



Eddleston & District Community Council

Minutes

Meeting 28 April 2026 at 7.30pm in Eddleston Village Hall



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

Present Others: Cllr Viv Thomson, PC Gary Beaumont, JD, GW, CD, DD.

Apologies: AB, MA, AW-S, KK.

1. Welcome.

2. Reports and Correspondence

- a. **Police.** [March Report](#). Gary gave a summary of police activities in the last month. This included water crime, working with trading standards on illegal tobacco and cigarettes, shop-lifting (physical presence and streamlining reporting) and community engagement (Brownies). He also highlighted an increased number of road fatalities.
- b. **Treasurer.** £910 in account. Work in church now completed and windfarm grant has now been paid. The church will write a brief report for publicity purposes. – JD, CD

3. Actions from last meeting.

- a. Orchard Bench fixing and Plaque. - NTR
- b. Website, contacts and mailing lists update. Still outstanding.
- c. Police liaison with Bite & Blether. – Happening this week or next.
- d. Peebles Life delivery to Eddleston. 40 copies delivered to GH in April and May and made available at bus stop, hall, Horseshoe, Barony. More copies can be provided if there is demand.
- e. Border by A703. RT, GH and GW to organize weeding.

4. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from 24 March 2026 meeting discussed and agreed.

5. Signing of Community Council code of conduct.

The annual accounts have been compiled and are ready for external auditing/validation. Once completed, they will be submitted to SBC along with other supporting information which in turn will allow drawdown of the 2026/27 community grant. As part of this process, it is necessary for the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors to be circulated, read and agreed to by Council members. These minutes are a record that all EDCC members have read and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

6. Planning.

No new applications. Initial work has started on Burnside development.

- #### 7. Request for controlled road crossing on A703.
- CR made a request to SBC. Ms. Gilhooly responded that the Council is unable to support either a Pelican (or other) light-controlled crossing, or a Zebra crossing. Her reasons, as shown in the linked documents, are:
- a. A light-controlled ([Pelican](#) or Puffin) crossing would not be justified because of the cost (£65-95K), compared to the volume of pedestrian traffic
 - b. [Zebra](#) crossings are deemed to be suitable only for busy city centres, where pedestrian traffic is constant, and vehicle speeds are very low.

With regard to the traffic island to the south of the village, Ms. Gilhooly stated that this was installed in consultation with the local community (mainly with primary school pupils in mind), and if the community is now of the mind that it is no longer serving a purpose, then she would like to know what the community's wishes are?

The traffic island in its current location is causing large vehicles to mount the footpath and also pothole the road surface. The CC understands your reasons above and funding issues but would still like to have some protection for pedestrians crossing near the horseshoe (increased use due to the multi-use path). A relocated traffic island would be best but may not be possible. As a simple and cheap option, we request signage for pedestrians crossing in the village (warning triangle) and some form of marking on the road. We assume that the form of this marking will be dictated by traffic laws but request either white lines across the road or triangles of the type that mark speed bumps. This sort of marking will alert drivers to be cautious and possibly encourage some to be more considerate to crossing pedestrians. Cllr Viv Thomson will address this with SBC.

8. **Future of School Site.**

- a. **Current situation.** Consultation report is now scheduled for publication on 19th May. It will be open for feedback until 14th June.
- b. **Need for business plan.** Our survey in December 2025 showed majority community support for an investigation into possible community ownership of the school. The building should become available by end of 2027. To progress our chance of succeeding in this endeavour, we need to develop a business plan that does not rely on volunteers for core functions. The outline concept is to see the building open and available to the community, every day for a number of hours under a paid manager. We have ideas of how to achieve this, and grants are available to get professional help to produce a plan, however, we now need people with ideas, opinions and skills to help to develop a plan. No experience required, only ideas and enthusiasm needed.
- c. **Grounds work.** SBC have no money to help in any way. We have requested permission to cultivate raised vegetable beds and prune willow house. We are awaiting response from SBC estates department. -GH
We are investigating small schemes grant with regard to repairing/replacing damaged seat by play park and replacing the broken picnic tables. -GH, JO

9. **MAPA event 31 May.** The MAPA open day will take place on Sunday 31st May 2026. This event is **open to all local residents** and is a free, fun, family day out. It may cause significant extra traffic. GH to liaise.

10. **Windfarms BowBeat.** Update from Foundation Scotland. "We currently have 9 panel applicants to the RWE Bowbeat Peebles & Eddleston Fund from a great spread of the community, including 2 members of Eddleston Community Council. The first panel meetings will be in August/ early September and we will be reaching out to the prospective panel members over the next few weeks to start putting together the group and work out best dates for an induction meeting. Regarding funding applications we currently have 9 applications to the fund either completed or in process, including 4 multi-year applications.

[GRANT APPLICATION HERE](#)

[PANEL VOLUNTEER APPLICATION HERE](#)

11. **Other Projects.** Nil

12. **Open Floor / AoB.**

- a. **Hedges obstructing footpaths.** It was pointed out that many footpaths around the village are partially blocked by the encroachment of hedges. This causes difficulty for users of mobility aids and prams. In Scotland, local councils have legal powers under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to enforce the cutback of hedges that obstruct public pavements or roads.
 - i. **Horizontal Clearance:** Vegetation should be trimmed back to the property boundary so it does not narrow the usable width of the pavement.
 - ii. **Safety Features:** Hedges must not obscure streetlights, traffic signs, or sightlines at junctions.

The Community Council politely requests that property owners check that they are in compliance.

- b. **Cockerels invading garden.** A query was raised regarding cockerels continually escaping into an adjacent garden. In Scotland, the owner of cockerels is legally responsible for preventing them from straying onto someone else's land. Poultry is generally treated similarly to other livestock, meaning the owner has a "duty of care" to keep them contained.

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

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