

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Alistair Smith, *Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Ross Montague, Judi Gunn, Steve Aitchison,

Apologies received: Jack Ponton, Rachel Whellans and Edward Maitland-Carew – Jack and Rachel did try to dial in to a telecon but Town Hall reception failed

2. **Email from David Parker Convenor Scottish Borders Council (SBC) on COVID-19.**

“SBC will be introducing measures to reduce public meetings and only holding public meetings where absolutely necessary. Day to day Council business will change and be disrupted for 3 – 4 months, so there will be no formal Council meetings and committees as the Council’s efforts will be focused on supporting the NHS and wider community during this period.

To that end I would advise as follows and raise some issues for you to consider:-

1. It might be advisable to consider cancelling Community Council meetings between now and the end of July?
2. More detailed information will become available later this week, but it is likely that public events such as Common Riding, Festivals, major events and community activities like Spring Clean and Floral Gateway, will be cancelled or postponed during April, May, June and July.
3. SBC will do all it can to support postponed events happening later in the year, if circumstances allow, but it is likely there will be reduced resources to support public events.
4. It is likely that the Community Grant Scheme and the VE Celebration fund will be suspended later this week until August.
5. Resilience – lots of people, often via Facebook, are looking to set up resilience groups locally to support people with shopping, prescription collection and provide other support. This is very welcome and will become necessary and SBC will issue helpful guidance later this week, to ensure that these groups have the best support and properly understand the implications of volunteering.”

3. **Communication Between Community Council Members during this time.**

As there may be no LCC meetings between now and August it was decided to find a means of communication. Steve mentioned Zoom and will send a link round and see if everyone can access it.

4. **Defibrillators.**

Alistair tried to clarify who maintains each of the defibrillators throughout the town and said it was vital that they were maintained and that all batteries were kept up to date.

5. **Resilient Communities.**

A group called Home Heroes has been set up on Facebook to help elderly people and people who have contracted COVID-19 in Lauder who are trapped in their homes. Judi has been looking into setting up a Resilient Community urgently possibly using the Police Station as a base but this group needs a 24 hour Coordinator contact. It was agreed to give the Home Heroes as much support as possible. It was also agreed to keep an eye on anyone vulnerable in the rural areas of Lauderdale.