

Lauderdale Community Council

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL
— PUTTING LAUDERDALE FIRST —

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2026 at 7pm Lauder Primary School

Present: Jane Elliott, Chair, Anne Lillico, Secretary, Judi Gunn, Jane Johnston, SBC Councillor David Parker, SBC Councillor Jenny Linehan, SBC Councillor John Pation Day Lara Porter, SBC Community Engagement Officer, Steve Aitchison, Chair Lauder Community Leisure Centre, on Teams Alistair Smith, Vice Chair and Susan Sutherland.

Apologies: Edward Maitland-Carew, Amanda Jordan.

Five members of the public: Ruth Reed, Alex Baillie, L.Bird, Alexa Scott Plumber, Mark Walton.

1. Welcome and apologies – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies. The Chair advise the public that questions would from the floor would be invited once the Community Council had concluded their discussion.

2. Declarations of Interests – there were none.

3. Open Forum – no matters were raised.

4. Minutes of Previous meeting and Actions - the minutes of the of the meeting held on 10 August 2026 were proposed by Jane Johnston and seconded by Judi Gunn. Alex Baillie provided an update on the woodland at Allanbank where an informal dirt track has been developed. He indicated that he was not in a position to cover the third party liability insurance required and was actively trying to identify a local 3rd party organisation with their own 3rd party liability to take on responsibility for the woodland. He planned to raise this with the Lauderdale Community Development Trust at its meeting on 23 September 2026.

5. Community Engagement – Lara Porter, SBC Community engagement Officer for Eilden introduced herself and explained that part of her role was to signpost Community Councils and other local organisations to potential funding streams and other resources. She mentioned Changing Places fund for fully accessible toilet facilities as well as the work being undertaken by SCOTO Scottish Community Tourism organisation on researching availability of public toilets in local community's.

6. Lauder Community Leisure Centre (LCLC) – Steve Aitchison, Chair LCLC, provided an update on progress at the LCLC which is now making money. The LCLC has £10k ringfenced for improvements to the Studio area within the Centre, but they were having difficulty in getting tradesmen to commit to the work required. The introduction of Pickleball has been a great success. A project to repair the gutters and gulleys on the roof was

starting on Tuesday 15 September 2026. A long-term plan to repair the roof would cost approximately £10k.

6.1 The land at the rear of the LCLC is being transferred from SBC to the LCLC lease so that a Pétanque Piste can be developed. The Stow Cycle Hub has moved into the old office in the building where it will have a workshop. The lack of heating is a recurring issue within the LCLC building and while funds may be available finding time to complete the forms is an issue. It was suggested the Lauderdale Community Development Trust may be able to help. It was suggested that LCLC contact LiveBorders to see whether they could come to an arrangement where LiveBorders rent space for classes.

7. Lauder Cemetery – due to ill health Graeme Donald could not attend the meeting. In his absence Councillor Parker updated members of work that had been undertaken at the Cemetery. A large piece of outstanding work is the upgrading of the Bothy, an old stone building which has fallen into disrepair. The outstanding work is costly, and even with the offer from a local business to undertake some of the work free of charge the indicative costs were in the region of £20k. It was unlikely that heritage funding would be available as it is not a listed building. It was agreed that site visit would be useful and once Graeme Donald had recovered this would be arranged.

8. Treasurer Update – the current bank balance stands at £9895.57 which includes the grant from Scottish Borders Council for the Winter Warmers. The other income comes from the sale of tables for the Christmas shopping market. Given the future events planned by the Community Council members were invited to consider the purchase of an electronic payment system. Louise had looking into the costs and the cheapest appeared to be SumUp at £30 for the card reader and a 1.69% transaction fee on each payment. Given the irregular levels of payments tis will be cheaper than the alternative £19 per month fee. The issue of obtaining payments timely was raised but if this could be clarified the CC agreed to purchase the system.

9. Planning Application - Alistair indicated that he had no comment to offer on planning application 20/01260/FUL 11 East High Street, Lauder. It was agreed that the CC had no objections

10. Subgroups

10.1 ESG – The Chair advised that the ECU has invited comments on additional information submitted the developer of Ditcher Law. She reminded the meeting that the Community Council had previously objected to the development. The only additional piece of information is the Grid Connection. Several points were made regarding the Grid Connection including that no formal application had been made to SPEN and the route connection is the developers own assumption, and the that the developer has assumed the connection will be underground cable rather than overhead.

10.2 Councillor Parker explained that the original decision had been quashed by the Court of Session because it did not include information on the Grid Connection. He added that, in his view, the developers were testing the appetite of the ECU on whether it will accept indicative applications. The additional information will be considered by SBC Planning Committee, but SBC will be asking for an extension of time as it will not make the deadline of 23 September 2026. It was agreed that the Community Council would submit a response to

the consultation part of which would relate to the lack of clarity on what is happening and the lack of information provided by the developer.

10.3 Public Hall – Susan provided an update. Increasing usage of the Hall and cosmetic improvements to the Hall is the current focus of the Steering Group. Several events including a quiz night on 23 October, a Christmas Market on 6 November and wreath making on 5 December were being organised. The Winter Warmers co-ordinator has been appointed, a meeting of volunteers was being arranged, and a programme of activities has been developed. Posters and leaflets for a maildrop have been produced. A wish list of improvements to the Hall had been prepared and was being prioritised. The Group was still having difficulty in obtaining 2025/26 final accounts for the Hall from LiveBorders, and the SBC Councillors agreed to help with that.

10.4 Communications – Judi is waiting for one member to submit their photo for the website. The events calendar was proving popular. It would help if sub-groups could send Judi regular updates for the website.

11. AOB

11.1 Alistair agreed to order the wreath for remembrance Sunday, and the Chair agreed to lay it on behalf of the Community Council.

11.2 The Christmas Lights Group would like to come to the October meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – Due to school holidays the next meeting will be held on Monday 5 October 2026, 7pm in Lauder Primary School.