

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2017

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor T Lothian	(Co-opted)
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor N Richards	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	(Co-opted)

In attendance:

PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
5 Members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC R Armstrong, Cllrs A Cranston, S Marshall and W McAteer.	
2.	Declaration of Interest. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	All
3.	Police Report. PC Patterson presented his report (attached).	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (18 Jan 17). The Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Robinson. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Community Empowerment Consultation (Item 11b). Chair and 3 CCs attended the Hawick CC meeting 13 March at Hawick Town Hall. All agreed that the proposals reflected an unwelcome devolvement of responsibilities from SG to regional councils and thence to community councils, but without adequate funding.	
b.	Borders Broadband Community Project (Item 5c). CC Clew reported his contacts with the BBCP, which was very positive regarding the future provision of high speed BB in our area. He would keep actively involved. Sec reported that the offer of a £100 donation to their funds had been much appreciated, but was no longer necessary in view of SG grants.	Clew
c.	Denholm Cemetery Kissing Gate (Item 9b). CC Armstrong had provided photos of the gate. Cllr Marshall was pursuing the matter, but also reported that Small Grant Scheme funds would not be available until the new FY allocation had been made.	Marshall
d.	Cavers Church Roadside Verge (Item 9c). Sec reported he and CC Richards had inspected the area with Cllrs Marshall and McAteer, and SBC's Fraser Dunlop. The latter opined that the cost of work requested	

would be very considerable; he would pursue, although he was not optimistic.

- e. **Waste Bins on The Green (Item 15a).** Cllr Marshall had generated a survey of bins in the village and Chair circulated a map. The consensus was that it was unlikely that any additional bins would be made available. CC Robinson suggested that the 2 bins on Westgate and Sunnyside might be “amalgamated” into one, with the spare then being relocated to the small carpark opposite the Fox & Hounds. CCs to monitor usage levels. **All**
 - f. **Pavement Opposite Jedward Terrace (Item 15e).** Cllrs Marshal and McAteer had met with Sec and Fraser Dunlop, who would be investigating.
6. **Treasurer’s Report.** Treasurer reported no change in the CC accounts. Decision: a cheque be issued to The Feuars for £12.50 with respect to “Denholm Hand Ba” funding. **Treasurer**
7. **Correspondence.** Four items, including:
- a. **Border Union Agricultural Society.** Offering bursaries for candidates to attend training courses which would benefit the community. Anyone interested should go to: www.buas.org
 - b. **Scotland Floral Gateway Competition.** Closing date for entries was 21 May 17. Consensus was for no entry from Denholm.
 - c. **Thank You.** A thank you card had been received from 1st Denholm Rainbows for the D&DCC donation of £50.00.
 - d. **SBC “Our Place Survey”.** Invitation to participate in the survey, available on the SBC website. Survey had been completed by 4 CC members and their results showed 'transport' as our main concern in our area. Completed questionnaires welcomed on line from the public as well as other CC members.
8. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **17/00228/FUL.** Erection of 5 houses, land east of Craigard, Canongate.
Chair described the planning application, which was a new submission following earlier applications for fewer houses on the site in 1997 (3 houses), 2003 (1 house) and 2008 (no details), for which outline planning permission had been granted, but no development undertaken.
The meeting was unanimous in its objections to the new application, expressing concerns over many issues, including:
 - (1) The apparent proposed over-development of the very small site.
 - (2) The site is within the Denholm conservation area, and the house fronting onto Canongate does not appear to be in keeping with the surrounding houses;
 - (3) The validity of the boundaries shown on the diagrams.

- (4) The actual ownership of land on and adjacent to the site, versus that assumed within the application.
- (5) The utility of the parking spaces portrayed, some of which appeared to be inaccessible.
- (6) The lack of space for collection of waste bins to serving the properties proposed.
- (7) The visual impact of the proposed two-storey houses on the surrounding properties, compared with the "1½" storey houses in the earlier applications.
- (8) The viability of the proposed access track for vehicles, which appeared to be a single width track, which would cause significant problems for residents within the site, and consequently to other Canongate residents.
- (9) The very serious impact on road and pedestrian safety for all the local residents resulting from the inevitable increased number of vehicles accessing Canongate via the junction with Minto Road.
- (10) The potential problems of flooding on the site, following the experience in recent years, and the viability of the existing drains.
- (11) Comments regarding the existing tress on and adjacent to the site appeared inconsistent with reality.
- (12) The possibility of reinstating the "Right of Way" footpath between Canongate and Jedward Terrace on the A698 had apparently not been considered.

The above objections were voiced both by members of the CC and members of the public in attendance, and the viability of the whole scheme was met with universal scepticism. Sec to comment to SBC.

Sec

It was noted that comments were due by Friday 17 Mar 17, but it was felt this would not allow sufficient time for the CC to present its comments and an extension should be requested. Chair to action.

Chair

It was also noted that a site meeting had been arranged by Cllr Marshall with Mr Andrew Evans of SBC Planning Office for 10:30 am Tuesday 21 Mar 17. Members of the CC and interested members of the public would attend.

All

- b. **New Phone Mast - Consultation.** An earlier application to erect a mobile phone mast on land above The Loaning and to the rear of Pinewood had been approved, but the developer had encountered problems regarding the ownership of the land identified. The developer had now launched a consultation with the public, based on a new location. This was not yet a planning application per se.

The new site was approximately 100m to the east of the original and in a field on the RHS of the track. The new mast was also of a different type,

namely a “lattice” design of 20m height. It would be used by both Vodaphone and O2 for their mobile phone services.

Residents had expressed concern over the new site regarding:

- (1) The visual impact of the mast on adjacent properties.
- (2) The safety implications of electromagnetic transmissions so close to residential properties. CC Robinson observed that such installations were required to be a minimum of 500m from schools and hospitals; if this was the case, she queried why were they permitted closer to domestic dwellings?

The CC was unanimous in its acceptance that improved mobile phone coverage was necessary, but the possibility of a location further from residential properties should be explored.

It was agreed that a site visit by the developer should be arranged, to which local residents would be invited.

Chair

9. **Small Grant Scheme.** It was noted that no schemes would be accepted until allocations for the new FY were known.

10. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Sec had received the draft Distribution Plan from FS and had emailed this to CCs Robinson and Passmore – Sec to resend.

It was agreed that, once they had studied the documents, they would advise Sec on whether a meeting with Rachel Searle-Mbullu was necessary.

**Robinson
Passmore**

11. **Wind Farms Update.**

It was agreed that D&DCC should write to Paul Wheelhouse MSP expressing the Council’s feelings on draft Supplementary Guidance on Renewable energy.

- a. **Birneyknowe.** SBC had decided NOT recommend to SG that Planning Permission be granted. While this was welcomed by D&DCC, as a S36 application, this would now be considered by SG. If refused, Banks would most likely appeal and the matter could eventually go to a Public Enquiry.
- b. **Pine Burn.** EnergieKontor’s planning application was with SBC Planning department for consideration.
- c. **Barrel Law.** As a result of the new SG planning guidance, the developer had resurrected the previously rejected application, but in a modified form and in a revise location closer to the now-operational Langhope Rig WF.
- d. **Highlee Hill.** No news
- e. **Windy Edge.** No news.

12. **Resilience Group.** CC Clew had provided an additional pallet, for which CCs expressed their thanks, and the sandbags had been moved onto it. Chair indicated that a new tarpaulin had been acquired.

13. **Community Storage Facility.** There was no news regarding the planning application which would result in the loss of the existing storage facility. However, Chair had obtained one estimate for the construction of a new brick/block built facility, details to be retained until other options had been costed.

14. **A.O.B**

- a. **Roadside Rubbish.** CC Passmore reported considerable waste had been dumped over a considerable stretch of the A698 from Denholm towards Hawick.
- b. **Denholm May Fair 20 May 17.** CC Nicol sought support from within the D&DCC for fundraising activities on The Green. **All**
- c. **Hustings.** It had been proposed to hold a hustings in preparation for the forthcoming SBC election. It was agreed that Chair would contact Mr Andrew Farquhar and ask if he would be prepared to chair same, date to be arranged. *(After note: Agreed, date to be arranged.)* **Chair**
- d. **Defibrillator.** Scottish Ambulance Service enquired whether the Denholm Church defibrillator was registered with them. All defibs in the area needed to be registered. Chair said it was not currently so registered, but she would take the necessary action. **Chair**
- e. **Fisherman's Car Park.** Cllr Marshall reported that 5 tonnes of plainings had been deposited. (Feuars to note.)

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **19 Apr 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm. **All**

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

16 Mar 17

Membership of D&DCC:

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

Information:

Mr A Cranston (Councillor, SBC)
Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)
Mr W McAteer (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)