

---

---

# Hawick Community Council

---

---



## MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 within the Lesser Town Hall, Hawick

Present	Cameron Knox (Vice-Chair)	Jim Adams
	Margaret Hogg (Secretary)	John Campbell
	Braden George	Wilson George
	Keith Irving	Kevin Marsh
	Duncan Taylor	John Wilkinson
Attending:	Councillor Cox	Councillor Ramage
	Councillor Smart	Sergeant Alison Granger
	Emily Gibson, HHS	Craig Oliver, HHS

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

- 1. Chair's Opening Remarks** – The Meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Cameron Knox in the absence of the Chair, Marion Short. He stated everyone had been shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Queen had dedicated her whole life to public service and for just over 70 years had served our country and commonwealth with selfless dedication, courage, duty and with great dignity. Thoughts, condolences, and sympathy were extended to King Charles III and the Royal Family.

Those attending, and able, were requested to stand in a Minute's Silence as a mark of respect to the late Queen.

It was noted that a Book of Condolences had been opened and was located within the Council's Contact Centre at the Town Hall.

As Proclaimed by our Provost, Councillor Watson McAteer yesterday from the balcony of the Town Hall a new King - King Charles III was now in place and wishes were extended to him for a long and happy reign over us - God Save the King.

The Vice-Chair then welcomed everyone to the September meeting of HCC stating it had been great to see the streets of our town come alive with the cheers and sounds for the second visit of the Tour of Britain last week. Once again, this showcased our town, and he was sure everyone would have enjoyed who were able to be there.

It had also been gratifying to see the Victoria Bridge reopen last week, albeit almost a year later than had originally been planned. Over the weekend the bridge had been well used by those linking from the High Street over to Commercial Road and vice-versa.

Congratulations were extended to HCC Members Wilson George for his election as Chair of Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN), and to Euan Welsh for achieving Sole Trader of the Year Award at the Scottish Borders Business Excellence Awards 2022 held recently.

It was noted that the meeting would be recorded for the Hawick Paper and by the Secretary, HCC for reporting purposes.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – The Vice-Chair advised that if any members had a conflict of interest in any agenda items, they should please make it known at the start of the discussion.
3. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors McAteer and Marshall, Marion Short, Chair of HCC and HCC Members Euan Welsh and French Wight.
4. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022** – The previously circulated Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting – Proposed by Wilson George and Seconded by Duncan Taylor.
5. **Matters arising** –  
**Broken slabs at Museum** – Councillor Ramage reported that SBC were looking into replacing the slabs but were deciding on what would be best for the longer term. In the short term, it would be arranged that weeds were removed. This work would apply also to broken slabs at the Bandstand.

Duncan Taylor reported on a conversation with Keith Johnston who had stated he had been advised by a member of SBC that the slabs in situ had been specifically chosen as they had a large stock of these, and he suggested that they should then be easily replaceable.

Councillor Ramage undertook to check on that statement, as the same slabs were also used in Galashiels.

**Painting of Bollards Survey** – It was noted that this survey closed on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September and whilst the numbers of returned surveys had been disappointing, the favoured option was to have bollards along the High Street painted all blue and gold. There had been 3 other ad-hoc surveys by TD9 Radio, Hornshole Greenway and Hawick Chat. 2 of those 3 surveys had also been in favour of blue and gold bollards.

Councillors were requested to progress on having the bollards now painted.

**Triangular piece of ground at Lidl** – Councillor Richards had investigated responsibility for this area of land, and it had transpired that this did not appear on either SBC's nor Lidl's title deeds, and so the owner of this ground was presently unknown. Further investigation would be made into ownership. It was suggested this may have belonged previously to Elite Embroidery and it may be that investigation could be made with the owner now of that building.

**Wooden stairs on Waverley Walk** – Thanks were extended to Councillor Smart for progressing this matter. The stairs had now been repaired.

**CCTV** – It was noted that a timeline had now been received from Newcastleton Community Council (NCC) which would help HCC to progress with Hawick's CCTV. A meeting would need to be arranged once the Chair had returned from holiday. Councillor Cox had clarified that

funding for CCTV in Newcastleton had not been from SBC but from application to the Teviot & Liddesdale Partnership Fund.

**Williestruther final improvement works** – A report from French Wight indicated that works were progressing albeit slowly.

**Weeds around the town** – it was noted this was a continuing issue, and the proposal remained to invite a Neighbourhood Services Officer from SBC to a future HCC Meeting. Many weeds remained on the Station Bridge which had been the focal point for the recent Tour of Britain stage in Hawick and these did not reflect well.

It also remained a proposal to have Ross Sharp-Dent from SBC to discuss Waste Management in the town at a future HCC meeting, and to have Conor Price in October to update on Flood Protection.

**Overflowing of single bin at Common Haugh for Campervans** – Councillor Ramage advised that this had been reported to SBC. Marjorie McCreadie confirmed that this remained a huge problem still. The bottom bins were being emptied regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays, but that operator was not apparently responsible for the bin located for use by campervanners. 15 camper vans had been in situ over the weekend past, and a single bin, as provided for one family, was of no use to deal with that capacity. It had also been highlighted that members of the public were making use of that bin for depositing bagged dog poo, and she wondered as to the possibility of also having a dog poo bin located at that site.

Councillor Ramage confirmed that this matter had been raised again at the Common Good meeting, and she would progress this further with SBC.

It was also suggested HCC write to SBC Waste Management to add their concerns that this matter needed to be addressed. Councillor Ramage to forward relevant email address to the Secretary to write to.

Kevin Marsh referred to an email circulated by the Secretary from SBC to HCC members regarding the proposed amendment to SBC's Off-Street Parking Places Order 2019 by including an additional area at the Common Haugh Car Park, Hawick. A plan had been attached and the Council were formally consulting HCC for views on proposals. He stated that Glass recycling looked as though it would be moved to the middle of the landscaped area, but proposals excluded any mention of any bins at the campervan area.

Councillor Ramage advised that Councillors still had to receive a Briefing on these proposals for the Common Haugh, and suggested that any issues be addressed with Conor Price, Flood Protection when he next attended. Plans had only been issued today and some HCC members had not had time to review.

**Scottish Water taps** – It was noted that the Chair had written to Scottish Water to determine progress. A response had been received to state that they had not received HCC's request, and that they had been inundated with requests for these taps and had a waiting list. The Chair had then forwarded a copy of HCC's initial request and had asked that HCC be placed on the waiting list taking account of the date of the original request.

- 6. Police Scotland Reports** – The Vice-Chair advised that 2 Senior Officers who had planned also to attend the meeting had not been able to do so due to operational events

surrounding the Queen, which was understandable. Sergeant Alison Granger was welcomed to the meeting.

The Vice-Chair remarked on alcohol being consumed at Trinity Gardens, foul language used and elderly people feeling intimidated whilst at that location awaiting on buses. He was aware that there was no byelaw in place regarding drinking in public but asked if there was anything that Police could do in these circumstances. Sergeant Granger stated that with no byelaw in place she would see about further patrols in the area to see if that helped.

In relation to drug related offences, the Vice-Chair asked if incidents of drug-related crime were any worse in Hawick than in any of the other Border towns. Sergeant Granger responded stating that the numbers of incidents were perhaps higher but given the size of Hawick, these were no worse than any other town, with numbers fluctuating. At the minute she appreciated concerns being raised by neighbours in certain areas, which were being looked at, but incident numbers were no worse than in Galashiels of similar size to Hawick.

He went on to raise about parking tickets - everyone complained about parking issues in the High Street and yet when tickets were then issued, there were complaints about Police not concentrating on what they termed as real Police work. People could not have it both ways – if there were parking issues on the High Street, there should be no complaints when parking notices were raised, which seemed to be the case being highlighted by some on Facebook.

Councillor Cox queried the figures being provided in the report as these were less than what had been provided to Councillors in other reporting. Sergeant Granger considered that it may have been the case that CAT figures had not been incorporated into figures within the reports. In some cases, warnings may have been provided and not actual tickets.

The Vice-Chair also raised the continuing issue with parents parking around our Primary Schools and asked if it were possible for police patrols in those areas. Sergeant Granger agreed that this was an ongoing issue, with a small core of parents being responsible. It was reported by a member of the public that an incident had occurred at the time Police were on patrol at Trinity School, where a parent had blatantly ignored a no parking zone irrespective of Police attendance. Sergeant Granger agreed that bad parking habits were an issue however lack of resources and the need to engage what resources there were in higher level incidents, meant parking would continue to be an issue but she would endeavour to place some emphasis on this whenever possible.

Councillor Smart advised of a resident complaint regarding a SORN vehicle which should not therefore even be on the street, and which had been reported 3 times to the Police, but nothing appeared to have been done. Sergeant Granger advised this would have been reported to DVLA and it would eventually be removed. It was noted this vehicle was on Princes Street and details of the registration number would be provided to Sergeant Granger to investigate further as to progress with this vehicle's removal. It was unlikely this would be insured either.

Cars parked on zig zags on the High Street were highlighted as being of real concern especially as pedestrians using the crossings were partially unsighted to drivers which was dangerous.

Kevin Marsh stated that a list of crimes was provided each month in reports provided but it was not known as to the cases resolved. Sergeant Granger advised that crimes were recorded as they were received and to then advise on the outcome of each individual crime over 6 wards would be too labour-intensive. Resources was the topic Senior Officers who were earmarked to attend were planning to address and having Community Police attendance was something she would wish to see back in place, with a direct named Community Police contact for HCC's use.

She went on to say that, as indicated at the start of her reports, there had been recruitments to the Community Policing teams and that should help with such issues as parking etc.

Comparison tables previously provided were not so now, albeit these were Borders-wide figures and not just for Hawick area. It was asked whether any other comparative data was available which could provide levels of crime and solvency rates. Sergeant Granger advised that members could review the Scrutiny Report, a link to which was now contained in her reports, which provided more data and some comparative figures. These were though still based on Borders-wide figures. She named David Ritson as being very good on statistical information and following members' review of the Scrutiny Report, if there were any other requirements, it could be that she could ask his help to provide.

The Vice-Chair thanked Sergeant Granger for her attendance, and she left the meeting.

7. **Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer reported an Opening Balance of £27,831.86. There was no income in the month. He had concerns that in having Guest Speakers there would be an ongoing cost to HCC for hire of a projector and means to secure connection to Wi-Fi of circa. £70 each time. He considered it was time that SBC had Wi-Fi available within the Lesser Town Hall and also a projector. Councillors Ramage and Cox agreed to investigate this further and to determine whether this would be SBC or Live Borders' responsibility.

Winter plants had been paid at a cost of £1,673.91 in advance of delivery in October, and Core Path Maintenance paid of £500. The Grant from SBC for the latter was less at £450 which was the top level of award.

A significant amount of the Closing Balance of £25,587 remained ringfenced for Williestruther Improvement Works where no bills were forthcoming despite these being requested. Christmas lights purchases were also yet to be made from Foundation Scotland Fund. Insurance costs also remained a concern as these were ever-increasing and a large chunk of our total grant.

HCC Members approved the Treasurer's Report.

Duncan Taylor sought clarification on whether HCC paid hire charges for the Lesser Town Hall, and it was confirmed that no charge was levied. He also asked whether meetings would require to be held again within the High School, when Opera rehearsals were taking place, and it was advised that the Lesser Town Hall had been booked through to December. John Wilkinson confirmed that when HCC Meetings were held, the Opera used alternative premises.

## 8. **Public Forum & Town Issues**

- (a) **My Kind of Town** – The Secretary on behalf of the Chair advised that this was a BBC Programme hosted by Ian Hamilton, who was blind, involving his Guide Dog Major. Ian

along with his research team had been in Hawick week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> August and had interviewed various people and attended various events. The programme would be aired on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

- (b) **SBHA Garages** - Wilson George asked about the garages as reported in the Hawick Paper. Councillor Ramage advised that a Councillors' Briefing would be held that week but at a site meeting held with officers at Mayfield, Councillors had been advised that no decisions on garages there had yet been made. In relation to the Burnfoot Garages, it had been conceded that proper consultation had not taken place but there had been a willingness shown at a site meeting when residents' views had been aired to take these on board. Councillors would know more following the meeting with SBHA to discuss garages that coming Thursday.
- (c) **Graffiti on James Thomson Bridge** – The Vice-Chair reported on a complaint received regarding graffiti on the bridge and on the statue itself with thick felt pen. This had been there a couple of weeks and had not been cleaned. Councillor Ramage undertook to progress. Duncan Taylor enquired if graffiti was not actually on the plinth and on one of the signs on the plinth, but it was confirmed it was also on the statue itself.
- (d) **Road Signs at bottom of Lochpark** – It was stated that these signs showing No Access for HGVs over 7.5 tons except for access purposes, appeared to be facing the wrong way. They were looking up Lochpark Road towards Lockhart Place instead of being reversed and looking up towards Garfield Street. This could be one of the reasons art vehicles found themselves within the Terraces. Councillor Cox agreed to investigate and progress.
- (e) **Public Toilets** - French Wight requested to have raised why SBC had not reopened all their public toilets, which was a major concern given tourists in the area. Councillor Ramage reported that this issue was raised as an Open question at a recent Council meeting, and the response was that they had opened one toilet facility in each of the towns, and for Hawick this was at the Common Haugh. She agreed that toilets were a basic need, and it was noted 14 toilet facilities across the Borders were still closed. Councillors had been advised that reopening of toilets at the Howegate and at the Volunteer Park were under review.

A member of the public advised that if it was the case that only toilets at the Common Haugh were available, these should at least be of good standard. He reported that the gents disabled toilet had on many occasions been found without toilet roll and the floor was black and in need of a deep clean. Cleaners were only provided 5 minutes to clean. Most of the door locks in the gents' toilets were also burst, there were no toilet roll holders and there was toilet roll stuck to the ceiling. This was not acceptable especially as the only toilets available.

Marjorie McCreadie reported on a coach of 49 men on a Club outing returning to their coach to go home at 7pm, and they had been unable to use the toilets at the Common Haugh which were closed. It was of benefit to our economy to have coaches stop at the Common Haugh and the bus company foresaw that more coaches could be forthcoming and accordingly closing time of 5pm was thought restrictive.

Councillor Ramage advised she would report to SBC on these issues.

- (f) **Double/single Yellow Lines** - The Treasurer asked who the responsible body was to determine where double yellow lines or yellow lines were placed in the town. He highlighted an issue coming off the Morrisons roundabout to go up the Killinghouse Brae, where cars parked at the very foot there as there were no yellow lines or double yellow lines in place. This caused issues when the roundabout was busy and trying to

negotiate up the Brae when there were other cars coming down the hill, resulted in blockage of the roundabout itself.

This situation also happened all over the Terraces area, on corners where vehicles parked right on junctions.

It was considered this was the responsibility of the Roads Department and should be reported to them.

The Vice-Chair advised of a report on Facebook asking local Councillors if the yellow lines at the Park Gates could be reinstated following resurfacing works. Parking right up to the gates meant traffic having to overtake parked vehicles on a blind corner and dangers of head-on collisions happening. Councillors agreed to take these matters forward.

**Parking** - John Campbell raised the ongoing issue of vehicles being parked on the High Street sometimes all day. If the Police appeared on the street, there was then a race of vehicle owners out to remove their cars. There were car parks available, and solutions were discussed on whether to make these free to encourage their use and to introduce payment meters on the High Street or to engage a Traffic Warden.

Having a Traffic Warden had been the subject of many discussions in the past as a solution, however a Byelaw required to be put in place to decriminalise parking offences. Councillor Smart confirmed that parking was not a criminal offence in all counties, but it was within Scottish Borders where it was a Police rather than a civil matter, which meant fines imposed went to the Police whereas if parking was decriminalised, monies from fines would go to SBC. This money could then be used by SBC for parking preventions. A member of the public advised when contacting the Police, being told it was a matter for SBC, when it clearly currently was not. SBC Officers could penalise illegal parking within their car parks but not on the High Street until parking was decriminalised by way of a Byelaw allowing this.

Councillors would raise this again with SBC.

#### **8a High School Update – Emily Gibson & Craig Oliver, Head Pupils**

Emily introduced herself and Craig to the meeting. She advised that pupils had been given their roles, and her role was the People Forum to make sure all pupils had a voice, young and seniors alike, and to raise issues with the school towards improvement. Another role as seniors was to ensure that volunteering hours were recognised, e.g. for time on prefect duties, buddying, work on committees etc.

Craig advised his role was celebrating pupils' achievements within the school for things which might previously have gone unnoticed, towards lifting people's spirits and generally getting pupils involved in things within the school.

There were also House Championships – getting house points through sports but also this year in other areas e.g, playing chess and encouraging more involvement in other activities.

They would be responsible for organising the Prom for Senior Pupils, Christmas dances for S1s to S6s and a Burns Night. There were no Covid restrictions at the present time.

Emily advised that Committees had also been set up for Social, Charity, School Improvement including the wider Community, and Yearbook. They had recently had a bake sale to raise funds for their Charity Committee raising £166 for a Charity for Children with Batten's Disease. A coffee morning was also in the pipeline, and they were planning further charity events to raise funds for local Charities within the local community as well as for national charities. They also hoped to help with tasks in the local Community.

Members of the ambulance service had also attended school recently, and pupils had been trained in CPR and use of defibrillators. Next steps would be to raise money to upgrade the defibrillator within the school. They would be highlighting the success of that training.

A round of applause was given in recognition of the many activities being carried out already within HHS and the Chair thanked pupils for their report.

The Chair advised if HCC could help in any way with their activities, they could contact the Secretary. He then asked for the pupils' thoughts on plans for the new proposed High School. They would obviously not be there when built, but advised the new school looked nice, with lots of different learning areas, and it appeared more open plan and airy.

9. **Town Clean-up** – This had not taken place for a while due to Covid and members agreed this should proceed. A Sunday date in October would be best and once this was agreed, members would be advised, and this would be advertised for further volunteers as well as Councillors to help.

#### 10. Reports from sub-committees

- (a) **A7 Action Group** – Calling papers had been forwarded from Marjorie McCreadie to the Secretary, and in turn these had been forwarded to HCC members French Wight and Wilson George as HCC representatives on that Group. Marjorie advised that the AGM would be held on Wednesday at 7pm with the ordinary meeting following.

Papers in future would be sent to the Secretary of each Community Council and if any of the representatives were unable to attend, then that would allow for other representatives to be organised to attend. Two representatives from each of the Communities could attend, and these would not necessarily have to be the same two attending every meeting.

It was noted that French Wight had tendered his resignation from this Group and the Chair asked for another HCC volunteer to replace him. Wilson George had also entered his apology for Wednesday's meeting. John Campbell volunteered to attend Wednesday's meeting and the Secretary would forward the papers to him.

- (b) **Christmas Event** – It was noted that stalls for the Christmas Market had proved popular and were fully booked with a waiting list in place. Another meeting would be organised by the Chair on her return from holidays to progress on the purchase of new Christmas Lighting.
- (c) **Hawick Common Good** – John Campbell reported that a joint application for funding by HCC and Hawick Archaeological Society had been successful. The Vice-Chair thanked the Common Good for their funding which was for commissioning a plaque by Gordon Muir Design of Frederick Douglass to be installed at Myreslawgreen, at the site where he made his anti-slavery speech. The plaque would hopefully be erected on 2nd November marking his 176 years anniversary of that speech. Educational packs were also part of the funding application and would be distributed to schools.



An application had been made by the Motorhome Fun Club to hire exclusive use of the Motorhome area at the Common Haugh on 29 December to 2 January and on 24 - 28 March 2023. This was approved, with a nominal cost for the hire to be paid. Following consultation, a Register of Assets for Hawick had been prepared and Councillor Ramage confirmed that the meeting held earlier that day, which John Campbell did not attend, was regarding the Common Good Assets and double-checking of that Register. An application had been made by the Provost's Council to the Common Good Fund for monies towards holding dignitary events etc, and this was acknowledged as received by the Common Good but would require the approval at a full meeting of Council due to conflict-of-interest protocols.

John Campbell then asked where monies generated from car parks in Hawick belonging to SBC went to and Councillor Ramage undertook to find this out.

- (d) **Hawick in Bloom** – The Secretary reported that winter plants were due to be delivered on Monday, 10 October. Perennial plants would be trialled in six of the bigger planters. She also advised of the forthcoming coffee morning being held in Trinity Church on Saturday, 24th September, proceeds of which would go to the Hawick in Bloom fund. Councillor Smart asked about helping at the event, and all hands were welcomed along with any Cake & Candy for sale and tombolo prizes etc.
- (e) **Wind Farms** – The Chair advised that he along with French Wight and representatives from neighbouring Community Councils had been invited to a meeting with Muirhall Energy regarding the Teviot Wind Farm at the end of September. Community Benefit Fund would be under discussion, and he would report back to HCC at a future meeting
- (f) **Bandstand Events** – Duncan Taylor declared an interest as a Trustee of Hawick Live Music and was given approval to report on the four bandstand events held in August. He reported that all events had gone really well and thanked the volunteers and the public for their support. The weather had been kind with 4 dry Sundays resulting in large audiences, the peak being on the third Sunday with Hawick Sings which coincided with the Health & Wellbeing event.

Duncan considered that planning for next year's events should start now for next Summer and consideration should be given to what could be done to make more use of Wilton Lodge Park not just for bandstand events during August but other events as well. It would be a lot of work, but he considered we should be making more of this asset. Wilton Lodge Park Café had benefited from the events and could further benefit if more events were held. Duncan suggested a sub-group to take this forward.

The Secretary stated that this was a good idea in principle, but HCC would need to liaise with Friends of Wilton Lodge Park Group to ensure they agreed. It may be that HCC and that group could work together and Keith Irving, as a member of that group, undertook to raise this with them at their next meeting. Jim Adams stated that funding would be an issue which would require to be addressed. Funding provided by HCC for the 4 bandstand events this year amounted to £4.5k which had come from previous years' Foundation Scotland monies. Monies from that Fund for this year had been ringfenced for Christmas Events. He agreed more events would be beneficial if funding avenues could be sourced. Perhaps Future Hawick could help with funding availability. The Vice-Chair advised that Bandstand Events were previously run and financed by SBC, and these would not have taken place but for HCC assuming responsibility. Duncan advised that not all bandstand events required to be commercial, as town bands could be used as well.

The Vice-Chair also stated he would like to see the reinstatement of the former Putting Green and he would liaise with SBC on progressing this, as the equipment was still available, and it would not take much work he considered to reinstate the Green. Keith Irving advised that the Café owner was also in liaison with SBC's planning department and Jason Hedley on reinstatement of the former Crazy Golf Course. Councillor Ramage would see if she could find out more information.

#### **11. Updates from Community Partners**

- (a) Foundation Scotland – Nothing to update.
- (b) Future Hawick – No update received.
- (c) Williestruther – As addressed earlier in the meeting.
- (d) Scottish Borders Community Council Network – Wilson George advised that a Treasurer was currently being sought for this Network Group following retiral on health grounds of the former Treasurer.

Wilson went onto report on a meeting with Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership held on 18<sup>th</sup> August. The purpose of the meeting was to try to get various groups to work together however it was his view as well as Marjorie McCreadie who had also attended, that achieving this would be challenging. Marjorie advised that the Partnership considered the office currently used by the Welcome Hosts could be utilised for Mental Health & Social Work appointments and serviced by her staff which she stated would not work.

**12. Planning Issues** – There were no major planning issues for consideration.

**13. Correspondence** – Traffic Regulation Order documentation received that day had been circulated to HCC members, and following review, HCC members were requested to forward comments to the Secretary to allow collation of these and a response to SBC by 10 October 2022.

#### **14. A.O.C.B –**

**Copper pipes at the Common Haugh Sluice** - It was raised by a member of the public that the copper pipes at the sluice were not lagged and would be prone to bursts in frosty conditions. Councillor Ramage would report this to SBC to sort.

**T&L Partnership Meeting** - Councillor Ramage advised that there would be a T&L Partnership meeting held the following evening in the Lesser Town Hall at 6pm and extended an invite to everyone to attend. Steven Renwick would be in attendance to present on the Almstrongs building. Place-making would also be considered, and this was a great opportunity for Hawick people to bring forward their ideas. This was the first face-to-face meeting for a long time and hopefully would be well supported.

**Licensing of Short-term lets** - Councillor Cox advised that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 it would be necessary for property owners renting short-term property lets to have been licensed before that date. Licensing costs would be between £200-400 for 3 years. Licence applications could be made from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Further information on this would be forthcoming from the Scottish Government.

**WLP Caravan Park** - A member of the public requested that the franchise for a caravan park at Wilton Lodge Park be kept to the fore as this had been outstanding now for years and needed to see progress.

**WLP Playpark – faulty gate** - Keith Irving reported that the gate to the Playpark at Wilton Lodge Park, nearest to the Café, did not close properly. He was aware that adjustments to this gate had been carried out, but it did not yet automatically close properly and there had been a recent incident of a child making their escape through this gate. Councillor Ramage undertook to report this again.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting** –The next meeting of HCC would be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall. Business at that meeting would be concentrated to an update from Conor Price, CPE Consultancy, on Flood Protection within the town.