

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017

**Present:**

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor R Armstrong	
Community Councillor S Clew	Co-opted
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	Co-opted

**In attendance:**

Councillor C Ramage	SBC
PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
Six Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> Cllrs S Marshall and N Richards.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest.</b> Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. Cllr Ramage declared that, as a member of SBC Planning, she would not be able to comment on planning issues.	<b>All</b>
3.	<b>Police Report.</b> PC Patterson presented his report for June and July, attached.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 May 17).</b> The Minutes were proposed by CC Robinson, seconded by CC Nicol. <b>Approved.</b>	
5.	<b>Matters Arising.</b>	
a.	<b>Denholm Cemetery Kissing Gate.</b> On-going.	
b.	<b>First Aid Training.</b> Chair had arranged for a training session for up to 12 participants on Sunday 20 Aug 17. An advertisement for participants had been placed for this weekend.	
c.	<b>Speed Limits.</b> Sec had yet to provide the response to Mark Russell MSP, but would do so imminently.	<b>Sec</b>
d.	<b>Road Conditions.</b> Cllr Ramage reported that work had been initiated at The Loaning and Douglas Drive, but she was concerned over the standard of the work and was monitoring closely. Repairs to the footpath around The Green were scheduled to be completed by end Sep.	
e.	<b>Business Rate Increases.</b> Sec had yet to provide the required input to SBC, but would do so imminently.	<b>Sec</b>

- f. **Access to Fatlips Castle.** CC Armstrong would be meeting with Cllr Marshall and the SBC Ranger service tomorrow to discuss. On-going. **Armstrong**
- g. **World War One Commemorations.** A positive response to the proposal to erect a hill-top beacon on 11 Nov 18 had been received both from Mr Mitchell, Whitriggs Farm wrt Ruberslaw, and from Mr James Manners wrt Minto Hill. Arrangements to be pursued in due course. **Chair, Sec**
- h. **SBCCN Meeting.** CCs Passmore and Nicol had attended the meeting on 12 Jul 17. They reported a poorly attended meeting, and a very confused meeting with regard to the advent of the new "Area Locality Committees" and their impact on the SBCCN work. The SBCCN was still seeking additional CC representatives and a secretary.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report (attached). Current balance stood at £1,960.04. **Treasurer**
- The SBC Annual Grant had been received, but this had been paid without a breakdown of its components. Treasurer would be seeking clarification.
- The Projects Account stood at £1,453.07, of which £259.75 was ring fenced as the Defibrillator Fund.
- Treasurer intended to open a third account to hold the grants from the Langhope Rig Community Benefits Fund, now being made available. **Treasurer**
7. **Denholm Website – Financial Contribution.** Sec reported that Jane Currie had requested a contribution towards the cost of running the village website, in view of the support it provided to the D&DCC. Sec proposed an annual contribution of £25, and this was agreed unanimously. An initial contribution of £100 was agreed. Treasurer to action. **Treasurer**
8. **Correspondence.** Two items, including:
- a. **SES Plan.** D&DCC comments had been provided previously, but had now been resubmitted unaltered.
- b. **Campaign for the Extension of the Borders Railway.** Chair had received a brochure promoting the extension, which was also available online.
9. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **17/00228/FUL.** Erection of 5 houses, land east of Craigard, Canongate. **Chair**
- Chair had discovered further correspondence between the developer and the Planning Officer, which showed considerable revision to the original plan. However, CCs remained concerned over a number of issues, in particular the assertion that the entrance road was satisfactory, which it clearly was not, and the concerns of immediate neighbours, on which they should comment independently to SBC.
- Despite the assertions of the developer, the CC should maintain the ability to comment further on the revised proposals.
- b. **New Phone Mast - Consultation.** Sec had submitted comments, to the effect that the CC was basically in favour of the proposal, while bearing in mind the concerns of individual residents.

- c. **Blackbird Cottage, Westgate.** Sec had submitted comments regarding the difference to windows, and other works out with the Planning Application.
- d. **17/00957/FUL.** Alterations to dwelling house, erection of garden shed and gates at Croft Cottage, Kirkside, Denholm. No comments or observations were made. **Sec**
- e. **17/01016/FUL.** Erection of replacement shed/store and boundary fence at 3B Main Street, Denholm (and on Douglas Drive). No comments or observations were made. **Sec**
10. **Small Grant Scheme.** See Item 15c. It may be proposed that the cost of a new signpost indicating the route to Fatlips Castle may be a suitable candidate for a Small Grant Scheme.
11. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Chair, CCs Robinson and Passmore had met with Rachel Searle-Mbullu and Katie Nairn of FS on Monday 3 Jul 17, and were now familiar with the procedures involved. Appropriate papers had been submitted, including an application from CC Nicol for a grant of £600 to establish and print a Denholm Village Newsletter, and this was now in process. The initial grant would be received shortly, and held in a new account (see Treasurer's report, Item 6). **Robinson  
Passmore  
Nicol**
12. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair reported the following:
- a. **Windy Edge/Cummings Hill.** The developer Infinis, now trading under the name "Tooley", was the subject of a sale to Muirhall Energy. The future of the project was therefore currently unclear.
- b. **Pines Burn.** The proposal had now been amended with the height of the tallest turbines being reduced by a small measure, in order to reduce the aviation lighting requirement. However, the overall plan remained unchanged, and a planning application was expected shortly. Comments were required again from D&DCC. **Chair**
- c. **Birneyknowe Windfarm.** A letter had now been received from the SG DPEA notifying of a Public Inquiry (PI), and requiring a decision (by not later than 1 Aug 17) on whether D&DCC wished to participate. A Pre-Examination Meeting (PEM) would be announced in the near future.
- Chair had already informed Cliff Griffith, Chair of Southdean CC of our wish to support the Birneyknowe Action Group (BAG), and CC Clew offered to act as the D&DCC link to the BAG. CCs would need to assist in the distribution of letters appealing for donations to fund the BAG's activities and to finance legal representation at the PI. **Clew  
All**
- CC Clew proposed that D&DCC participate in the PEM and the PI, seconded by CC Nicol. **Decision: Agreed unanimously.** Sec to inform DPEA. **Sec**
13. **Community Storage Facility.** Sec had emailed with Graham Evans at SBC regarding the provision of a replacement facility, but was unsure of the latest situation. Cllr Ramage offered to investigate; Sec was to forward to her the email exchange of late June. **Ramage  
Sec**
14. **D&DCC By-Election.** Sec outlined the plan to hold a by-election, following the decision at the last meeting, to seek four new full CC members, including the two

current co-opted members, CCs Clew and Robinson. Cllr S Marshall had agreed to act as the Returning Officer.

**Marshall**

Judith Turnbull at SBC had offered to organise the election, and had issued a timetable, details as follows:

<b>Friday 21 Jul</b>	Start of nomination period. Blank nomination forms to be made available online, from Denholm & District Community Council (Tel No. 01450-375610 or -870236) and from Denholm Post Office. Completed nomination forms to be returned to Judith Turnbull using the Freepost address.
<b>Friday 21 Jul</b>	Press release in local newspapers. D&DCC to display Notice of Election in village.
<b>12 noon Friday 11 Aug</b>	End of nomination period. (If ballot required request ERO for Register)
<b>Monday 14 Aug</b>	Letters to candidates informing them of the validity of their nominations and the next stage of the process.
<b>Monday 21 Aug</b>	End of withdrawal period.
<b>Tuesday 22 Aug</b>	Letter sent to candidates. These will either be appointment letters along with a Notice of the next meeting of the Community Council on 20 September, or notification that a ballot will take place.
<b>Wedn'day 20 Sep</b>	Next meeting of the D&DCC. This will include the newly elected Community Councillors if no Ballot is required.
<b>TBA</b>	If a ballot is required date to be arranged with Returning Officer, possibly Thursday, 31 August?

Sec stated that the nomination forms were now available at the Post Office. He reminded CCs that they may only propose or second one candidate each, and that candidates, proposers and seconders all had to be included on the electoral roll for the district. A ballot would only be required if more than 4 nominations were received.

**All**

15. **A.O.B**

a. **Public Toilets.** CC Nicol described her recent experience of a journey to and from Edinburgh, when she found the public toilets at both Jedburgh and St Boswells out of order. This meant that no such facilities were available for the full journey – totally unacceptable, at a time when charges were being imposed for the use of public toilets in The Borders. Cllr Ramage offered to investigate with officials.

**Ramage**

b. **Speed Limits (within the Village).** Cllr Ramage quoted from a letter received concerning the matter of speed limit signs at the outskirts of Denholm village. This appeared to be contradictory and confusing, and she would be taking the matter forward with appropriate authorities.

**Ramage**

- c. **Fatlips Castle Signage.** CC Armstrong reported that the sign indicating the designated footpath route up to Fatlips had been destroyed several months ago, but had not been repaired or replaced. He would be meeting with Cllrs Marshall and Ramage to discuss replacement, which may be a suitable candidate for Small Grants Scheme funding.

**Armstrong**

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed **20 September 2017** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

**All**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

23 Jul 17

**Membership of D&DCC:**

Mrs G Crew (Chair)  
Mr R Armstrong (Vice Chair)  
Mr S Clew  
Mr T Lothian  
Mrs C Nicol  
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)  
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)  
Mrs S Robinson

**Information:**

Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr N Richards (Councillor, SBC)  
  
Democratic Services Team, SBC  
PC A Patterson (Community PC)  
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)  
Ms K Wylie (Hawick News)  
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)