

Lauderdale Community Council

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Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7pm, in Lauder Primary School

Present: Jane Elliott, Chair, Alistair Smith, Vice Chair, Anne Lillico, Secretary and Interim Treasurer, Judi Gunn, Jane Johnston, Susan Sutherland, SBC Councillor David Parker and SBC Councillor Jenny Linehan (both on Teams).

Apologies: Marilyn Aitkenhead, Edward Maitland-Carew, SBC Councillor John Paton-Day.

5 members of the public including James Clark, Ruth Reed, Mark Walton, Martin Paterson, Alex Baillie.

1. Welcome and apologies – Jane E welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies. Jane E advised that Marilyn Aitkenhead had resigned from the Community Council. Jane E thanked Marilyn for her contribution to the work of LCC, particularly in respect of the development and publishing of the Community Action Plan and work preparing for the establishment of the Lauderdale Community Development Trust.

2. Declarations of Interest – there were none.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and actions – the minutes were proposed by Susan Sutherland and seconded by Judi Gunn. Both actions from the meeting had been completed.

4. Open Forum – Jane invited questions from the gallery. Alex Baillie indicated that, although he was moving out with the LCC area, he would be willing to be co-opted onto the CC if we could use his skills. This would be considered and brought back to the June meeting.

5. Physical Event's Board (carried over from previous meeting) - Due to Alistair being unable to join the last meeting we agreed to discuss this further. Everyone agreed that it was useful for local groups and organisations to be aware of what events were being planned in the Town - to avoid double booking event dates. It was noted that the new online events page on the LCC website was very good and already well populated. Event organisers can directly populate the calendar or email details to lauderdalecommunityweb@gmail.com for uploading. It was acknowledged that planning events can be tricky, and it was suggested that even provisional dates could be entered onto the calendar for information. The location and maintenance of a physical events board would be difficult. It was agreed that once the noticeboards were returned, LCC

would display a printout of the current month and next month from the online calendar with a caveat that the online version should also be checked.

6. Subgroup Updates

Energy Subgroup (ESG)

6.1 Longmuir - Jane E confirmed that she had submitted a LCC response to Galileo Empower on the latest Longmuir consultation which closed on 24 April 2026; she will confirm receipt of this. On 7 May 2026 she had received a response from Galileo Empower indicating that they had received the list of questions. Submitted following their attendance at the February meeting and will reply in due course.

Action 15: Jane E will go back to Galileo Empower to confirm receipt of our consultation response and seek clarity when a response to the questions will be received.

6.2 Ditcher Law – Jane highlighted that Scottish Borders Council had applied to the Court for a Judicial Review regarding the decision to approve the Ditcher Law Windfarm. Any potential hearing will not take place until July at the earliest.

6.3 Gala North Sub Station – Councillor Parker advised that Scottish Borders Council (SBC) had received, on 8 May 2026, a Proposal of Application Notice from SP Energy Networks (SPEN) regarding the proposed Gala North Substation. He clarified that as this was a major infrastructure application it is considered first by the Local Planning Authority but can then be referred to the Energy Consents Unit of Scottish Government if SBC reject the application. Councillor Parker expressed his irritation at SPEN's actions, given the information he had recently been provided with in an email as recently as 6 May 2026. He indicated that both Councillor Linehan and himself would be taking this up with SPEN.

6.4 Members noted that there was no information on the SPEN website regarding the Gala North Substation even though the consultation was proposed for June 2026.

6.5 It was confirmed that SPEN has accepted an invitation to update the CC at its next meeting on 8 June 2026, which would now be held in Lauder Primary School and not Blainslie Village Hall as previously planned. It was agreed that LCC would invite questions from the community to put to SPEN on the night.

6.6 Comms - LCC, along with Councillor Parker thanked Judi for all the hard work she had put into developing the new website, which everyone agreed looked great. Judi advised that the LCC side of the website was almost finished, subject to some tweaking here and there. She would now concentrate on the Community Hub side of the website but already had a lot of interest from the Community on this. The new LCC website can be found at www.lauderdalecommunitycouncil.org

6.7 Public Hall – The first meeting of the Public Hall Steering group was held on Tuesday 5 May 2026. There was a good turn out from key users of the Hall. The meeting was an

opportunity for the Group to be brought up to date on the work undertaken to date. Sarah Culverwell, Community Engagement Officer and Erin Coltman, Participation Officer from Scottish Borders Council advised that they were waiting for confirmation on what category of Common Good Land the Hall is built on. The land can be either Alienable Common Good Land (land that can be leased, sold or repurposed by the council) or Inalienable Common Good Land (land that cannot be sold or repurposed without court approval). If the Common Good Land is Inalienable, it makes the process a little more complex, but both Sarah and Erin will be there to support us throughout. The next meeting of the Group will be on Tuesday 16 June 2026 and will focus on ideas for increasing the use of the Hall.

6.8 Lauderdale Community Development Trust - An event will be held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 7.30pm in Lauder Public Hall to launch the Lauderdale Community Development Trust. Two speakers will attend: Pamela Barnes from Development Trust Association Scotland and Grace Murray, Chair of Stow Development Trust. Everyone is welcome to attend and find out more about the Development Trust.

6.9 Community Action Plan – The Lauderdale Community Action Plan has now been published and distributed round Lauder, Blainslie, Legerwood and Pyatshaw. Copies are also available in local shops.

6.10 Planning – Alistair advised that there were no observations to make in respect of the two planning applications that had been circulated:

26/00537/FUL Erection of a dwellinghouse land South of Old Boon.
26/00641/FUL Removal of chimney stack 14 West High Street, Lauder

6.11 Common Good Fund – Alistair reported that the accounts for Lauder Common Good Fund had been approved for 2025/26. There had been private business relating to the Shepherd's Cottage. It was agreed that it would be helpful to invite SBC Officials to attend a LCC meeting to provide an update on the Common Good Fund later in the year.

Action16: Anne programme in a visit for later in the year.

7. LCC Outreach and Website – Judi advised that she would be working to develop the Community Hub side of the Website.

8. AOB

Alistair advised that he had several copies of the Town Trail leaflets. It was suggested that a copy be passed on the Traders Subgroup as it was thinking of undertaking a refresh of it.

Anne suggested that LCC sign up to Scottish Rural Action as it helps support Village Halls. This was agreed.

9. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 8 June 2026 at 7pm in Lauder Primary School.