Lauderdale Community Council
Minute of Meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026
Lauder Primary School at 7pm

**Present**: Alex Baillie, Chair, Alistair Smith, Vice Chair, Jane Elliott, Vice Chair, Anne Lillico, Secretary, Joanne Dryburgh, Interim Treasurer, Chris Batchelor, Assistant Treasurer, Marilyn Aitkenhead, Judi Gunn, Jane Johnston, Susan Sutherland, Scottish Borders Council Councillor Jenny Linehan (by ZOOM),

**Item 3 only** – James Bolland, LiveBorders and Nikki Laidlaw, LiveBorders.

**Apologies:** Amanda Jordan, Edward Maitland Carew, Scottish Borders Council Councillor David Parker, Scottish Borders Council Councillor John Paton-Day.

6 members of the public – Joyce Kerr, Ruth Reed, Brian Harper, Christine Harper, Mark Walton, Steve Aitchison.

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies** – Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

**2. Conflicts of Interest** – None.

**3. LiveBorders -** Alex introduced James Bolland, Venues Operational Manager LiveBorders and Nikki Laidlaw, LiveBorders and caretake of Lauder public Hall. James explained that he was responsible for managing the operational side of local Halls across Scottish Borders, with SBC responsible for structural issues. He added that major structural changes within LiveBorders would be announced on Wednesday 14 January 2026, and it is possible that these changes may impact on how the team currently operates. During the discussion the following points were raised:

- LiveBorders is working with SBC on with a view to developing and promoting local Public Halls as wedding venues. It was noted that there would need to be some work undertaken before Lauder Public Hall could be used as a wedding venue, but this did have the potential to increase use and revenue for the Public Hall.
- Currently trialling gymnastics in larger public halls across the region, and if this was successful it could be rolled out to smaller local halls, including Lauder.
- From April 2026 new localised flexible, competitive pricing arrangements will be introduced, and a new booking system will be introduced from July 2026.
- Borders School of Dance has agreed additional dates for use of Lauder Public Hall.
- SBC is responsible for property maintenance.
- LCC can pursue funding for WiFi in Lauder Public Hall.
- A Facebook page for the Hall can be set up, and the reverse side of the Avenue noticeboard will be given over to publicise the Public Hall.
- LiveBorders will liaise with LADS to have the meeting room in the Public Hall emptied so that the space can be reinstated as a meeting room and let.

**4. Adoption of the Minutes Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.**

4.1 Subject to an addition to paragraph 4.7 the minutes were proposed by Joanne Dryburgh and seconded by Marilyn Aitkenhead.

**Update on actions:**
**Meeting 8 December 2025**
**Item 3.10** Alistair will take photos and forward top BEAR Scotland
**Item 6.1** Paused action on writing to ECU on time limits for consultees. ECU contacted about LCC submissions. Work on next survey will be based on information from recently circulated SPEN slides.
**Item 6.2** waiting for one summary.
**Item 8.3** Disabled parking space – various other locations were discussed. The current disabled spaces are one in the Avenue and two at LCLC. It was noted that those at the LCLC are on a slope, and ideally disabled spaces should be on level ground. Alistair to speak to Steve about the location of the disabled spaces at LCLC.
**Meeting 15 September –** various kerb pavement issues ongoing
**Meeting 18 August 2025 –** autonomy of sub-committee's protocol- Chair to be reminded.

**5. Treasurer's Update**

5.1 Joanne circulated a paper detailing recent transactions. Current funds available £909.32. Ongoing discussions with SBC about the ring-fenced money held by LCC. Councillor Linehan agreed look into this.

**Action1** – Joanne to forward details on ring-fenced funds to Councillor Linehan who would investigate it for LCC.

5.2 Joanne advised that she would be resigning from the LCC and therefore from the role of Treasurer in February 2026.

6. **Updates from sub-committees**

6.1 **Energy** –
i. **CC Convention Saturday 17 January 2026** – the ESG would represent LCC at this event. LCC has a 2-minute slot to say what was going on and what we had done in respect of renewable developments in our area. It was agreed that ESG would report back before agreeing or signing up to anything. The organisers were looking for a contribution to the cost of the event,more information was required before a contribution could be made.

ii. **SPEN** – ESG thanked SBC Councillors for circulating the SPEN slides. These would be used to shape the first survey on connectivity and BESS.

iii. **NESO (National Energy System Operator)** – a key part of NESO is it's the ability to give independent advice on how to plan and run the energy system. NESO is looking for people to complete its Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP) – Methodology Consultation, with a view to producing the first set of RESPs including one for Scotland. ESG suggest that we complete the survey so that we are part of the process.

iv. **Longmuir** – details of the visuals discussed at the previous two meetings have been forwarded to Galileo Enpower.

v. **Glenburnie** – have written to ECU about the recording of the two LCC submissions. A member of the public commented that Glenburnie has been sold by RES to TAG Energy, who now fully own it. It was note that change of ownership is not uncommon in the renewable energy sector. It is not clear what TAG Energy mean when the state the fully own it. It was suggested that it may be worth inviting TAG Energy to a LCC meeting.

6.2 **Communications –** No update.

6.3 **Lauderdale Development Trust Steering Group** – had its second meeting and are discussing constitution options with DTAS. It was confirmed that the once established the Lauderdale Development Trust would be for the whole of Lauderdale.

6.4 **Community Action Plan (CAP)** – awaiting the outcome of a bid for funding to print the CAP.

6.5 **Common Good Fund** – no update as the minutes of the SBC Lauder Common Good Fund Sub Committee had not been published. Work was ongoing to provide a description of the history of the items held at the Castle.

6.6 **Public Hall** – 15 meeting chairs have been acquired for the meeting room. Steve Aitchison indicated that he could possibly source good quality used AV equipment for the Public Hall.

**Action2**: Marilyn to speak to Steve about AV equipment.

6.7 **Planning Applications** – the were no formal considerations. However, a potential application had been seen on the Planning Portal relating to the erection of an agricultural building at Blainslie.

6.8 **Traders** – no further meeting had been held. There was further discussion on the issue of whether business not on the high street should be included in the group, and there were strong views for and against this.

7. **Reports**

7.1 **Defibrillators** – were checked on 27 November 2025 and all were working. It was confirmed that the defibrillator at Blainslie was checked by the Defibrillator Group. Steve Aitchison advised that he had forwarded on details of the type of defibrillator to be placed at the LCLC but had no further update.

8. **LCC Outreach**

**51 Bus Service –** recent changes to the 08.04 bus from Lauder to Earlston has resulted in several comments complaining about the changes being posted on the LCC Facebook page and Community Chat Facebook page. Councillor Linehan asked for details of the complaints should be forwarded to her for her to raise at a Transport meeting the following day.

**Action3** – Judi to forward details of complaints to Councillor Linehan.

**Salting/gritting** – it was highlighted that the road from Blainslie to Gala Dean was not sufficiently salted particularly on the approach to joining the A68. It was also commented that the Council does not grit the school bus route round Blainslie and school children must be taken to the Blainslie Hall to catch the school bus or driven to school.

**Action4** – Jane Johnston to write to Councillor Linehan regarding salting around Blainslie.

9. **Any Other Business**

- Marilyn advised of an email scam involving friends needing help due to having laryngitis and advised people not to open any such emails.

-Steve Aitchison asked if a salt bin located at the rear of LCLC could be relocated to the front of the building where there was greater need for it.

**Action5** – Alistair to contact Parks/Road to arrange to have it moved.

-Judi indicated that the salt bin at Gala Dean needed filled.

**Action6:** Jane Elliott to complete the online portal requesting the bin to be filled.

**-LCLC** – Steve Aitchison asked Councillor Linehan if help would be available from SBC to help advise on work the work required to make the roof in the Main Hall watertight. Steve agreed to forward pictures to Councillor Linehan who would make enquiries.

**-The traffic speed indicators** at Thirlestane housing estate and on the Edinburgh Road are still not operating correctly.

**Action7**: Alistair to contact BEAR Scotland.

- **Non-financial Support for CC -** Alex advised that he was going to an in face-to-face meeting of this group at end of January. If anyone had any ideas for non-financial support, they should forward details to him.

**-Border Tree Grant** – details had been circulated to members. More detailed discussion was required, and it would be brought forward at a future meeting.

**-Allanbank Housing Development** – a member of the public asked whether there was any progress on the proposed housing development at Allanbank. The Chair declared an interest in this. Planning had now been passed for 110 houses; 83 private and 27 social housing. The individual was not against the need to build new houses but was concerned about the size of the development and the impact it would have on the volume and speed of traffic on the Stow Road. The developers intend to come and speak to LCC when these concerns could be raised.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9 February 2026 at 7pm in Lauder Primary School.