HAWICK TOWN TEAM

26 AUGUST 2026 BURNFOOT COMMUNITY HUB

1	**Present**: Ruth Lyle Gordon Muir Keith Johnson (Chair) Coreen Knight Fiona Bell Bryan Bell Marion Chryistie Freya Gillon (SBC) Clare Malster (SBC) (notetaker)	**Apologies**: Cllr Watson McAteer Cllr Clair Ramage David Chapman Sian Snowdon Stuart Beck Cameron Knox
2	**Confirm previous minutes** The meeting note was confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting that took place on 24 June 2026.	
2a	**Matters arising** <u>Publication of minutes online</u> Minutes have been sent to Hawick online but haven't been published. Action: BB to follow up	
3 **3a**	**BTIP updates** <u>Arches</u> Meeting taken place with Alex Fleming-Knox and FG to discuss next steps. There is now an action log in place Estimated costs are being looked at along with potential sources of match funding. Information being gathered to inform a change request prior to being presented to the Borderlands Board. The situation regarding rates relief is being looked into, the Arches is a charity but Ffah Films isn't. Conversation taking place with the Borderlands Programme Management Office about the change control process and what will happen if costs come in lower than previously calculated – it's	

	thought likely that the funding will be re profiled for other Hawick Borderlands projects. Currently working on the lease details and service arrangement between The Arches and Ffah Films.
3c	<u>Hawick visitor signage system</u> Phase 1a has been installed at Mill Port and the Wee Haugh and a finger post on the south side of Thomson Bridge. A few tweaks are required on the map at the Wee Haugh. The QR codes link to information hosted on Hawick Development Trust's website – information will continue to be added. This element of the project isn't funded by Borderlands but is the first phase of the wider project. More images are being pulled together. Borderlands project application is to fund phases one (18 panels) and two (12-13 outlier signs). No graffiti on the signs but it can easily be cleaned off as/when required. Current map is being circulated for comment. Although there is a good set of notice boards at the Common Haugh some of the information is out of date and it was suggested this should be removed as this is a key area for visitors. There is no signage directing people where to go. A discussion took place about whether funding/sponsorship could be identified for temporary signs, potentially repurposing boards no longer required, until those being funded by Borderlands are in place. Although the river corridor is the next phase it could be two years away. Action: MC & BB to work on a concept for HDT to potentially take forward. Engagement with Paul Hogarth and Hornshole Greenway Development Group required to understand scope and timings of the planned Borderlands-funded signage scheme.
3b	<u>Hawick Mair</u> A SCIO has been set up, office bearers identified and the AGM taken place. The latest version of the business plan has been sent to SBC with comments received back. Having the lease details will help with the further development of the business plan – a 25 year lease looks possible. The aim would be to simplify the management of the Mair with FoHM taking on responsibility for all bookings rather

	than them being split between FoHM and SBC. Marsh Riddell were the initial architects; the details from those plans will need to be expanded on. Ground scanning will need to be undertaken to identify the depth of the rock. The relationship with the local farmer is developing well. It feels like the funding goal posts have been moving – hope to get that locked down. It's been proposed that regular meetings take place between FoHM and SBC and an action log put in place as with the Arches.
4	**Other projects** <u>Potting Shed</u> Things are on hold while people are on leave. Darren Flint is trying to identify funding for the project. <u>Let's Talk About Towns</u> CR forwarded information to HDT about potential funding. There are five pillars, one of which is Community Pride, with up to £20k funding available. Initial thoughts are for a project to tackle social isolation. Similar to what exists in the Netherlands and Germany, a trail of chatty/blether benches could be developed. Benches could be given to a local group along with £5k to cover the cost of any work/fees. Not sure if planning permission would be required. Project ideas must be submitted by 25/10/26. <u>Electrical safety project</u> Thinking is to develop a project to support people with impairments. Could potentially have a stock of equipment for demonstrations. It needs to be innovative.
5	**MOU update** The MOU has been finalised and is to be taken forward for sign off. Action: CM
6	**Tour de France preparations** The plan is to have a festival in Wilton Lodge Park on 03/07/27: Wheels & Reels. It would be a family festival to support the TdF. Hawick Community Council (HCC) is planning something on the High Street the day before. The initial steering group are Fiona Bell, Keith Johnson & Ruth Lyle, they are in the process of approaching other groups to assist with event.

	Hawick Men's Shed have offered to build six 'flats' for display around the park. Project costs are estimated to be £28-30k – businesses will be contacted about sponsorship for elements such as races that will take place during the day. FB is developing a workbook for each part of the project and aims to have all the risk assessments in place by the end of March 2027 for sign off by SBC. It's hoped to have the longest reel in the Borders. The concept for the day will be shared with HCC/BCC.
7	**Finance** £24 has been spent on business cards which are available for everyone to use.
8	**AOB** Lights have been smashed and glass is lying on the active travel network. Link to reporting pages on SBC website shared. A discussion took place around a meeting earlier in the month that had involved leads from a number of Hawick based projects and Cllrs McAteer, Ramage and Richards, the aim of which was to raise concerns about challenges the groups were facing regarding various aspects of interaction with SBC on these projects. Members of Hawick Town Team, who are leading on Borderlands projects, had not been invited to participate which caused frustrati on. BB explained why the Town Team had not been invited to attend the initial meeting as it was not a Borderlands Funding discussion. A meeting involving senior SBC officers is being arranged to listen and respond to concerns. As of 9th of September HTT have been invited to attend this latest meeting and will be represented.
9	**Date of next meetings** 23 September and 28 October 2026, both 6.30pm Burnfoot Community Hub