



Eddleston & District Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

25 February 2025 at 7.30pm in Eddleston Village Hall



Contact: edcc@edleston.org.uk
Website: <https://edleston.org.uk/>

Present. CC: Gordon Harwell (Chair/sec), Ronan Toolis, Callum McDonald, Mike Adams,
Others: Cllr Drummond Begg, George Winter, Christine Donnelly, Jeanette Dunlop, Lesley Muirden.

Apologies Jo Oliver (Treasurer), Amy Bartlett, Abi Whitefield-Stevens, Karen Kerr,

1. Reports.

- JO not present but brief report received. The balance on the EDCC account is £983.70 (which includes payment of the hall rental for next Tuesday - just paid). This is a perfectly acceptable balance to go into the next financial year with, but likewise we could, for example, buy the new trees for the orchard, or spruce up the bus shelter, although I'm sure we could get a small grant for the latter. I've not heard back from anyone with regard to the horse gates (an action from last meeting) which I take to mean that nobody wants to tackle the work. Picnic tables for field by Elibank Road is very doable - the footpaths grant will open up again in the next FY and we could do this straight away, or, depending on how many are wanted, we could find one or two now and the rest later. From Justice Service, a 6' picnic bench is £124.20 (inc VAT) and one with space for a wheelchair (8') is £162.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- Minutes from 21 January 2025 meeting presented and agreed.

3. Planning Applications.

- AB not present. Nothing discussed. Post meeting check of SBC planning portal by GH shows only new planning application: work to trees at Station Lye road verge.

4. Ongoing projects.

- **Leithenwater Windfarm.** GH has another Leithenwater windfarm meeting 26 February with Peebles and Innerleithen windfarm reps to discuss lawyer response to MOU for community benefit from Leithenwater project. Nothing is binding on the Community, but it should guarantee a minimum level of payment to the community from about 2030. There will probably be meetings at least monthly for the foreseeable future. GH will update the CC as things develop.
- **Bowbeat Windfarm.** Bowbeat owner RWE expect to provide community benefit from August 2025 for 5 years. They propose to manage this via Foundation Scotland who would manage the fund at a cost of approximately 8.5%. This is a common method of management for CCs. Method of distribution to be determined. GH attending meetings.
- **Station Road traffic calming.** Update from Cllr Begg. Still waiting for a response from SBC Roads team re options for Station Road. Traffic speed data discussed. Possible signage for pedestrians on road. LM suggested sign saying "local access only". Cllr Begg will take suggestions and pass on.
- **Footpath grant.** Benches now all in place. Various positive comments received from community. Suggestion to put a picnic table in open field by bridge in Station Road and fix the gate. Ideas sought for

other possible bench locations. Will revisit next FY. Horse gates have turned out to be not practical for original proposed location and so that idea has been dropped.

- **Orchard tree replacement.** Keen to action as soon as possible. LM agreed to research, cost and availability of trees for the Orchard. RT agreed to advise on heritage tree varieties, seek possible grant funding and liaise with SBC regarding planting etc.
- **SBC resilience group.** Volunteers wanted (ideally 2). To discuss options for village response to crisis – eg flood, snow, power loss etc. RT and CD agreed to liaise with JO about the community resilience shed, and its location and contents. Douglas Clarke will also join the resilience group and is happy to help with any work required. Sandbag location. Second location to be sought. Also, possible relocation of grit bin.
- **Road and pavement condition.** Need to report all potholes and bad pavements. Link to SBC online reporting on Eddleston website CC page. Priority is footpath from Village Hall to crossing. GW will photograph bad areas and send to Cllr Begg who will try to get small schemes grant. CM will send Cllr Begg location of required drop-kerb for access onto cycle path south.
- **EDCC Secretary.** No volunteers.
- **Eddleston Website.** GH trying to update content with limited website knowledge. Request ideas for content. Also, seeking anyone with website knowledge to help.

5. **Any Other Business**

- Glebe lights now fixed. School footpath lights still not working. RT liaising with Cllr Thomson.

6. **Date of next meeting. Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 7.30pm in Village Hall.** (Hall booking required - JO)
- The March CC meeting is cancelled due to lack of availability unless someone else comes forward to chair it.