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# Hawick Community Council

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2022/23) held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6pm

within the Lesser Town Hall, Hawick

Present	Marion Short (Chair)	Cameron Knox (Vice-Chair)
	Jim Adams (Treasurer)	Margaret Hogg (Secretary)
	John Campbell	Braden George
	Wilson George	Keith Irving
	Kevin Marsh	French Wight
	John Wilkinson	
Attending:	Councillor Cox	Councillor McAteer
	Councillor Marshall	Councillor Ramage
	Councillor Richards	

There were 5 members of the public also in attendance, as well as Graham Ford on behalf of the Hawick Paper.

- 1. Chair's Opening Remarks** – The Chair welcomed HCC members and members of the public to the AGM for 2022/23. She advised that the meeting would be recorded by HCC and the Hawick Paper for minuting and reporting purposes.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of HCC members Duncan Taylor and Euan Welsh, and Councillor Smart.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes of 2021/22 AGM held on 9th May 2022** – These Minutes were approved as an accurate record of that meeting – Proposed by Wilson George and Seconded by French Wight.
- 4. Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 5. Chair's Report** - The Chair explained 2023 was the last year of the current Community Council's term of office and stated her colleagues would agree, that even since last May it had been a very busy time. HCC was recognised by Scottish Borders Council as being one of, if indeed not the most proactive Community Council in the Borders, and she considered it had gone from strength to strength and everyone just got on with any tasks allocated.

Far more was being asked of volunteers, and HCC was currently running on a reduced number, but she personally wished to thank her fellow HCC members for their hard work on all the various projects undertaken, stating they rightly deserved recognition for the time

and efforts they had put in as volunteers. Appreciation was also expressed to local elected Councillors for their help and support over the year, and together, HCC and those elected members were doing the best they could for Hawick.

The various sub-groups had continued throughout the year, with the newest being the CCTV sub-group which had taken on a big project to have new CCTV installed in the town, led by Kevin Marsh and Cameron Knox. There was also the Hawick in Bloom Group which had recently had the planters painted to match the bollards, and soon the reintroduction of hanging baskets, all with a view to brighten our High Street. She thanked the Hawick in Bloom volunteers, led by the Secretary, for all their work.

The Chair went on to advise that HCC was also very supportive of the A7 Action Group, and all the work that they undertook.

In addition, there was a Wind Farm sub-group, which had at the moment a lot of communications and dialogue ongoing regarding Pines Burn and its associated transport chaos and problems.

HCC carried out a Town Clean-up on 30<sup>th</sup> April, with 16 people attending - 7 HCC members, 3 partners of HCC members, and 6 members of the public. She thanked those attending for the work carried out in the central area of the town, which had hopefully made a difference to the areas covered.

The Chair and Vice-Chair as representatives of HCC on the Honorary Provost's Council had attended the Cornet's Election evening, and plans were in place for the Ceremonial Events as part of the 2023 Common Riding. It would be a hectic but enjoyable time.

HCC had hosted two additional events during the year – the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party in June 2022 held at the Civic Space, and yesterday a King's Coronation Event held in the Evergreen Hall. Feedback on both events had been very good, and compliments paid to HCC members for organising those events.

HCC continued their ongoing battle with SBC relative to the exorbitant public liability insurance costs required to be paid from the Community Council Grant, which had a big impact on the residual amount remaining to carry out community events in the town. She looked forward with interest, to the proposed review of Community Council Grants at SBC.

Throughout the year, there had been some very interesting presentations (at HCC meetings) relative to the community – none more so than the updates in respect of the Flood Protection Scheme.

Jim Adams, Treasurer, was currently undertaking a lot of work relative to maintaining a link with Hawick's Twin Town, Bailleul, and along with the Honorary Provost's Council, HCC was very grateful to him for his work on this.

The Christmas Market in 2022 had again been a resounding success and proved very popular with members of the community and visitors alike. The good weather had helped and there was also great entertainment provided on the day. Additional Christmas lights purchased, including those at the Dovemount Roundabout, added to the lights display.

The bandstand entertainment for 2022 had been very successful and she thanked the volunteers who had helped with the set-up of chairs and other equipment over the 4 Sundays in August. It was planned, given that success, to use some of the Foundation Scotland Grant Funding for 2023/24 to replicate Bandstand events planned for July/August 2023. Remaining Foundation Scotland Funding would be spent on additional litter pickers, hanging baskets and plants for Hawick in Bloom Group and possibly further Christmas Lights. That Funding would be well used for the benefit of the community.

The Community Council was involved in the administration of Area Partnership Funding – Pots A and B – with the Chair and Vice-Chair forming part of Pot A group and the Chair with Pot B. Those funds allowed local people to apply and have their say on how funding should be allocated.

On a wider note, the Chair considered Hawick to be lucky to have twice hosted the Tour of Britain Cycle Race through Hawick and she thanked Keith Irving for his work on behalf of HCC with those events. The two youngest HCC members, Braden George and Euan Welsh, were also commended on their creating a new organisation - Recognition Hawick - and she wished them both well with that new venture.

HCC members would be up for re-election in September 2023 and she advised that details would be advertised shortly on the processes involved.

Finally, she encouraged members of the public to attend Community Council Meetings, to participate in discussions and to use the Public Forum and Town Issues part of HCC Agendas as an avenue to identify problems they encountered, to ensure these were then resolved.

- 6. Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer spoke to his Financial Report which had been previously circulated to members. He advised that HCC had engaged a new Accounts Examiner, Lorna Notman who had examined and approved HCC's Annual Accounts being presented. He proposed that Scott Elliot received a thank you letter for his auditing of HCC's accounts over a number of years. It was agreed that the Secretary forward a thank you letter.

The opening balance as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 was reported as being £19,942.58, and he detailed income and expenditure from each of the accounts held, as follows:

HCC 1 – Opening Balance - £5,579.50, Income £7,719.90 and Expenditure £7,572.22 resulting in a Closing Balance of £5,727.18.

Christmas Lights & Events – Opening Balance £1,051.09, Income £1,998.32 and Expenditure £1,178.55 leaving a Closing Balance £1,870.86.

Hawick in Bloom – Opening Balance £4,486.54, Income £3,123.40, Expenditure £1,866.94 and Closing Balance £5,743.00.

Community Fund/Foundation Scotland – Opening Balance £8,631.07, Income £9,598.19, Expenditure £16,865.17, Closing Balance £1,364.09.

The closing balances of all accounts totalled £14,705.13. Of that balance, however, c.£5,845 was ring-fenced - £3,230.92 Williestruther Loch, £1,000 for public liability insurance

premium for 22/23, £250 donations received for First Aid Training and £1,364.09 for purchase of further Christmas Lights.

Specific details of income and expenditure had been reported monthly throughout the year within the Treasurer's reports, and could be found in the Accounts, which had been examined and signed off by Lorna Notman, Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.

The Accounts were approved by members.

7. **Election of Office-bearers:** The following Office-bearers were appointed:
  - (a) Chairperson – Marion Short – Proposed Cameron Knox, Seconded French Wight
  - (b) Vice-Chairperson – Cameron Knox – Proposed Marion Short, Seconded Kevin Marsh
  - (c) Treasurer – Jim Adams – Proposed Keith Irving, Seconded John Wilkinson
  - (d) Secretary – Margaret Hogg – Proposed Marion Short, Seconded Jim Adams.
8. **Appointment of Auditors** – The Chair advised that the Accounts for HCC for 2022/23 had been examined and signed off by Lorna Notman, and she asked if members were happy to continue with that arrangement. Members agreed Lorna Notman be appointed as Examiner for 2023/24 - Proposed by Margaret Hogg and Seconded by Cameron Knox.
9. **Acceptance of SBC's Code of Conduct for Community Councils** – A copy of the Code had been re-issued to all HCC members, and all members responded to the Chair by a show of hands, confirming their acceptance to abide by the Code.
10. **Any Other Competent Business** – There were no other items of business raised.