

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019

**Present:**

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor G Rennie	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	Vice Chair
Community Councillor J Simmons	

**In attendance:**

Three Members of the Public

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> Cllr S Marshall, PC A Patterson.	
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.	
3.	<b>Police Report.</b> Sec presented PC Patterson's report for Mar/Apr (attached). He also passed on some comments from PC Patterson regarding his efforts to address the matter of speeding traffic through the village, which were discussed under Item 5.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (27 Mar 19).</b> The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Robinson. Approved.	
5.	<b>Matters Arising.</b>	
a.	<b>Manhole Cover (Item 13a).</b> The manhole cover outside the butcher's shop had been repaired.	
b.	<b>Refurbishment of Benches (Item 13c).</b> CC Passmore reported that the survey had been completed and that repairs to the worst affected would be prioritised	
c.	<b>Minto Pump (Item 19b).</b> Chair had contacted Rob Armstrong, but to date not progress had been made.	<b>Chair</b>
d.	<b>Dates of Future Meetings (Item 23).</b> Chair had booked the village hall. Sec had received a report from Cllr Marshall regarding the actions he had addressed, as follows:	
e.	<b>Playpark (Item 19a).</b> SBC reported that the faults had been repaired. The repainting of the older playpark equipment and that at Ashloaning, had been added to the list of work, and would be priced and completed as a soon as possible.	
f.	<b>Potholes (Item 24b).</b> Inspected and thought to be the responsibility of Scottish Water. SBC had lodged a defect report with them.	

- g. **Hand-Rail, Quoiting Park (Item 24e).** Repairs would be addressed when funds became available.
- h. **Traffic Speeding (Item 24h).** PC Patterson was enquiring into the question of a “traffic island” as had been installed at Otterburn, a physical chicane barrier which caused a single-file traffic flow. This idea was welcomed by CCs, but doubts were expressed whether this would be permitted on an A-Class road in the Borders. A report would be welcome.
- PC  
Patterson**
- CC Clew proposed the installation of “speed-reporting signs”, which indicated a driver’s approach speed, turning green when within the limit. It was thought this had been previously refused by SBC, but should be pursued again. Cllr Ramage would raise with SBC Roads.
- Ramage**
- It was questioned when the last “speed survey” had been conducted and it was felt this should be done again. Again, Cllr Ramage offered to pursue.
- Ramage**
- SBC had refused to move the 30 mph limit signs at Jedward Terrace to reflect the new development and this caused danger for residents. It should be requested again. Cllr Ramage would pursue.
- Ramage**
- [After note: Sec had received an e-mail from Malachy Clarke MSP regarding progress of his “Safer Streets 20mph Bill”. Unfortunately, although widely supported elsewhere, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport Michael Matheson was now opposing the bill, and Mr Clarke was now seeking renewed support at both SBC and MSP level. Sec to circulate the e-mail.]*
- Sec**
- i. **Village Clean-up.** Chair reported that the clean-up had been carried out on 13 Apr. 13 Adults and 2 children had participated, helped by the Justice Team. The quantity of litter collected had been less than last year, due to the smaller number of participants. Chair expressed her thanks to all who took part.
- j. **Jedward Terrace Planter (Item 24g).** Sec to ask Cllr Marshall to pursue and report at the next meeting.
- Sec  
Marshall**
- k. **Community Shed (Item 24i).** SBC had apologised for the delay in addressing this matter due to a change in personnel. On-going.
6. **Treasurer’s Report & Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer’s report is attached.
7. **Correspondence.**
- a. **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.** “Pageantmaster” were promoting a nation-wide event to celebrate the anniversary on 8 – 10 May 2019. It was agreed that Chair would register the D&DCC’s interest in participating.
- Chair**
8. **Planning Applications.** None received
9. **Small Grant Scheme.** No new applications.
10. **Traffic Speeding.** Discussed at Item 5h above.
11. **Relationship with the Feuars.** CC Clew expressed the view that there was considerable confusion over the respective roles of the D&DCC and the Feuars, and suggested there may be advantage in amalgamating the two. Sec pointed out that the CC was established as part of the Scottish local government

architecture, and the Feuars was a privately established charitable institution, and the two could therefore not legally be brought together.

A discussion ensued and Mr Gordie Campbell, Chair of the Feuars, voiced the need for clarification of the responsibilities and activities of each organisation, and the possibility of greater co-ordination or co-operation on joint interests. It was agreed that such effort would be to the benefit of the community and the matter would be revisited.

Sec

12. No Item 12.

13. **First Aid Training.** Chair reported that two training sessions had been held and a total of 16 trainees had attended.

14. **Pines Burn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.** Sec reported that he, Chair and CCs Nicol and Rennie attended a second Hawick CC (HCC) meeting on 8 April to seek clarity on their position regarding the benefit fund. It was apparent that HCC intended to table a counter proposal to the one already adopted and agreed by ALL the participating CC's, **including HCC**, in Dec 18. D&DCC saw no reason for this action and agreed with the previously noted proposal that the fund be allocated on an equal share basis, albeit with Hobkirk CC receiving a double share due to their proximity to the planned installation.

Sec proposed that, in keeping with the other participating CC's, D&DCC adopt the following motions:

a. **Firstly:** D&DCC reiterates its previously minuted decisions on the Pines Burn Community Benefit Fund, namely: to support equal shares in the Community Benefit Fund for the 7 participating CC's, albeit with a double share for Hobkirk CC; and to participate in the SCIO.

Motion seconded by CC Passmore. **Agreed unanimously.**

b. **Secondly:** D&DCC reiterates that, in the event of the failure of the above agreement to be implemented, D&DCC supports the developer's default position, which would provide equal allocations to all seven participating Community Councils. D&DCC was not prepared to negotiate further outside those parameters.

Motion seconded by CC Nicol. **Agreed unanimously.**

**Way Ahead.** Paperwork for the SCIO and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) was now with the EnergieKontor (EK) legal team for comment. This would be circulated to all CCs for formal approval once agreed. It was hoped that any counter-proposal by Hawick CC would also be widely circulated for comment by participating CCs. EK had confirmed the timing as follows: all paperwork to be circulated by 17 May 19, with feedback through Barbara Elborn (Newcastleton CC) and Philip Kerr (Southdean CC) by 31 May 19. This would enable final proposals to be adopted by all and signed by end June.

**Additional Comment:** Given that the developers had reiterated their position of awarding funds based on broad agreement by the CC's, the attempt by HCC to disrupt this agreement was seen as causing unnecessary friction and delay. Much positivity had come about as a result of the collaborative working, and HCC's intention to renege on their earlier decision was seen as a major barrier to inter-community harmony and collaborative working. D&DCC hoped that, in their decisions, HCC would reflect the will of their own community, widely voiced at their 8 April meeting in support of the share agreement and the SCIO

scheme. It was not D&DCC's intention to meet with HCC or to try to influence the outcome any further.

Sec would circulate the record of the discussion on this item to the other participant CCs.

Sec

15. **A.O.B.**

- a. **Playpark Official Opening.** Yet to be arranged.
- b. **SBCCN Meeting.** CCs Nicol and Passmore had attended. The future SBC budget had been discussed and was under deliberation. The SBCCN AGM was set for 22 May 19 at "6pm for 7pm".
- c. **Teviotdale and Liddesdale Area Partnership.** CC Nicol had attended and reported on several items discussed:
  - (1) SBC were reviewing its regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol in public places.
  - (2) The draft Teviotdale and Liddesdale Locality Fund: concern was expressed at the lack of emphasis on rural communities in the draft.
  - (3) A review of Community Councils was being undertaken by SBC. Concern was expressed that currently it was proposed that only one CC representative from each AREA would participate in the review, which was felt to be wholly inadequate.
  - (4) Voting on the Locality Bid Fund was scheduled in June. Members of the public needed to register to vote, either by post or on-line.
  - (5) Borders E-Car Club. SBC had established an electric car rental club. Details were available on-line.
- d. **Facebook Page.** CC Rennie proposed that the CC establish a Facebook page. Following some discussion, it was decided to revisit the idea at a later date.
- e. **Staffless Libraries.** Cllr Ramage reported her concern over the loss of librarians and the establishment of "staffless libraries" in the Borders, as an economy measure by SBC. She encouraged all to express their disquiet at the idea.
- f. **Decriminalisation of Parking Offences.** Cllr Ramage updated the meeting on the on-going process and its ramifications.
- g. **Cemetery Sign.** Cllr Richards had established that the sign had been manufactured and was awaiting installation – no date available.
- h. **Minto Approach Road.** CC Robinson reported that a large quantity of hedge/tree trimmings had been dumped into the drainage ditch beside the road approaching Minto Golf Club from the Denholm-Ancrum road, and this could present a hazard to pedestrians. Cllr Ramage would report to SBC.
- i. **Community Engagement Meeting.** CC Clew would be attending the next meeting on 10 May 18 at St Boswells, to be hosted by John Lamont MP, in pursuit of better broadband provision in the area.
- j. **Flooding at Eastgate.** Mr George Pilch enquired whether any progress was being made regarding the previously reported flood risk in the Eastgate area of the village. No update was available.

Chair

Ramage

Clew

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be held on Wed 15 May 19.  
Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

21 Apr 19

Attachments:

1. Police Report
2. Treasurer's Report

**Membership of D&DCC:**

Mrs G Crew (Chair)  
Mr S Clew  
Mrs C Nicol  
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)  
Ms G Rennie  
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)  
Mrs S Robinson (Vice Chair)  
Mrs J Simmons

**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)