



Eddleston & District Community Council

Minutes

Meeting 24 March 2026 at 7.30pm in Eddleston Village Hall



Present CC: GH (Chair/sec), JO (Treasurer), CMcD.

Present Others: Cllr Eric Small, PC Gary Beaumont, CD, CK, LJ, CR.

Apologies: RT, AB, MA, AW-S, KK, JD, GW.

1. Welcome.

2. Reports and Correspondence

- a. Police. [February Report](#). PC Gary Beaumont joined by phone for an update. No new information to add since the February report. Very busy at present, so planned security brief at Bite & Blether will be delayed. It could be combined with a brief on car seat safety if there is interest.
- b. Treasurer. Awaiting receipts for Windfarm grant for work in church. Expected soon.

3. Actions from last meeting.

- a. Tree fallen in Elibank Park. Has been removed by SBC.
- b. Tree down in wood opposite Horseshoe. Landowner notified and assessing.
- c. Orchard Bench fixing and Plaque. NTR.
- d. Responses to planning issues outwith CC meetings. KK still to follow up.
- e. Contacts and mailing lists update and Website improvement. Volunteer sought to help GH get this done.
- f. Police liaison with Bite & Blether. Delayed till at least May.
- g. Cloich water contamination query. Submitted to SBC, awaiting response.

4. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from 24 February 2026 meeting discussed and agreed.

5. Planning.

- a. Bowbank Close. Formal complaint lodged and receipt acknowledged by SBC. Awaiting further response/action-KK.
- b. Burnside development. New fence up and ecology markers now in place but no other work seen.
- c. Cloich Forest Windfarm.
 - i. Eskdalemuir approval seems closer with new MOD approach.
 - ii. Community ownership meeting in West Linton in favour of investigating possibility of community ownership.

6. Future of School Site.

- a. Current situation. Work ongoing for museum storage.
- b. GH contacted by Rachel from the Ripple (a charitable organization) who wanted to take over whole building for an Art retreat. I explained our desire to keep it usable for the community. She explained need for a business plan before any attempt at CAT, and availability of grants to make it. GH suggests that we seek information and grant to investigate a business plan. -GH
- c. Trees in grounds over grown, specifically willow house. GH suggests we get a work party to tidy up. Need to contact SBC re permission and removal of debris. -GH

- d. Ideas/contacts or possible actions are sought from any interested parties, specifically those who may wish to rent space in the future. Need to actively promote.

7. Windfarms BowBeat.

- a. Bowbeat Community Benefit fund now open for applications. [GRANT APPLICATION HERE](#).
- b. Volunteers required for fund distribution panel. [MOU HERE](#). Volunteer Panel members will meet 3 times a year to help make decisions on funding applications. [VOLUNTEER APPLICATION HERE](#). 3 volunteers required from Eddleston Community.
- c. Belltown Power is seeking to repower Bowbeat.

8. Other Projects

- a. Need for EDCC secretary. Not for minute taking but to review incoming emails and distribute/log. Also to manage contacts list and/or website. Anyone interested in helping, please contact. Anyone interested in seeing the many emails the CC gets every month on varying subjects, please contact for access.
- b. A group are suggesting that Community Councillors get increased powers in line with English Parish councils. [Please Read](#) The feeling of those present was that it was not appropriate for a small CC like Eddleston which did not have the people or skill necessary to handle an increased workload. We will respond accordingly. - GH.
- c. MAPA business conference 22 March 2026. GH attended with RT, CK, Drummond Begg and Chair of PCC. Very well attended by Polish businesses, Polish Consul and Krakow University Geography department. They are trying to raise money to make the map a significant tourist destination with interactive visitor centre with educational material. They may wish to use part of the school building in this plan. GH to liaise.
- d. The MAPA open day will take place on Sunday 31st May 2026. This event is open to all local residents and is a fun, family day out. It may cause significant extra traffic. GH to liaise.
- e. **Contacts and mailing lists.** The current mailing list will eventually be scrapped as it is very out-of-date. If you wish to continue to get information from the CC then please reply to this email if you have not already done so. *****ACTION REQUIRED*****

9. Open Floor / AoB

- a. **Village hall committee lack of volunteers.** [Minutes of meeting 4 Feb 26](#). LJ explained situation with Village Hall management. Chair position is gapped, and treasurer is standing down at May AGM. Unless a volunteer is found to take on treasurer position, the committee may not be able to continue its work. Due to the maintenance burden, the main task of the committee is fundraising via events or grant applications. **The effect on the hall is likely to be significant, possibly including closure.**
- b. **A703 crossing.** CR (a new resident) expressed concern over crossing A703 and made a suggestion that a pelican or zebra pedestrian crossing is required for safety. The current refuge is poorly placed and has resulted in significant damage to the adjacent road and pavement, adding to the safety hazard. It was discussed that this issue has been raised before but rejected. Since then, there have been changes to traffic policy and speed limits and that it should be re-investigated. -CR
- c. **Border by A703.** The border at the north side of the village was recently replanted by Pentland Plants, however, weeds are now growing. Work parties have not been forthcoming and so it was suggested that someone be paid to do the work. Apparently, in the past there was no one attracted by this offer! Anyone willing to take on the task or help in a work party, please get in contact.
- d. **Wildflowers in grass above Horseshoe.** It was suggested that the triangle of grass above the Horseshoe be planted with wildflowers. Currently the grass is maintained by SBC who would not manage it if it was flowers. Given our lack of success with managing the border on the main road, we would not add this task.
- e. **Peebles Life, no delivery in Eddleston.** It was suggested that it would be good to get copies available in Eddleston. If home delivery was not practical, copies could be left at the Hall, Horseshoe and possibly bus stop. GH to investigate.

- f. **Borders 50mph speed trial feedback request.** Those present felt that the accidents were not caused by those that were complying with the speed limit and therefore a reduction was not helpful in most cases. There are now so many different speed limits on country roads, it causes distraction in an effort to comply. It also causes frustration in areas where the reason for it is not obvious. It also habituates speeding and reduces effectiveness in areas where reduced speed is required for safety. JO to respond.

10. **Date of next meetings. Fourth Tuesday of Month at 7.30pm in Village Hall.**

- **Tuesday 28 April 2026.**
- **Tuesday 26 May 2026.**
- **Tuesday 23 June 2026.**