

CRAILING, ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2024-2027

Minutes of Second Annual General Meeting

7pm Monday 22nd June 2026 Lothian Hall, Crailing

Chair Charlie Robertson

No	ITEM	ACTION
1	<u>Attendance</u> Keith Bader KB, Virginia Burbridge VB, Richard Howes RH Katherine Pery KP, Charlie Robertson CR <u>In Attendance</u> Councillor John Bathgate JB, Emma Donnelly, Member of the Public	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Councillors Sandy Scott SS, and ScottHamilton SH	
3	<u>Minutes of the AGM of 12 May 2025</u> Approved Proposed KB, Seconded KP	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <u>Nil</u>	
5	<u>Chairman's Report</u> (Appendix 1) Report adopted. Proposed KB, Seconded RH	
6	<u>Treasurer's Report</u> (Appendix 2) Report Adopted. Proposed RH Seconded KB .The Treasurer paid tribute to Jock Henderson, who had audited the CC Books for over 40 years, who, sadly, passed away just before Christmas. The Treasurer thanked Peter Jeary for auditing the Accounts for this year. She also expressed her thanks to Emtelle and Messrs Dagg, Crailing Tofts for generous contributions to our Defibrillator Replacement Programme. As a result, we will be able to make the purchases outlined for this year in our Replacement Plan. The Treasurer expressed satisfaction with our current financial position.	
8	<u>Meeting Closed at 7.30pm</u>	

APPENDIX 1

CRAILING, ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIR

JUNE 22 2026

Introduction

This is the second Annual Report from the Community Council in its 2024-2027 cycle.

This report will focus on the work that the Community Council has undertaken, much of it ongoing, during the year from May 2025 to June 2026.

This is a small Council – 9 members when all the vacancies are filled. Currently, we have five members. We are constantly on the lookout for others willing to join us. We hope to co-opt a new member at our next meeting. It is particularly disappointing that we have no members from Crailing or Ulston.

We couldn't achieve all that we do without the help of many volunteers who take on specific tasks to support the Community.

Ongoing tasks

The Community Council has overall responsibility for several initiatives which have been in place for a number of years.

The Community Council Website, which provides regular updates on issues and events in our communities, and is the main way that we communicate with the public in our area. Many thanks to Sheila Campbell, who, with the assistance of Virginia Burbridge, operates the website on our behalf.

Oil Purchase Scheme. This continues to run very successfully and has resulted in considerable savings for those involved. Our thanks go to Jane Vickers for operating this scheme.

Defibrillators. We have four defibrillators in our villages. Each is checked on a weekly basis by a local volunteer. Overall responsibility is taken by Malcolm McGregor. Our thanks to all these people who help to keep this important resource in operation

Resilience There are groups of volunteers in each community who are prepared to offer help and support in emergencies and in times of difficulty. The degree of organisation into Resilience Groups varies, but each community has an identified individual who acts as co-ordinator. We never know when these groups will be needed, but it is comforting to know that there are people who are prepared to offer their help. Thankfully, the mild winter this year meant that their services were not called on.

Paths The Jubilee Path, initiated by the Community Council, links our communities. It is popular with walkers. Parts of it require strimming and clearing from time to time. Thanks to volunteers, the path is maintained in good order. A proposal to link this path with the President's Route in Nisbet, and to provide a route description for the Presidents Route is in development.

Grants The Council makes an annual grant available to each settlement to purchase bedding and other plants and to improve our street furniture.

Jedburgh Callant's Festival The Community Council holds a short Ceremony each year at Crailing to welcome the Callant and to present him with a Quaich. A revised format was introduced during the year to improve safety and to allow greater emphasis on the Ceremony at the War Memorial. Further discussions with the Callant's Club during the year have produced further refinements for the Ceremonies this year.

Remembrance In November, Councillors are present at Remembrance Ceremonies in Crailing and Eckford.

Community Council Admin

It was intended that each Community Councillor on the new council would have a dedicated e-mail address for Community Council business to offer greater security to Councillors and, at the same time, keep Community Council business in an easily accessible format. This has not always worked satisfactorily and needs some more work. In addition, the Councillors are members of a WhatsApp group for quick and easy communication.

Sheila Campbell continues in her role as website and communications administrator. She files all correspondence and documentation and autoforwards incoming correspondence to the appropriate Council member. Over the year, this system has continued to work very well. Many thanks go to Sheila for continuing in this role. This has lifted a considerable load from the Chair.

Liaison with SBC

We are fortunate to be well supported by our three SBC Councillors, John Bathgate, Scott Hamilton and, Sandy Scott. We have established links with and been visited by our Community Police Officer, Carin Tait-Logan. Council Officers and the BCA staff are unfailingly patient and helpful when we contact them and we greatly appreciate their support.

Planning Matters.

During the year we have considered four planning applications, two were resubmissions for new housing. The community council raised no objections to one application and restated their objections to the other. The Council submitted a fairly detailed response to the Application concerning Kalemouth Bridge. The last application was for a replacement window on a Listed property. The Council raised no objections.

Community Council in Action.

- The Council has worked closely with the Jethart Callants Festival to refine the arrangements for the Callant's Visit to the Village. As a result the Callant and his party visited the Village on foot for the Ceremony then rode through the village. The ceremony at the War Memorial took place on another date. Further discussions have taken place concerning this year's visits.

- The four defibrillators are due for replacement commencing in 2026. The Council has prepared a Replacement Schedule covering the years from 2026 – 2036. Some sponsorship from local individuals and businesses has been received and this has enabled us to go ahead with the planned purchases for this year. We will need to seek further support for the following years. The Council wishes to express its thanks to those who have supported us in this important initiative.
The Treasurer has worked hard to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs.
- The Council has had a standing agenda item for Kalemouth Bridge since its closure to vehicles and has noted with concern its deteriorating condition. We have continued to meet with SBC Engineers. A planning application for refurbishment works on the bridge was submitted to SBC and approved. Applications for Grant funding have been submitted. The Bridge was temporarily closed to all for 10 days to allow some preparatory work to take place and for safety barriers to be installed. Currently, it is planned to start work on the bridge in the spring of 2027.
- Work on the Eckford Place Plan commenced in September and an Information Sheet and Ideas Sheet was issued to every household. 63% of households completed the Ideas Sheets and these were collected and collated. The results were shared at a Community Council Meeting and were published on the CEN Website. The next stage is to organise the ideas and suggestions into a coherent set of proposals and to submit these for further consultation and discussion within the community.
- The Council discussed the situation regarding the wall in Crailing Village. Agreement was reached with SBC as to the work to be done but no commitment to timing was made.
- In Eckford, there were discussions about unsightly potato boxes in a field overlooking the village and a broken septic tank lid causing smells. These remain, at present, unresolved. There were ongoing concerns about the deteriorating state of the road past Grahamslaw. There had been some help from SBC, but more work was needed.
- With the help of the SBC UPW initiative the street furniture in and around Eckford was refurbished and recoated.
- In Nisbet there were concerns about light pollution in some houses from the street lights. SBC were able to resolve the problem to everyone's satisfaction.
- Concern was also expressed about bright lighting on a farm building on the Crailing straight. This too has been resolved.
- During the year the Council discussed People V Pylons, Renewables and the erosion of local democracy and Forestry Concerns. These are campaigns organised and run by other CCs. Our Council offered it support to each campaign.
- The Council was contacted by the BFT concerning the Borders Tree Grant Scheme. The initiative was taken up in Nisbet.

It is hard to believe that another year has passed since this Council took office. Much has happened during the year which should, in however small a way, help to support and improve our Communities.

May I, as Chair, express my thanks to our Treasurer for her work and to the Council members for their continued help, support and commitment.

Charlie Robertson

Chair

June 2026

DRAFT

Appendix 2

CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31st March 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Receipts		
Grants from Scottish Borders Council:-		
CC Maintenance Grant	594	594
Hall Rentals (24/25)	217	168
Jubilee Path maintenance	600	600
Donations defibs	559.2	0
Donation CR	869.44	823.68
Donation EVH	220	0
Bank Interest	3.3	0
Refund SBC leaflets	<u>120</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>3182.94</u>	<u>2185.68</u>
Payments		
Flowers for Myra	0	30
bank charges	51	4.25
Jubilee Path maintenance	869.44	823.68
Plants and trees	146.47	140
Presentation to Jed Callant	37.99	24
Defibrillators expenses	212.4	151.59
Information leaflets	120	60
Hall rentals for meetings	170	217
Website Costs	222	222
Eckford War Memorial Wreath	0	0
Crailing planters	0	156
Eckford Community Furniture	<u>540</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2369.3</u>	<u>1828.52</u>
surplus for the year	<u>813.64</u>	<u>357.16</u>
Funds		
Bank Balance at 1 April 2025	1181.49	824.33
plus surplus at 31/3/26	<u>813.64</u>	<u>357.16</u>
Bank Balance at 31 March 2026	<u>1995.13</u>	<u>1181.49</u>

NB Annual set aside of £500 for future defibrillator replacement plus ongoing defibrillator maintenance costs included in this balance.