

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 2016

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor N Richards	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Sec
Community Councillor M Wilson	

In attendance:

Councillor A Cranston	SBC
Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor W McAteer	SBC
Mr Philip Kerr	Southdean CC

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CCs R Armstrong, S Passmore, PC Allan Patterson.	
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 was unable to attend. No report available.	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (13 Jul 16) Minutes were proposed by CC Crew, seconded by CC Wilson Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Resilient Community (Item 5a). Cllr McAteer reported that he had been informed that the stores were ready to be deployed, but Mr Mawson (Resilient Project) was awaiting permission for their siting. Cllr McAteer would hasten.	McAteer
b.	Street Lights (Item 5b). There was still no news on repairs.	
c.	School Buses – Obstruction (Item 5c). No development due to the school holiday period.	McAteer
d.	Denholm Village Sign (Item 10). SBC Planning Dept had written to the developers regarding responsibility for replacing the sign. A decision was awaited,	
6.	Treasurer’s Report. In the Treasurer’s absence, Chair presented her report. At 16 Aug 16, the balance stood at £1717.05, of which £296.05 was ring-fenced for the Defibrillator Fund, leaving a working balance of £1421.00. The SBC Grant, and a Special Grant for the Queen’s Birthday Party, and refund of Hall Hire fees for 2015/16 had been received. One invoice was outstanding for the new Defibrillator sign, amount £9.30.	

There had been no payments from the Projects Fund.

7. **Correspondence.** 1 items:
 - a. **Disabled Parking Spaces.** SBC notification that the agreed work would be implemented.
8. **Planning Applications.**
 - a. **16/00413/FUL.** Erection of Mobile Phone Mast. Following the outcome of the planning meeting and the serious dissatisfaction among residents, Chair had written to the contractor seeking a review of the plans but no response had been received to date. It was agreed that she should write again.
 - b. **15/01552/FUL.** Manse Field development. The application had initially been rejected (Minutes 16 Mar 16, but this had subsequently been overturned on appeal. The matter was therefore beyond the remit of D&DCC to comment further.
 - c. No new applications received.
9. **Boundary Change Proposals.** Cllr McAteer updated the meeting. Following the decision at SBC to reverse its position and to support the status quo, SBC had written Min Fitzpatrick, who had responded confirming that he would be giving full consideration to the local representations when reviewing the Commission's proposals. Implementation was scheduled for 1 May 17, so there was considerable pressure for a decision.
10. **Small Grant Scheme.** No proposals had been received.

Chair

Chair agreed to amend the agenda order, to allow a full discussion of windfarm issues.

12. **Borders National Park – Update**

Cllr Cranston reported that he had raised the matter with his local SNP group, and that there was no support there for the proposal. Sec pointed out that the CC was an apolitical forum and that the opinion of the Borders SNP group was of little interest; what the CC had sought was the level of support within SBC as a whole, not within specific interest groups.

Cllr McAteer reported that the matter had been submitted for discussion at the forthcoming full council meeting.

13. **D&DCC Vacancies.** Chair reported that there had been two enquiries from recently new residents, but no specific expressions of interest in taking up seats on the CC. Sec would check on the prominence of a relevant notice on the Denholm website.

Sec

11. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Sec reported on developments of the Langhope Rig Community Fund arrangements. He and Chair had attended a meeting of all 5 CCs due to benefit, aimed at harmonising the responses to FS's latest draft Agreement. Much progress had been made, with all agreeing on two separate funds: Fund A benefitting the 3 original CCs (Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk & Midlem;

Upperteviotdale & Borthwick Water; and Ettrick & Yarrow), and Fund B benefitting equally those three plus Hawick and Denholm CCs). A second meeting of all 5 CCs would be held shortly, and a further meeting with FS would then follow.

Mr Philip Kerr than gave a resume of the situation of each of the major windfarm applications affecting the central and southern Borders area:

- b. **Birneyknowe.** (Banks) New visual imagery was now required following proposed changes. Some consternation was expressed by members over a new flyer being distributed in the area by Banks, promoting the project, which appeared to make some unsubstantiated and wildly speculative claims of benefits forthcoming to the community.

Particular concern was expressed regarding one of the images purporting to show pupils at "Hawick Primary School"; it was believed permission from the parents of at least some of the children shown had not been sought prior to publication. Cllr McAteer agreed to raise this issue at SBC level.

- c. **Pines Burn.** (EnergieKontor) Philip Kerr expressed the view that the developer was engaging more closely with interested communities than other applicants, and he believed that this project may therefore stand a better chance of acceptance. The height of three of the turbines may be reduced in view of opinions expressed.
- d. **Windy Edge.** (Infinis) Following appeal, the planning application had been approved by the SG Reporter. However, the developer Infinis was now reportedly up for sale; the future of the project was therefore uncertain.
- e. **Wauchope East and West, Newcastleton.** Application still pending.
- f. **Highlee.** (RES) A very contentious proposal with 11 turbines at 176 metres high. Public meeting held at Southdean CC in July showed the level of public concern. Philip Kerr opined that the application appeared to have been rushed, with several poorly developed sections, and some crucial elements omitted completely.

Comments on the application were required from D&DCC by 26 Aug 16.

Chair, Sec

Chair and Sec undertook to formulate a response.

- g. **Overall.** Some of the above projects were being treated as "Section 36" applications, with the decisions being taken at SG level, while some were being handled by SBC. Sec expressed concern that there appeared be no overarching view being taken on the cumulative impact of windfarm proposals for The Borders, and Cllrs confirmed that no such work was being undertaken at SBC level.

Philip Kerr quoted from a letter from Northumbria National Park regarding the projected windfarms in the Borders, in which they expressed scathing and substantial objections.

14. **A.O.B**

- a. **Flood Protection Scheme.** A public meeting at which the Hawick Flood Protection scheme would be described in detail, was to be held at Hawick Town Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday 23 and 24 Aug, between 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. Members were encouraged to attend. Cllr McAteer would

attempt again to arrange Bill Elliot from SW to come to a D&DCC meeting, but time was now very tight before implementation of the scheme.

- b. **Denholm Flower Show.** CC Nicol asked whether a grant could be made in support of the flower show. Chair proposed a grant of £100, seconded by Sec. Agreed unanimously.

Treasurer

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **21 Sep 16** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8.25.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

18 Aug 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