

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017

**Present:**

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor R Armstrong	
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	

**In attendance:**

Six Members of the public

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CC S Passmore, Cllrs N Richards and C Ramage, PC A Patterson (Police Scotland).	
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.	<b>All</b>
3.	<b>Police Report.</b> PC Patterson's report was awaited.	
4.	<b>Birneyknowe Windfarm.</b> Cliff Griffiths of Hobkirk CC had offered to attend and update the meeting on the situation re Birneyknowe windfarm; however, he was otherwise engaged and Anna Dickson had agreed to present his report, as follows (summarised):  In view of the objections raised by SBC, the Section 36 application was now to be referred to a Public Inquiry (PI), and Preliminary Engagement Meeting (PEM) would be announced by the DPEA in due course. This was unlikely to be held before 2018. Interested parties would have 3 weeks to respond to an invitation to attend.  Hobkirk CC taken a lead on the matter and it was likely that a "Birneyknowe Action Group would be formed; Cliff Griffiths was seeking support and if possible participation in the PI from all affected CCs.  Sec raised the matter of costs arising from the engagement of various experts to present the opposing case, and whether members could be responsible. The consensus was that D&DCC could not be liable for such costs, although individual members may wish to contribute towards such costs.  <b>Decision.</b> Following discussion, it was agreed that D&DCC would support the action group and would provide representative(s) to the PI meetings. Details would be decided when the PEM was announced.	
5.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 May 17).</b> The Minutes were proposed by CC Clew, seconded by CC Nicol. <b>Approved.</b>	

6. **Matters Arising.**

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| a. | <b>Denholm Cemetery Kissing Gate.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that a site visit had taken place. Prices were now being sought to have it repaired and the entire gates and adjacent fencing to the Cemetery painted, as part of a small scheme. On-going.                             | <b>Marshall</b> |
| b. | <b>River Teviot Banking.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that investigations were continuing.   | <b>Marshall</b> |
| c. | <b>First Aid Training.</b> Chair had arranged for a training session for up to 12 participants on Sunday 20 Aug 17. Those wishing to take advantage, including refresher training, to notify Chair.  | <b>All</b>      |
| d. | <b>Public Toilets.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that the new administration at SBC was re-examining the way forward.   |                 |
| e. | <b>Speed Limits.</b> A response to the invitation from Mark Ruskell MSP to participate in discussions on the proposal to reduce many village/urban speed limits to 20 mph, was required by 7 Aug 17.   | <b>Sec</b>      |
| f. | <b>Resilience Group.</b> Lynn Ferguson reported that she had not yet been able to hold a meeting, but hoped to do so by mid-late Aug. She had also asked that she be included in the distribution of weather warnings from SBC; Chair to action.                                     | <b>Chair</b>    |
| g. | <b>Road Conditions.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that The Loaning and Douglas Drive were now included in the SBC schedule of work for repairs, but a date was not yet available. Repairs to the footpath around The Green were scheduled to be completed by end Sep.                   |                 |
| h. | <b>Refuse Skip (Westgate).</b> Chair had made enquiries and had been assured that the skip would be removed shortly.   |                 |
| i. | <b>Signage.</b> Chair reported that planning permission was required for the new sign advertising the Denholm Antique Shop, and that SBC action was in hand.   |                 |
| j. | <b>Denholm in Bloom Signs.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that an apology had been given for the failure to install these, and SBC action was now in hand to rectify as requested.   |                 |
| k. | <b>Denholm May Fair.</b> Chair reported that, despite the inclement weather, the Fair had been a moderate success, and CC Nicol thanked all those who had contributed their time and effort.   |                 |
| l. | <b>Personal Alarm Charges.</b> Cllr Marshall reported that the revised rates were being reviewed at SBC.   | <b>Marshall</b> |
| m. | <b>Business Rate Increases.</b> A letter from D&DCC was still required in support of the village businesses which would suffer hardship under the new rates. This should be addressed to Mr Rout, the SBC Rates Assessor. It was noted that Discretionary Powers had been authorised |                 |

since Oct 2015, and that these should be invoked with immediate effect.  
– Sec to action.

**Sec**

n. **Access to Fatlips Castle.** Cllr Marshall had arranged to meet with the SBC Ranger service. On-going.

**Marshall**

o. **World War One Commemorations.** Denholm had been invited to participate in the “Beacons of Light” commemorations at 1900 hrs on 11 Nov 18. It had been suggested a beacon might be lit atop Ruberslaw or Minto Hill. Landowners’ permission would be required in each case. Chair would approach Mr Mitchell, Whitriggs Farm wrt Ruberslaw, and CC Armstrong would approach Mr James Manners wrt Minto Hill. A straw bail was suggested as burning material, readily transportable to the hill tops.

**Chair  
Armstrong**

7. **Treasurer’s Report.** In the absence of the Treasurer, Chair presented her report (attached). Current balance stood at £1,167.14.

Treasurer had transferred £265.05 ring-fenced for the Defibrillator Fund from the Current Account and into the Projects Account, which now stood at £1,453.07.

The SBC annual Community Path Maintenance Grant was now available, and Mr Jim Marshall had agreed to cut the grass as in previous years.

8. **Correspondence.** Three items, including:

a. **“Red Ensign Day”.** Invitation to participate on 3 Sep 17. Leaflet passed to school for consideration as the school has a flagpole.

b. **Antiques Road Show at Floors Castle.** Invitation to participate as volunteers on Thur 6 Jul 17, with a pre-programme briefing on the Wed 5 Jul 17.

**All**

c. **New Jedburgh School.** Invitation to a public meeting to consider the proposal for a new school, on 26 Jun 17 from 12 noon to 7.00 pm.

**All**

9. **Planning Applications.**

a. **17/00228/FUL.** Erection of 5 houses, land east of Craigard, Canongate.

Chair had discovered correspondence between the developer and the Planning Officer justifying the application, and suggesting amendments to address some of the issues raised. However, CCs were still concerned over a number of issues, in particular the assertion that the entrance road was satisfactory. In the event that a new application was submitted, CCs would comment accordingly.

Cllr Marshall suggested that the new Cllr Ramage should be made aware of the issues concerned. Chair to action.

**Chair**

b. **New Phone Mast - Consultation.** A site visit with the developer had been held on 21 Apr 17 and a number of CCs, Cllrs and public had attended. The developer noted some comments from concerned residents, and arranged for new visuals to be made available which would be included in their planning application.

Sec observed that, while some individuals may feel the impact of the new mast, it should be borne in mind that there was the potential for a

significant overall benefit to the whole community from improved mobile and data coverage.

- c. **Blackbird Cottage, Westgate.** CC were informed that an enforcement order had been issued by SBC on this property until correct procedures for planning and building warrants had been applied for by the owner. CC had now received a retrospective planning application for 2 replacement windows only. After discussion, CC Armstrong observed that the windows which had already been installed were wholly unsatisfactory for a property within the Denholm Conservation Area. Comments were also made about the new external plumbing, which was out of keeping with the conservation area, and it was noted that other work was also in progress.

CC Armstrong commented favourably on the new porch which had also already been erected; this was of a pleasing and very appropriate design.

Comments should be submitted by 7 Jul 17.

**Armstrong,  
Chair**

- d. **17/00857/FUL.** Erection of a new dwelling house, land northeast of Westcote Farmhouse (Plot 3). This was the third new house on the site. No comments or observations were made.

**Sec**

10. **Small Grant Scheme.** No discussion.

11. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Sec had contacted Rachel Searle-Mbullu of FS, who had agreed to meet with CC Robinson and Passmore on Monday 3 Jul 17 to explain the Longhope Rig community fund procedures, using a potential application from CC Nicol as an example. Chair and Sec would also attend if available.

**Robinson  
Passmore  
Chair, Sec**

12. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair had nothing new to report, but see Item 4.

13. **Community Storage Facility.** Sec stated that a sketch plan of the required facility, together with two estimates for construction, had been sent to SBC for consideration, but there had been no response to date. Cllr Marshall agreed to check with the SBC officers concerned for progress.

**Marshall**

14. **Additional Community Council Members.** Chair explained that following the resignation of CC members Muriel Wilson and Neil Richards (now Cllr Richards) the D&DCC was now short of members (6 full members against a permitted 10). Furthermore, no additional Co-opted members were permitted under the constitution, over those current – CCs Robinson and Clew. However, the co-opted members can stand for election as full members.

Sec reminded CCs that the tenure of the CC was now 4 years, following an amendment to the constitution, so a full CC election was not due until Feb 2019. Under these circumstances, Chair suggested that a by-election for two new full members should be held. Cllr Marshall agreed and offered to contact SBC to discuss the way forward. He also offered to act as the Returning Officer.

**Chair  
Sec  
Marshall**

#### **A.O.B**

- a. **Grass Cutting at Minto Golf Course.** CC Armstrong reported that Minto residents were enduring progressively earlier noise nuisance from grass cutting machines on the golf course, starting recently as early as 5:10 am. This was understandably causing some annoyance among residents and visitors. He had been advised that there were no environmental health

- rules precluding such activity. It was agreed that the best course of action was an informal approach to the Golf Club for some action, followed by a letter to their Committee if this proved necessary. **Armstrong**
- b. **Obsolete Trusts Funds.** Cllr Marshall advised that a recent meeting at SBC, attended by CC Robinson, had considered the way forward for a number of obsolete trust funds, including some which affected Denholm. New legislation would require these to be dissolved and their funds reallocated appropriately, by Mar 2018. Cllr Marshall would keep the CC informed of developments. **Marshall**
- c. **Borders Broadband Community Project (Item 5b).** CC Clew reported his continuing involvement with the BBCP. Significant progress was being made, with considerable funding now available and projects being put out to tender. It was envisaged that, of the 2,500 properties in the Borders area expected not to be covered by the planned SG high-speed broadband provision, some 90% should be covered by the BBCP.
- d. **Dog Fouling.** CC Clew stated that new signs to discourage dog-fouling were now ready for distribution. Mr Tait (Feuars) agreed to post these around The Green; Chair would arrange for those elsewhere in the village. From the floor, it was suggested that some notices could be posted in the pubs, for the attention of visitors. Agreed. **Mr Tait Chair**
- e. **John Leyden Monument.** Mr Douglas (public) asked if some work could be done to restore the Leyden monument on Dean Road. Cllr Marshall agreed to take this forward with SBC. **Marshall**
- f. **Borders National Park.** Mr Dickson (Minto) distributed a leaflet by the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park, and offered to arrange a presentation to the D&DCC when convenient. **Sec**
- g. **SBCCN Meeting.** Chair asked for representation at the forthcoming meeting of the SBCCN on 12 Jul 17. **All**
- Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed **19 July 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm. **All**
- Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

26 Jun 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)