

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor A Cranston	Councillor, SBC
Councillor S Marshall	Councillor, SBC
4 Members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC S Passmore, Cllr W McAteer, PC 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. Sec presented PC Patterson's report (attached). Cllr Marshall welcomed the measure to secure dog warden patrols, but warned that, with only two wardens available for the whole of the Borders, no guarantee could be given that such patrols would be forthcoming.	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (18 Jan 17). The Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Armstrong. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Offensive Odours (Item 5a). CC Armstrong reported a similar situation in Cumbria, where any transfer of material onto the roads was an offence; he was monitoring. Cllr Cranston was monitoring the local situation.	Armstrong Cranston
b.	War Memorial (Item 5b). Sec had met with Stuart Mawson and Frank Scott of SBC, who had agreed that restorative work was needed and they would progress. Funding may be from the War Memorial Trust or, if small, from within SBC funds.	
c.	Community Empowerment Consultation (Item 11b). Meeting at 7.00pm on 13 March at Hawick Town Hall – D&DCC should be represented. Sec would attend.	Sec
d.	Minto Golf Club Sign (Item 11c). CC Clew reported that planning permission was not required for the offending sign although, paradoxically, it <u>was</u> required for those signs within the Golf Club site. (It was noted that D&DCC had not been consulted regarding that planning	

application.) Discussions had continued and the GC had made some concessions to modify the sign, and CC Clew was content for the matter to rest for the time being.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of the Treasurer, Chair presented her report: no change from the previous report. However, Chair did warn that additional funds may have to be ring-fenced for the defibrillator, as recurring costs were increasing. **Treasurer**
7. **Correspondence.** Several items, including:
 - a. **Borders Broadband Community Project.** Sec briefed the meeting on a letter outlining proposals for an independent broadband scheme to provide superfast broadband to rural communities, which may not benefit from the Scottish Government sponsored scheme. The letter offered the opportunity to opt-out of their proposals, but such an opt-out would offer no advantage at this stage. CC Clew offered to act as the D&DCC point of contact for BBCP. **It was agreed that:**
 - (1) D&DCC would NOT opt out of the BBCP at this stage, and **Sec/Clew**
 - (2) We would make a donation of £100 towards the scheme's work. **Sec/Treas**
 - b. **Invitation.** Letter from Banks Renewables inviting CCs to attend a "Connect2Renewables" launch event, 1200 to 1500, Friday 24 Feb 17 at Hawick Town Hall. The invitation was met with considerable cynicism.
 - c. **SB Community Planning Partnership.** There would be meetings at Hawick Town Hall on Wed 1 Mar 17 and at Jedburgh Town Hall on Mon 13 Mar 17, both 3 to 6 pm. These were opportunities for CCs to share their views on their particular area, and on SBC planning policy. Cllr Marshall stressed the importance of this meeting and urged CCs to attend. **All**
8. **Planning Applications.** No new applications notified.
9. **Small Grant Scheme.**
 - a. **Road to the Minto War Memorial.** The road's condition was now considered to be "not unacceptable" and unlikely to attract repair funds.
 - b. **Denholm Cemetery "Kissing" Gate.** In need of repair following rot and accidental damage. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase. **Marshall Armstrong**
 - c. **Cavers Church Roadside Verge.** The verge alongside the church and cemetery was very badly eroded. Despite many requests from church elders over recent years, no action had been forthcoming from SBC. This could be a candidate for SGS funds. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase. **Marshall Sec**
10. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Sec updated the meeting. Agreement had been reached with EFS Anemoui on the draft for Fund B, for Langhope Rig community funds, and it had been signed by all parties.

Sec had discussed the way forward with Rachel Searle-Mbullu, and she had offered to complete a draft "Distribution Plan" based on their discussions. This should indicate the methodology we should adopt for project proposals. Sec was awaiting this draft and would discuss with CC Robinson when received. **Sec Robinson**

11. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Scottish Government and SBC Policy on Windfarm Developments.** Mr Nick Cook gave the meeting an extremely thorough and educative briefing on changes in SG policy (approved in 2014) and the resulting pressure on SBC to revise its responses to planning applications. These changes were based on a consultant's assessment of the topography of the Borders and its ability to absorb windfarms of various sizes, and their cumulative effects. It appeared that, as a result of these changes, the whole approach to considering planning applications for wind farms would change, with the possibility of far more developments being proposed and even approved.

The reaction of all at the meeting was one of dismay. Comments were typically that, once again, SG (and as a consequence, SBC) clearly intended to ride rough-shod over the wishes of the local population, disregarding their opposition to such developments in their area, to the considerable detriment to the local tourist industry and economy.

The SBC consultation period was open until 17 Apr 17.

It was agreed that D&DCC should write to Paul Wheelhouse MSP expressing the Council's feelings on the change of policy.

Sec/Chair

- b. **Pine Burn.** EnergieKontor had submitted their latest planning application to SBC. Sec had submitted a letter of objection from D&DCC on 7 Feb, followed by a slight amendment on 13 Feb, which had been accepted.
- c. **Birneyknowe.** Planning permission had not yet been granted. The recent survey of local views on renewable energy conducted on behalf of Banks was viewed as statistically invalid and grossly misleading.
- d. **Windy Edge.** No news.
- e. **Highlee Hill.** No news

12. **Resilience Group.** The stores had now been delivered and the storage facility fitted with a padlock. Stock included sandbags, shovels and torches without batteries. Chair offered to obtain batteries, (to be paid from CC funds). Some sandbags would have to be stored outside the shed; an additional pallet was required, which CC Clew offered to provide. A tarpaulin was also necessary to prevent deterioration.

Chair

Clew

13. **Community Storage Facility.** Further to Item 8a of the last minutes, Cllr Marshal, Chair, Sec, members of the DHS and Ms Aitken (School Janitor) had met with Andrew Graham (Estates Surveyor, SBC) to discuss the way forward. Mr Graham fully understood the need for a replacement facility and was very confident that no obstacles would be put in the way of a suitable solution. Cllr Marshall was confident funding would be made available.

It was agreed that D&DCC would seek a quote from a contractor for two options: a brick- or block-built building, or an adapted "shipping container", either to be treated appropriately to minimise visual impact. The proposed design and quote would then be submitted to SBC for their consideration.

Chair

14. **Denholm Main Street Works.** Cllr Marshall and Sec had met with Fraser Dunlop of SBC and inspected the recent resurfacing work and associated issues. The latter agreed to chase work to restore the kerbstones outside the butchers,

to raise the kerb on the opposite side where levels had been eroded, and to chase Scottish Water regarding repair of the broken manhole at Eastlea Drive.

15. **A.O.B**

- a. **Waste Bin on The Green.** It had been reported that the waste bin which had stood in the small carpark opposite the Fox & Hounds had been moved to Jedward Terrace, following the housing development there. It had been suggested that the bin on the Green opposite the church could be moved down to replace it. However, this was **not** agreed, as that bin served the children awaiting the school buses. Sec to report.

Sec

Cllr Marshall pointed out that the new housing developments in the village called into question the current distribution of waste bins. He proposed to ask SBC to conduct a survey of all the waste bins in the village, so that a more appropriate distribution could be achieved.

Marshall

- b. **Road Lining.** Chair observed that a number of road linings (white and yellow) were fading badly. Cllr Marshall would chase.

Marshall

- c. **Public Toilets.** Cllr Marshall reported that SBC had now made a decision to introduce charges for the use of public toilets in the Borders. **This was met with incredulity by the CCs.** It was questioned how the policy would be implemented and at what cost; in particular, how this would be effected at the Denholm facility. Cllr Cranston voiced the belief that the policy may, in fact, be reviewed before implementation.

- d. **Vehicle Speeding.** Several CCs voiced their concern that, despite the recent brief deployment of a police speed camera, vehicles were still entering the village without slowing down before the 30 mph restriction. Yet again, the positioning of the limit signs, and the 3-stage warning signs on the approach to Jedward Terrace, was severely criticised, and should be moved further out, so that the 30 mph sign was visible before the first bend. CCs speculated that a fatal accident would have to occur before such a change would be approved.

It was felt that a similar problem also existed at the western A698 entry, and the restriction signs there should also be moved further out.

It was requested that the flashing 30 mph sign should be recalibrated, as it activated at too low a speed and therefore lost credibility with motorists. Cllr Marshall offered to invite Russell Cram, SBC, for a site visit.

Marshall

- e. **Pavement Opposite Jedward Terrace.** CCs asked why no action had been taken regarding the requested extension of the pavement from the Croft Field entrance to the top of Cemetery Road (see 21 Sep 16 Minutes, Item 11a). Cllr McAteer had undertaken to investigate ownership of the verge, but no result was known. Sec to chase.

Sec

- f. **Rubbish on Minto Road.** Rubbish previously reported as dumped at the road side, about half way up the hill, had still not been collected. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase.

Marshall

- g. **SBCCN.** Meeting to be held on Wed 22 Mar 17 at 7.00 pm at SBC HQ. Mr Ian Turnbull of Hawick CC and SBCCN sought support for the Network, specifically someone to act as minute taker.

All

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **15 Mar 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

17 Feb 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)