

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2025

Draft Minutes

Location: The meeting was held at Hermitage Hall starting at 18:45

Those present were:

Councillor Watson McAteer

Community Councillors Geoffrey Kolbe (Chairman, GK), Rosemary Webster (Vice Chair) Ian Hunter (Secretary, IH), Martin Steed (Treasurer, MS), Lynda Graham (LG)

There were also 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes of the AGM of 14 March 2024

IH moved that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. MS seconded the motion, which was carried.

3. Chairman's report of the previous year.

GK read out his report, which is appended.

4. Treasurer's Report.

MS spoke to his report, which is appended.

5. Re-affirmation of Community Councillors to abide by the Community Councillors Code of Conduct

All Community Councillors have signed a statement, "We agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils", which is appended

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business

Chairman's report AGM

As in world events there is the overturning of settled orders where the bedrock on which international relations are built has turned into unpredictable quicksands, so more locally we find that the structures and landscapes which we had thought immutable are being subject to forces which are leaving communities such as ours struggling to see what will remain when the dust settles.

Our timeless vista of gently rolling hills and rural life is changing as hill farming becomes an increasingly marginal activity. There is in planning the prospect now of wind farms with a total of 350 turbines up to 250 metres high in this area. We discovered this week that there are two more wind farms with another 90 turbines that are about to enter the planning system. There is also a proposal to bring a 400KV transmission line through our area, carrying renewables power from Scotland into England. The pressure on this area is that it is to be turned into an industrial energy landscape with an underfloor of forestry, which is both visually unappealing and unsustainable for any local economy. These are not changes which we chose or upon which we were consulted.

In response, this Community Council continues to ensure the voice of this community is heard as external interests try to appropriate our landscape in ways which have no benefits for us. We have been undertaking a Place Plan exercise in which this community expresses its wish on how our landscape should be used and developed. When complete, this will be a powerful tool to ensure our view of the way we want our landscape to be used is heard.

It is clear too that our local Council funding will become increasingly constrained in years to come and that rural communities such as ours will increasingly be required to seek out and manage funds to maintain our own resilience and infrastructure. To this end, we are setting up a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or SCIO, to help this community develop and evolve its response to needs and events in the future.

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council
Financial Report for fiscal year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Bank Balance as at 1st April 2024 **£2,347.64**

Income:

Scottish Borders Council Grant	£594
Hermitage Hall Hire Reimbursement	£195.08
Funds from Pot B	£604

Total Income **£1,393.08**

Expenses:

Hire of Hermitage Hall 1	Chq 39	£54.50
Hire of Hermitage Hall 2	Chq 40	£59.25
Christmas Event - food	Chq 41	£76.91
Account Service Charge		£4.25

Total Expenditure **£194.91**

Bank Balance as at 31st March 2025 **£3545.81**

Ringfenced funds:

1. ULHCC resolution 03 December 2018		
Formation of Community Trust	£250	
Less expended	£128.16	£121.84
2. ULHCC resolution 18/11/2019 & 15/02/2021		
Interpretation Boards		£750
3. ULHCC resolution 08/03/2022		
Resilience Equipment		£250
4. SBC Resilience Support (02/04/2020 & 24/02/20)		£1,000
5. Pot B Grant		
Resilience Equipment (New Shed @ Burnfoot)		£604
	Total set aside	£2,725.84
		£2,725.84

Balance of funds available for ongoing ULHCC activities in FY 2025-2026 **£819.97**

I have examined the books and records for the Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council for the fiscal year 2024-2025 ending 31st March 2025 as prepared by the Community Council Treasurer and, with the explanations given to me, find them correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: K E Penrith

Dated: 7/4/2025

Name: Kathryn Penrith RNM
 Title: Admiral Nurse Practitioner
 Address: Wayside Cottage, Newcastleton, Scottish Borders, TD9 0SG

Approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community council held on 10th Day of April 2025.

Dr Geoffrey Kolbe
 Dr Geoffrey Kolbe – Chair

Martin Steed
 Martin Steed – Treasurer

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

"We agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils"

10 April 2025

Geoffrey Kolbe



Rosemary Webster



Ian Hunter



Martin Steed



Lynda Graham

