

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2016

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	
Community Councillor N Richards	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor M Wilson	

In attendance:

Councillor A Cranston	SBC
Councillor W McAteer	SBC
PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
2 members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CCs Lothian, Armstrong, Cllr S Marshal.	
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). With regard to air weapons, he explained that while the amnesty for handing in unwanted air weapons was continuing apace, applications for permits could be made on-line from 1 Jul 16, although the associated fee had yet to be announced.	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (18 May 16). Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Richards. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Resilient Community (Item 6a). CC Nicol had written to inform the SBC office that the school was content for the storage shed on school premises, but SBC had responded by asking for photographs of the site. Nothing further had been heard. Cllr McAteer offered to pursue the matter at SBC.	McAteer
b.	HM Queen's Birthday Medal (Item 6b). The medals had been received, and Chair, CC Nicol and CC Passmore had delivered them to the school for the Head Teacher to distribute. CC Richards thanked the CC for their contribution to the cost and reported that many parents had expressed their appreciation of the effort.	
c.	Street Lights (Item 5j). One light opposite the Fox & Hounds was still unserviceable; Cllr Marshall had reported the matter to SBC, an inspection had been conducted that morning, and repairs had been scheduled.	
d.	School Buses – Obstruction. CCs reported the situation was still on-going, despite a site visit by SBC officials who had reportedly expressed a	

- view that there was not a problem. Chair, had tried to contact Philippa Gilhooly but had not heard back. Cllr McAteer offered to investigate. **McAteer**
6. d. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report. Following payments for services in respect to the Picnic on The Green, and prior to receipt of the associated grant, the main account was depleted to £140.42. The annual CC Grant and refund of Hall Hire fees from SBC were due by 30 Jun 16. There had been no further expenditure from the project account.
 7. **Correspondence.** Two items:
 - a. **Planning Appeal - Meeting.** A meeting to review the appeal against the rejection of the Planning Application 15/01552/FUL (see Minutes of 20 Jan 16, para 8a) had been rescheduled to 18 July 16 at 11:00 am.
 - b. **Boundary Commission Proposals.** Chair had written to Cllr Parker SBC protesting at the lack of concern regarding Denholm's position in his statement to the media of two weeks ago. Cllr Parker had responded on 10 Jun 16 in a most unsatisfactory and dismissive manner, and a draft rebuttal was considered. The CCs were unanimous that a response was necessary and approved a draft proposed by Sec. Chair to send. **Chair**
 8. **Planning Applications.**
 - a. **16/00413/FUL.** Erection of Mobile Phone Mast. Following receipt of the objections from the community, SBC Planning Dept would hold a meeting to consider an appeal on Monday 27 Jun 16, at which an alternative site would be considered. CC Armstrong (absent), who had taken a lead in the matter, would be attending. **Local Residents affected by this issue were encouraged to attend.** **Armstrong PUBLIC**
 - b. No other applications had been received.
 9. **Boundary Change Proposals.** The proposals were now with SG Ministers to consider. Cllr McAteer had discussed with local MSPs, and had written to the new Cabinet Secretary, Angela Constance MSP, but no material update was yet available. CCs were encouraged to write again to SG reiterating local views. **McAteer Sec, Chair**
 10. **Small Grant Scheme.**
 - a. The steps behind the school and Denholm Mill had been repaired, and Mr N Cook thanked all who had contributed to securing the excellent work done.
 - b. The damage to the replacement picnic table had been repaired; thanks to Tom Lothian and Dougie Crew.
 - c. Trees at Minto Church had been trimmed by SBC at a cost of £435.
 11. **Wind Farms Update.**
 - a. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Chair and Sec had met with FS, along with Hawick CC representatives. FS had presented a revised draft agreement to D&DCC (and separately to HCC) for consideration. Chair outlined the terms of the agreement, including recommending the choice of "Option 3"

- for the disbursement of funds. It was agreed that this should be adopted by D&DCC. Chair to respond to FS. **Chair**
- b. **Windy Edge.** Sec reported that following the rejection of the application by SBC, an appeal had been upheld by the SG Reporter. In his finding, the Reporter had dismissed every single point of objection raised, indicating that the SG policy on renewable energy was over-riding all local views. Sec expressed the opinion that, in doing so, the Reporter had set a precedent for further wind farm applications, which was deeply disturbing with regard to the future of the Borders landscape
- c. **Birneyknowe.** There were unsubstantiated reports that some of the letters submitted in support of the development were “fraudulent”. Hawick Community Council have been advised to report this to the police.
- d. **Pines Burn.** Scoping report had been published and an “open day” had been arranged for Friday 17 Jun 16. Chair and Sec would be attending. **Chair, Sec**
12. **Defibrillator: Maintenance Contract.** Chair had received a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Avril’s Trust for the maintenance of the defibrillator. Under the MOU, the Trust would undertake routine maintenance, including routine replacement of parts at no cost, other than the cost of those parts plus a £20 admin fee with each ordering. There was a requirement for additional signage, which would need to be considered by the Church authorities. It was agreed to adopt the MOU. Chair to action. **Chair**
13. **Borders National Park – Update.** Cllr Cranston reported that there had been very little support for the NP proposal at a recent meeting of the SNP Group at SBC. CCs reiterated their desire for the matter to be raised at the forthcoming SBC Full Council meeting, and Cllr Cranston agreed to reflect the support of D&DCC at that meeting. It was understood a letter tabling the matter had to be submitted by Monday 20 Jun 16, and Cllr Cranston agreed to submit same. **Cranston**
14. **Any Other Business.**
- a. **New Housing Inspection.** Chair reported that she, CCs Nicol and Passmore had taken the opportunity to visit the new development houses on Jedward Terrace earlier in the day. They expressed surprise that the orientation of the houses in the first row appeared to have been reversed from the initial plan, resulting in a less than optimum outlook for occupants, and that the size of windows in the rear row had also been changed. There was concern that the new location of the 30 mph signs was still not satisfactory and that they should be moved further east to optimise safety on entry to the village. Cllr McAteer offered to investigate. **McAteer**
- b. **Denholm Picnic – Celebrating HM Queen’s Birthday.** Chair reported the picnic had been a great success with a considerable turn-out. She thanked those who had helped.
- c. **Resilient Community.** CC Nicol reported that despite repeated attempts to contact the appropriate SBC office, to take the project forward, she had not had any response. Cllr McAteer offered to pursue. CC Nicol proposed to call a meeting with the co-ordinator(s) to identify a site for the sand-bag store. Agreed. **Nicol**
- d. **Election Notices.** Cllr McAteer reported that the offending sign at Ashybank had now been removed. He reminded CCs that political party

notices were required to be removed within 14 days of the associated election/event.

- e. **Appreciation.** Cllr Cranston expressed his appreciation for the excellent celebratory picnic on The Green, and for the welcome afforded the Hawick Cornet and his supporters at the Denholm Ride-Out.
- f. **CC Vacancies.** Sec pointed out that there were now two vacant seats on the D&DCC and encouraged members actively to seek volunteers from the community to step up as Co-Opted Members. Members of the public present were particularly asked to consider!

All

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **20 Jul 16** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8:25 pm, with a vote of thanks to members of the public for attending.

W A B Roberts
Secretary

17 Jun 16

Membership of D&DCC:

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

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)
Hawick News