

**Minute of meeting held on Monday 13 April 2026
Lauder Primary School at 7 pm**

Present: Alex Baillie, Chair, Jane Elliott, Vice Chair, Anne Lillico, Secretary and Interim Treasurer, Judi Gunn, Amanda Jordan, Edward Maitland-Carew, Susan Sutherland, SBC Councillor David Parker (by Teams), PC Ian Porter, Lothian and Borders Police (Item 8 only).

Apologies: Marilyn Aitkenhead, Jane Johnston, Alistair Smith, SBC Councillor Jenny Linehan and SBC Councillor John Paton-Day.

2 members of the public Ruth Reed and James Clarke.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Alex welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

2. Conflict of Interest – None.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising – were proposed by Jane Elliott and seconded by Amanda Jordan.

4. Open Forum – no matters were raised. Alex provided an update on previous issues raised, the road markings at the Burnmill junction will be included in a list of all junctions that need repainted once all the Go Fibre/BT work is finished; a litter pick has been arranged for 18 April 2026; Allanbank developers attended the March LCC meeting and the Community Council will hold its June meeting in Blainslie.

5. My SBC account for LCC to report potholes etc – it was suggested that the LCC set up a My SBC account for easy reporting of potholes, kerb issues etc. Several questions about the address and postcode to be used, it was agreed that it was a good idea. Judi thanked SBC for the improvement to the road surface round Blainslie.

6. Physical event board to support online events page on LCC website – several points were raised including whether a physical board was needed in this digital world, how it would be maintained and where it would be placed. It was agreed that it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Suggestion box update - Anne advised a suggestion for a local farmer's market had been left in the box. It was noted that the Kelso Farmers Market was doing well, but it had taken a long time to establish. While it was a good idea, it was not something LCC

could take on as it was a lot of work. There were several other considerations such as licensing, sourcing and storage of the stalls and its location. It was agreed that this would be put on hold until the Lauderdale Community Development Trust was established later this year.

8. Police Report – PC Ian Porter advised that there had been a change of tack to make the Multi Ward Police Report more localised. There was nothing of note to highlight. Some travellers had recently made camp opposite the Fire Station, and he was in contact with SBC to identify the owner of the land. Councillor Parker confirmed that the land belonged to Glenrath Farms Ltd. PC Porter also described two scams going round involving AI videos and Fake News and asked everyone to watch out for those who could be susceptible to these.

9. Subgroup Updates –

9.1 ESG - Convention of Community Councils Jane Elliot advised that a second meeting was being held on Saturday 18 April in Lauder Public Hall. LCC had agreed to sign up to the Unified Statement, if content with the final wording of it; it was still not clear what the final wording was going to be.

9.2 The ESG set out their concerns around how the Convention was being managed. They were concerned that not all the groups were getting express their views and of the number of protest groups that attended the first meeting. The idea of the Convention was sold based on it being a communal approach the signing the unified statement, but there was concern it was being run by the protest groups. As a result, the ESG was going to voice its concerns at the meeting on Saturday.

9.3 It was noted that the principle of the Convention was good, the leaders of the group had to decide whether it was a protest group, and if it was representative body of Community Councils it had to ensure that everyone got the opportunity to express their views.

9.4 It was agreed that those representing LCC would act on the decision made at the February meeting and sign the statement so long as the wording had not been significantly changed.

9.5 Longmuir Windfarm and Biodiversity Project – Galileo Empower had received but not yet responded to the full set of questions from the previous meeting. This would be followed up. The deadline for responding the Galileo consultation was 24 April 2026. Jane Elliott agreed to prepare a reply for LCC to be circulated round the LCC before submission. Jane recorded her thanks to Alan Reed for taking the time to show her round Longmuir Moss.

9.6 Glenburnie – following the SPEN public consultation on the connection of Glenburnie (formerly Longcroft) to the proposed cable sealing end compound near Oxtou, Jane Elliott had written to SPEN regarding the position of the substation used in the consultation documentation. The response had indicated that SPEN had used the original substation reference (Longcroft) contractually required and conceded that they would have to hold a further consultation if the developer changed the location of the substation location.

Action 13: Jane Elliott to contact Galileo Empower.

Action 14: Jane to respond to Galileo consultation by 24 April 2026.

9.7 Comms – Judi explained that a new website was being developed and that a new domain name had been registered - www.lauderdalecommunitycouncil.org. The new website would have two landing pages – one for the Community Council and the other for the Community. Although the new website will not be available until the end of the month, Judi shared her work to date. Everyone agreed that the new pages looked very good.

9.8 Public Hall – nominees have been received for a Public Hall Steering Group, and the first meeting would be held at the beginning of May. Anne and Susan had attended and Borders Community Action event celebrating Village Halls which was very informative. LCC is in the process of applying to SBC for funds to run a series of 'Winter Warmer' events in the public hall.

9.9 Lauderdale Community Development Trust - LCDT will launch on 26th May in the Public Hall 7.30-9pm-- everyone is welcome. A representative from DTAS has agreed to come along and share some things about development trusts and DTAS. It is also hoped that a Board member of an established development trust to come along. Look out for posters, and membership forms in local shops. You can also join online by emailing lcdtmembers@gmail.com. The main work of the LCDT is to support implementation of the CAP.

9.10 To get started LCDT will need some funding and wonder if LCC could grant LCDT £500 to get started? LCC agreed that the new Treasurer would be asked to ring fence £500 for the LCDT.

9.11 Sarah Kyle from empower (Ditcher Law) has agreed some Community Benefit Fund (CBF) should come to Lauderdale. Amount to be negotiated and not guaranteed (as Scottish Government Good Practice Guidelines on CBF are being revised).

9.12 LCC agreed the establishment of LCDT was good for Lauderdale. It also thought that it would be good to get LCDT members from Blainslie, Ledgerwood and Pyatshaw. Posters promoting the launch event should be put up areas and a plea go on Facebook.

Action 15: Treasurer to ring fence funds for LCDT

Action 16: LCDT to consider the promotion of launch of LDCT in Blainslie, Ledgerwood and Pyatshaw and on Facebook.

9.13 Community Action Plan – Judi advised that the Spring edition of the Lauderdale News would include a summarised 2-page centre piece on the Community Action Plan. A longer version would be available online. Figures for printing a A5 tri-fold version for every household in Lauderdale had been obtained. The price for 2000 copies of the leaflet was £192.00, and it was agreed that once the final print work had been agreed these should be ordered for distribution.

9.14 Planning – In Alistair’s absences Amanda advised that there were no observations to make in respect of the three planning applications that had been circulated:

- 26/00100/CON- Demolition of dwellinghouse and garage De Sheil Castle Wynd, Lauder
- 26/00440/AMC Erection of a dwellinghouse (approval of all matters specified in planning permission 24/01033PPP) Land Southwest of Applecross, Lauder
- 26/00480/PPP Erection of a dwellinghouse, Land Southeast of Greenwood Applecross Steading, Lauder.

9.15 Common Good Fund – Councillor Parker advised that at a recent meeting of the Common Good Fund Committee it had considered the financial position as of 31 March 2026. A final update on the Shepherd’s Cottage had been given which has now brought the matter to a close, with the final balance of payments agreed. A rental review of the Lauder Sheep Company was underway.

9.16 Traders – Amanda provided feedback from the recent meeting. A tote bag is being designed. The Group was interested resurrecting the Town Trail. The details of the trail can be found online, but it would be good to have hard copies to promote in the shops. (Since the meeting a hardcopy of the trail has been found).

9.17 Amanda raised the issue of the closure of the A68 all day on Common Riding Saturday. Previously the A68 would reopen after the speeches at the Town Hall, however in the last two years the A68 has remain closed all day. It was not clear why the road was closed all day and Councillor Parker agreed to take this up with the Safety Advisory Group, BEAR and Michael Middlemiss.

10. Treasures update – Anne reported that the LCC account for 2025/26 was now closed. Ring fenced funds totalled £2912.88 with available funds of £841.57.

11. LCC Outreach – nothing to report but Judi commented on the improved road surface around Blainslie.

12. AOB

12.1 Brownsmuir Park bus stop - Susan Sutherland raised the issue of the bus stop at the bottom of Brownsmuir Park. This was a named stop on the timetable, but there is no bus stop. Some drivers stop; others grudgingly stop and question the validity of the stop. Councillor Parker agreed to take this up with the relevant council official. Judi added that there was a similar issue at Galadean.

12.2 Small schemes – three small schemes had been identified, replacement of the noticeboard outside the Charity Shop; repair to the top of the wall at corner of Crofts Road and A68 and bike racks at Penny on the Move and Spotty Dog. Councillor Parker indicated that there was a separate fund for the bike racks and that there was an issue over the ownership of the land the wall was on, but he would investigate it again. Anne agreed to forward details onto Councillor Parker.

12.3 Borders Community Action – Anne advised that Lauderdale Community Council was now a member of Borders Community Action which provides access to various resources including training and funding streams.

12.4 Bike Park – there had been no further information regarding the Bike Park since Kate Jackson's visit in February.

12.5 Alex Baillie, Chair announced that he was moving out with the LCC boundary and would be resigning from LCC and as Chair.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 May 2026 and will be the AGM followed by a regular LCC meeting. The AGM will begin at 6.30pm.