Hall Hire Refund	£80.00		£559.43
09/04/2024	Wreaths		-£105.00	£454.43
24/05/2024	Smallholm Village hall hire		-£20.00	£434.43
30/05/2024	A Carter mileage		-£39.00	£395.43
03/06/2024	Annual Grant	£693.00		£1,088.43
03/06/2024	Hall Hire Refund	£60.00		£1,148.43
04/06/2024	Website costs		-£80.40	£1,068.03
25/06/2024	chippings		-£148.80	£919.23
31/07/2024	Grass cutting		-£360.00	£559.23
05/09/2024	Owl Grant	£1,168.20		£1,727.43
06/09/2024	Owl Payment A Carter		-£1,298.00	£429.43
09/09/2024	Grounds Keeping refund from SBC	£536.51		£965.94
	Wreaths		-£105.00	£860.94
10/12/2024	Path maintenance Samilholm		-£13.82	£847.12
Petty Cash Balance				£27.53
Total Funds Available				£874.65

The Accounts have been individually examined and approved by

Signature ABoote  
 Name Amanda Boote F.C.A.  
 Address 45 Howey Lane  
Frodsham, Cheshire  
WA6 6DP

Date 28.3.25



Tom Weatherston said that they are trying to do this, but there are recruitment challenges as the salaries offered in the Borders are lower than offered in Lothian for example.

Euan noted that there is a major report due soon on “Live Borders”. This is likely to show the need for significant changes (cuts). It is thought unlikely that these will affect the Kelso area as both the library and swimming pool are doing well, with increased customer use statistics – something that is not seen elsewhere. Euan and Tom asked that we continue to highlight the Live Borders opportunities in our area and make as much use of them as possible.

Ian Topping asked if these services might be taken back in house. Euan explained that the costs of doing this would be high, as taking them in house would mean that the services would have to charge VAT and pay rates, leading to even deeper cuts. On this basis it is important that the management of “Live Borders” is significantly strengthened.

### Planning

Andy noted that he had contacted planning enforcement re the site behind Burnbrae Cottages. David Stark confirmed that the site currently appears vacant and that no further work has been carried out. We are still waiting for a planning application for this site.

### 2025 Community Council Election

SBC has provided an outline timetable for our Community Council elections (appendix 1)

The key dates are the opening of nominations on 15<sup>th</sup> September and the election date of 30<sup>th</sup> October.

In preparation for this election Ian and Andy have worked together to produce a CC leaflet for distribution to all households. It was agreed that this leaflet should be distributed in June. Andy will provide leaflets and delivery addresses in May to

Ian Topping – Nenthorn  
Ian Malcolm – Smailholm  
Roddy Martin – Floors  
AMC – Smailholm

It was noted that this community council has had fewer than 12 elected members, and each councillor was encouraged to stand again and to think of one or two others who might also stand this time. While it is often said that we are an area of predominantly older people it would be good to see a few younger people beginning to take on a role in the community.

Given that our planned meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October is during the election period this will be cancelled and replaced by the first meeting of the new Community Council (probably in late November).

### Correspondence

Tony has continued to distribute correspondence, however, there has been little of obvious note since our January meeting.

### Placemaking

The Smailholm Place Plan is almost complete, and in the next few weeks will be submitted to SBC for adoption. If people want to read the plan they can find the current near final draft on the Smailholm Futures area of the Smailholm Village Hall website.

As soon as the plan is submitted work can begin on the various identified projects within the plan.

## Roads

We noted that there has recently been a significant campaign of filling potholes, which is welcomed. However, we noted that there are two areas which still have problems. The Couthill road has a number of larger potholes, which together with deep ruts at either side of the road make it hazardous to drive. In addition, the road past Bettyfield farm has one dip with an area of very large potholes. Andy agreed to report both hazards to the council.

### Nenthorn Main Road

- The flow of water across the Main Road has yet to be stopped. SBC have issued letters to the five householders who septic tank tail pipes attach to the drain asking them to arrange for the drain to be cleared. They have been working with the owners of the land opposite the stables and it is expected that work will start shortly on finding the blockage and clearing it.
- The new speed sign (southbound traffic) is operational and it appears to be having an impact on speeding, which is great. We will continue to monitor the situation, with a view to performing a repeat of the speed monitoring survey of 3 years ago at some point in the next 18 months.

## Planning

The only current planning application is for the house behind Burnbrae Cottages. The proposed house is outside the current village development area and occupies a central position of what was formerly 4 acres of agricultural land. In principle the Community Council are not opposed to new houses in general or this one in particular, but there are a number of features of this application which give cause for concern, not least being the loss of agricultural land. It is important that we make a submission at this stage of the process in order that we are able to speak at any future appeal meeting. Andy agreed to work with David, Ian and Tony to prepare a letter to the planning team.

## AOCB

Digital Voice voice conversion. Veronica noted that Openreach are in the process of converting all phones to digital voice services. This involves replacing the copper service with fibre. At present Openreach have not made a good job of the changeover with some people losing the number they have had for many years, and others getting new phones which then do not work in their houses. After considerable work Veronica has been able to find an engineer who has not enabled her phones to work through out the property. She is willing to help any who experience similar problems.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

CANCELLED OWING TO ELECTION Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2026, 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

DRAFT TIMETABLE 2025  
**FLOORS, MAKERSTOUN, NENTHORN AND SMAILHOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
 Returning Officer : To Be Confirmed

12 Vacancies

DATE	ACTION
Monday, 15 September 2025	Nominations Open Start of 3 week nomination period Press Release to Communications Display Notices of Election Nomination Form available from CC Secretary, Scottish Borders Council Community Council e-mail address: <a href="mailto:communitycouncils@scotborders.gov.uk">communitycouncils@scotborders.gov.uk</a> and downloadable from SBC Website <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/ccelections">http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/ccelections</a>
Monday, 6 October 2025 at 4 p.m.	Nominations Close
Tuesday, 7 October 2025 – Tuesday, 14 October 2025	7 Day Cooling Off period Letter to nominees informing they have until Tuesday, 21 October 2025 to withdraw
Wednesday, 15 October 2025	Letters to remaining Candidate as below:
<i>Either – if between 6 and 11 nominees</i>	
Wednesday, 15 October 2025	<i>Letters to welcome new Community Council members with notice and agenda for first meeting – Date of first Meeting.</i>
Wednesday, 15 October 2025	<i>Press release issued Notices of uncontested election and agenda of first meeting posted in community</i>
To be Confirmed – W/c 27 October 2025	<i>First meeting – initially taken by Returning Officer (or representative) until election of new chairman in the Venue to be confirmed I</i>
<i>Or – if more than 11 nominees</i>	
Wednesday, 22 October 2025	<i>Organise ballot Letters to candidates to advise of ballot Press release and display notices</i>
30 October 2025	<i>Ballot 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Venue to be confirmed</i>
1 November 2025	<i>Count at HQ</i>
TBC	<i>Letters to candidates with ballot results Notices of contested election displayed Agenda for first meeting sent to candidates and displayed</i>