

CRAILING, ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL**2024-2027****Minutes of General Meeting No 8**

7-9pm

03 Nov 2025

Lothian Hall, Crailing

Chair Charlie Robertson

No	ITEM	ACTION
1	CR welcomed everyone to the Meeting.	
2	<u>Attendance</u> Keith Bader KB, Virginia Burbridge VB, Richard Howes RH Katherine Pery KP, Charlie Robertson CR, <u>In Attendance</u> Councillor Sandy Scott, Part Meeting Malcolm McGregor MMG John Cook JC, Jackie Laidlaw JL	
3	<u>Apologies</u> Chris Howden CH_As a result of increasing workload, Chris had tendered his resignation from the CC. CR had written to him thanking him for his work over the past 18 months (Appendix 1) Councillors, Scott Hamilton & John Bathgate JB	
4	<u>Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 10th March.</u> Proposed KB Seconded KP	
5	<u>Matters Arising</u> (not covered in the Agenda) i Defibrillators MMG presented a paper on defibrillator replacement (Appendix 2) We have 4 defibrillators in our CC area, 1 in each village. This puts quite a large burden on a small council like ours when it comes to refurbishment and replacement of equipment. The main items for replacement are:- Pads replaced every two years Cost £70 Batteries replaced every 4 years Cost £289 Defibrillators replaced every 10-15 years Cost £990 All our defibrillators are now more than 10 years old. MMG recommended that in year 2025/6 we should purchase the following 3 Sets of Pads Costing £210 (Eckford pads already renewed) 1 Defibrillator Costing £990. (This to be placed in Eckford). (The present one in Eckford to become a spare.) There were additional refurbishment/replacements costs for the cabinets in Ulston and Crailing Costing £440 each. However, we did not need to go ahead with replacements in this financial year.	

	<p>AGREED that we should go forward with this.</p> <p>However, this was well beyond the resources of the CC</p> <p>We required additional funding.</p> <p>KP to seek out grant funding</p> <p>KP to contact MSP</p> <p>MMG to follow up on support from Emtelle</p> <p>KB to follow up on already promised support from local business and to seek out new sources.</p> <p>An appeal/fundraised in the local community to be considered.</p> <p>RH suggested that we should run some training classes in defibrillator use. He agreed to look into providers.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>KP</p> <p>MMG</p> <p>KB</p> <p>All</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> (Appendix 3) Report submitted, discussed & approved. Accounts looking quite healthy, taking into account anticipated grants which are expected imminently. Grants for defibrillators have been applied for. KP had opened an interest-bearing account, still with HBOS, which would offset the monthly bank charges.</p>	KP
7	<p><u>Community Updates</u></p> <p>1 SBC Councillors</p> <p>SS discussed the imminent publication of the LIVEBorders Report. He anticipated that some difficult decisions would be required. A report on Jed Swimming Pool was also due out in the next three weeks and this might give an indication of the way forward.</p> <p>2 Crailing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall. JC & JL joined for this part of the meeting. They felt that the wall was broadly sound and that JMS Harkin Ltd had been working on it within the past two years. JL agreed to examine the wall carefully and report back to the next meeting. SS to follow this up at SBC • Crailing Rideout. Agreed that CR, JL & JC, together with any other volunteers, would meet with Lindsay. Preference expressed for wreath laying and Presentation to take place during the Ride-out. Agreed that it was safer to keep the horses in the field during the Ceremony. The possibility of a piper to be explored again. CR to set up the Meeting before Christmas <p>3. Eckford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grahamslaw Road</u>. The road from Eckford Mill Bridge to Grahamslaw was becoming dangerously eroded in places and the carriageway was 	<p>JL</p> <p>SS</p> <p>CR</p>

	<p>narrowing. Site visits had taken place but no action yet. SS to follow this up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potato Boxes at Wester Wooden. Pile reducing slowly. • Social Events A diverse programme of social events planned for the Autumn & Winter <p>4. Nisbet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Lighting, KP had been contacted by SBC and had passed on the names of the affected households. No feedback yet. SS to follow <p>5. Ulston</p> <p>No report.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p>
8	<p><u>CENCC Ongoing Actions</u></p> <p><i>i President's Route.</i> Still slow progress.</p> <p><i>ii Resilience</i> No Report</p> <p><i>iii Kalemouth Bridge.</i> A planning application for replacement of the decking and minor refurbishment had been submitted by SBC. CC had responded to the application. (Appendix 4)</p> <p><i>iv Community Place Plans.</i> Information and ideas sheets ready to go out. Copies circulated. (Appendix 5) Will go out to every household this month.</p> <p><i>v Fibre Optics Upgrade</i> Progress still very slow. Unclear whether the project is on track or not. Still no clear answers to queries. Mix-ups between EE and Open Reach. Each blame the other for mistakes and delays.</p> <p><i>vi Community Beat Officer.</i> PC Carin Tait Logan promises to attend our next Meeting.</p> <p><i>vii Street Furniture Refurbishment, Eckford.</i> This had been largely completed and a request for an invoice for the work done to date had been requested. CR to approach sources in Eckford to seek contributions to the costs.</p> <p><i>viii Distillery Visit</i> Grahamslaw Distillery contacted. They are still not quite up and running. Reassurance given that we would be the first party of guests to be invited for a tour.</p>	
9	<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p><i>i Jedburgh Running Festival</i> CR reported on this Event which had involved our CC area over the weekend of 25/26th October. The event had gone well. CR made the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps the CC should seek to involve itself more in supporting the Event • The turning point for wheelchairs at the Eckford junction with the A698 is rutted and dangerous. Despite requests to SBC for improvements, nothing 	

	<p>has been done to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bottom of the Well Road in Eckford, where it joins the A698 has been wet, muddy and slippery for the past two years. Despite requests to SBC to have the road swept, nothing has been done • Each Village Hall gets a £300 grant for marshalling at the $\frac{1}{2}$ Marathon. Perhaps the Halls could be approached to see if they would donate at least part of this sum to go towards the defibrillator fund. 	CR CR
10	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>i Kalemouth Bridge. See above.</p>	
11	<p>AOCB</p> <p>i Action Against Pylons Scottish Borders. Appendix 6)</p> <p>Agreed to support this.</p>	
12	<p>DONM Meeting 9</p> <p>Monday 12 January 2025 7.00-9.00</p> <p>The Village Hall, Eckford</p>	

Appendix 1

10/29/25, 9:50 PM

Re: Re: CENCC Meeting 02 November

From: charlie.loaning <charlie.loaning@btinternet.com>
To: Chris Howden <chrishowden80@icloud.com>
CC: FHenderson@scotborders.gov.uk
Date: Oct 29, 2025 9:30:28 PM
Subject: Re: Re: CENCC Meeting 02 November

Hi Chris,

I am sorry that you feel that you have to resign from the CC. However, I fully understand your reasons. I will forward this e-mail exchange to Fiona Henderson at SBC and that should be sufficient to complete the resignation process.

Thank you for all the time and effort that you have given to the CC over the last 18 months.

Before you go, I have two requests. My CC e-mail address, and Richard Howes' one no longer work and all attempts to send to them are blocked. Is it possible to resolve this.

With your resignation, the membership of the CC becomes very small. Crailing will have no representatives at all on the CC. This is particularly important just now as there are two significant issues affecting the village on our agenda - the wall and the Callan's Visit. Could you possibly persuade someone else from the Community to come forward or suggest some names that I can approach.

Many thanks

Charlie

----- Original Message -----
From: chrishowden80@icloud.com
To: charlie.loaning@btinternet.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 29th 2025, 15:08
Subject: Re: CENCC Meeting 02 November

Dear Charlie,

I hope this message finds you well.

Due to increased professional commitments and a recent change in my role within the company, I am no longer able to dedicate the necessary time to fulfil the responsibilities of Crailing's community councillor. In light of this, I believe it would be appropriate to step down from the position to ensure the community continues to be represented effectively.

Please let me know if there are any formal steps I need to take with SBC or elsewhere to complete the resignation process.

Kind regards,
Chris

Sent from my iPhone

Appendix 2

**CEN Defibrillators : Present Status and Options
for the Future.
CC Meeting: 3rd November 2025**

Projected costs for 2026, (assuming no change):					Note: prices exclude VAT.	
	No.	Cost per item	Total	Replacement Date		
Batteries	4	289	1156	15th September 2026		
Pads	3	70	210	28th January 2026		
Total			1366			

2025/2026 Potential Issues:

The Ulston defb., is not in a sheltered location and the cabinet is in poor condition. Likewise, the Crailrig defb., but in slightly better condition. Cost of an external cabinet = £440.00 (excl. VAT)

The Future:		Powerheart G5 replacement		Pads= 70	
G5 version with CPRD		1	1025	Pads= 162	
				-213	Shortfall

Possible phase 1 replacement strategy:	Year	Finance source:	Cost	CEN Set aside	Balance
Eckford defibrillator	Jan-26	Donor	990	1077	76
Crailrig, Ulston and Nisbet Defib Pads & Batteries	2026	CEN CC defib fund	1153		

Notes 1:

No replacement of the Ulston cabinet. Present request for funding, with Ermette, Hawick. Doubts over eligibility for SBC Community Grants. Eckford replacement = spare defibrillator.

Additional fund raising required for next replacement.

**We have a spare set of Pads, (expiry=28-05-27).

Notes 2:

During the past 3 years, the CC, by careful financial management, has been setting aside an average of £384.33 p.a., in the Defibrillator fund.

This barely covers the cost of pads and battery replacement.

Future defibrillator replacement can only be achieved with external funds.

Appendix 3

CRAILING ECKFORD NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2025-2026

Appendix 4

CRAILING ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair and Secretary

Charlie Robertson
Loaning Cottage
Eckford
Kelso
TD5 8LG

PLANNING APPLICATION

COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

Date	30 September 2025
Deadline for submission	01 October 2025
Applicant	Mr Stuart Moir
Nature of Proposal	Refurbishment & repairs to suspension bridge
Site	Kalemouth Bridge, Eckford
Reference	25/01196/LBC
SBC Contact	Euan Calvert

The view of the Community Council, supported by the comments received from members of the public, remains substantially unchanged from those expressed in our letter of 10th February 2025 in support of the proposed work to be undertaken by SBC on Kalemouth Bridge.

The bridge provides an important crossing point on the Teviot, not only for the residents who live in the small settlement at Ormiston but also for the ever-increasing numbers who use the bridge for leisure purposes. The next nearest crossing points on the Teviot being at Nisbet upstream and Kelso downstream.

Since the refurbishment work undertaken in the late 1980s and 90s it would appear that the bridge has been allowed to deteriorate with little or no work done on it. Hence the state that it was allowed to get into by 2020.

The bridge has now been closed to vehicles since 2020 and has unsightly concrete blocks at either end to prevent vehicular access. In the five ensuing years there has been further deterioration of the wooden deck and remedial action is urgently needed before the bridge has to be closed completely.

The Reports prepared on the bridge by the Engineering Consultants and the comments by HES (attached with this application) make clear the historical significance and importance of the bridge, meriting its Category A status.

With such an important structure in our community, we are very keen to ensure that it is maintained to a high standard.

The work proposed in this application is not only urgently needed but also maintains the historical character of the bridge.

For this reason, we are supportive of the application submitted.

Our concern is that the application does not go far enough.

- The view of our Council is that the bridge should be fully restored to enable it to carry light vehicles again, thus re-establishing the link between the Ormiston residents and the Eckford Community.
- We would be supportive of restricted vehicular access to the bridge and have asked for consideration to be given to a two-tonne weight limit for use.

As part of the proposed works, we feel that the bridge should be repainted. Not only would this address the issues of potential corrosion highlighted in the reports, but also greatly improve the visual appearance of the bridge, which is looking rather sad and neglected at present. 'Touching up' the paintwork would be a poor stopgap.

- We feel that more should be done to highlight the significance of this historic structure.
- Information, signage and facilities (eg picnic tables) should be provided to encourage visitors to view the bridge.
- We have been impressed by the success of the work done at the Union Chain Bridge at Horncliffe and the consequent dramatic increase in the number of visitors to the bridge. We feel that something similar could be achieved at Kalemouth and would urge SBC to engage with the local community to prepare a scheme for implementing the above.

In summary, we are supportive of the work proposed in this planning application, which is the minimum that is required and needs urgent attention, but urge SBC to consider a more ambitious scheme to mark the imminent 200th anniversary of such a significant piece of our engineering heritage.

**CRAILING ECKFORD AND NISBET
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**ECKFORD
COMMUNITY PLACE PLAN**

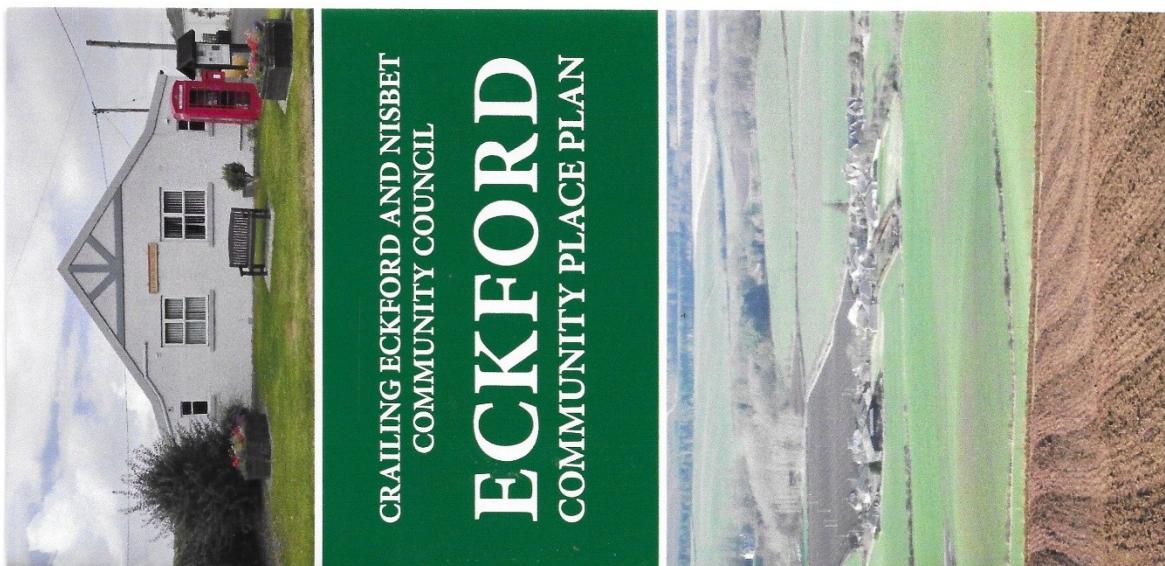
INITIAL CONSULTATION AND IDEAS SHEET

A few weeks ago, we sent out to you, via the Community Council Website and by leaflet, some information about Local Place Plans. If you have not seen this information, or want to refresh your memory, it is available on the Community Council Website and can be found at www.scotborders.gov.uk/local-place-plans

In that document we explained that, as a first stage in preparing our priorities for the Plan, we would consult all the households in the Eckford Community seeking to collect some ideas on how our Community might develop over the next 10 to 20 years. At this stage we are only seeking broad ideas – no more than a few words. The responses will be collated and presented to the Community before we seek to go on to the next stage of determining priorities and fleshing out the ideas. Some examples are given for each heading. If you feel that these examples are important, please include them in your responses. It should not take long to complete your response, but please do so. The more responses we get, the more valid the consultation exercise. The forms have been delivered by your Community Councillor and will be collected by him in the week beginning 24th November 2025.

Many thanks for your time and for contributing to the future development of Eckford.

Keith Bader Richard Howes Charlie Robertson
Eckford Community Councillors



Appendix 6

Date: Oct 23, 2025 5:03:10 PM
Subject: Urgent: Join Growing National Movement to Oppose Energy Corridor Industrialisation in the Borders

Dear Community Council Chair / Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of **Action Against Pylons Scottish Borders**, a grassroots campaign uniting residents and local groups to resist the industrial-scale energy infrastructure now being proposed throughout the Scottish Borders, including not least, SPEN's **Cross Border Connection** project, **Teviot Wind Farm** and **Lauder BESS**.

Our region is at a turning point — and we believe your Community Council can play a vital role in defending the Scottish Borders from irreversible harm.

What's Happening Elsewhere — and Why It Matters

Communities across **the Highlands** are facing the same pressures: vast transmission corridors, pylons, substations, and energy-generating infrastructure being imposed on rural Scotland in the name of net zero — with little public consultation and no genuine local benefit.

But these communities are fighting back:

- In May 2024, **Highland Council passed a motion** (led by Councillor Helen Crawford) demanding:
 - Real-time mapping of all proposed energy infrastructure;
 - Stronger planning guidance and training for community reps;
 - A requirement to assess the **cumulative impact** of multiple energy schemes.
- This motion was backed by **46 Highland Community Councils**.
- It also has the support of Highland MSPs such as **Tim Eagle**, and connects with a wider effort at the Scottish Parliament, including a motion led by **Tess White MSP** challenging the imposition of "monster pylons".

The Borders Must Not Be Left Behind

The SPEN Cross Border Connection — along with related generating infrastructure — represents a **major industrialisation of the Borders**. It threatens:

- The permanent degradation of our natural and historic landscapes;
- Damage to local businesses, especially those relying on tourism, farming, and the rural economy;
- A dangerous precedent in which our communities are treated as energy corridors, not places to live, work, and thrive.

We support climate action — but we believe in a **fair and democratic transition**, not one that sacrifices rural areas for the convenience of developers and distant policymakers.

What Your Community Council Can Do

We ask you to consider taking the following actions:

1. **Pass a motion of formal opposition** to the SPEN Cross Border Connection and related infrastructure.
2. **Write to Scottish Borders Council**, asking them to adopt a Highland-style motion demanding better mapping, consultation, and community protections.
3. **Join with other Community Councils** across the Borders to present a united voice — one that demands local control over our future.

We would be very happy to share a template motion or help coordinate efforts between Community Councils. Together, we can send a clear message to SPEN, foreign & domestic corporates and government that the Borders is not for sale and its residents will not be ignored.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like more information or support. We're here to help and to work with you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Nugent — Secretary Newcastleton and District Community Council
on behalf of **Action Against Pylons Scottish Borders**
fiona@nugenthilliard.com

2 North Liddle St

Newcastleton

TD90RJ

07957157708