

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 21 February 2018

**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:**

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
Two Members of Denholm Feuars	
One Member of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CC S Passmore, PC A Patterson.	
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 was unable to attend; Sec read out his report for Jan/Feb.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (18 Oct 17).</b> The Minutes were proposed by CC Armstrong, seconded by CC Nicol. <b>Approved.</b>	
5.	<b>Matters Arising.</b>	
a.	<b>Grant for School Staging (Item 5b).</b> Defer to next meeting.	<b>Sec</b>
b.	<b>Road Signage (Items 5c and 10b).</b> It had been agreed to seek (under the Small Grants Scheme) two signs directing visitors to the cemetery, one at the junction of Kirkside and the A698, and one at the top of the Canongate. Cllr Richards agreed to pursue.	<b>Richards</b>
c.	<b>Fire Services (Item 5d).</b> Sec apologised but he had yet to write to the local Chief of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, expressing the CC's concern at the new policy of NOT responding to 999 call when an ambulance was not available. Sec to write asap.	<b>Sec</b>
d.	<b>Bottle Ban (Item 14j).</b> The area of the bottle bank at the Fisherman's Carpark had not been cleared of refuse. Cllr Marshall agreed to pursue.	<b>Marshall</b>
e.	<b>Village Hall Flooding (Item 14k).</b> Mr George Pilch reported he had had discussions with SBC reps, and that the area had been checked before Christmas and again on 15 Jan 18. The carpark was a shared	

- responsibility with the School, who were not aware of the issue. Village Hall committee were pursuing with SBC. **(Pilch)**
- f. **Flooding at Eastgate (Item 14I).** Mr Pilch believed the issue was now under investigation.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** In the Treasurer's absence, Chair apologised that she had not prepared a detailed report, but indicated that no significant change had taken place since the last meeting.
7. **Defibrillator Costs.** Chair reported that the Defib was found "flashing", but apparently this had been sorted out by SAS through Mr Kenneth Gunn of HART Scotland. There resulted some confusion over who was responsible for maintenance of the Denholm Defib – HART Scotland or Avril's Trust. Chair to investigate with Avril's Trust, and to seek suitable labelling to instruct anyone finding a problem with the installation on who to contact. **Chair**
8. **Correspondence.** Two items only:
- a. **"Mad Monk Banujay".** See website.
- b. **Village Spring-clean.** Invitation to register for a spring-clean effort. Chair to post on Denholm website. **Chair**
9. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **18/00103/FUL.** Hassendean Station – new Annex. No comments. **Sec**
- b. **18/00106/FUL.** 12 Denholm Mill – extension to existing dwelling. No comments. **Sec**
- c. **18/00115/FUL.** 9 Ruberslaw Road, Denholm – new dwelling house on vacant plot. Sec to submit comments as follows: **Sec**
- (1) As erection of this house would lead to the completion of the Ruberslaw Road development, would SBC then adopt the road and install street lighting?
- (2) A previous application had indicated an intention to install a play park on the corner of Ruberslaw Road, but this had yet to appear. Could this be made a condition for approval of this application?
10. **Small Grant Scheme.**
- a. **Repairs to the Kissing Gate.** Reports indicated that the standard of workmanship so far was very poor and unfinished. Cllr Marshall would be meeting SBC staff tomorrow and would pursue. **Marshall**
- b. **Cemetery Signposts.** See Item 5b above.
- c. **Minto Village Pump.** CC Armstrong requested the CC consider applying for funds for the restoration of the "Village Pump" at Minto. This dated from about 1860 and was an historic item for the community. Cllr Ramage agreed to take this forward. **Ramage**

11. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** CC Robinson reported that there had been no new enquiries regarding possible grants. She asked that CC Passmore be made the principal for actions regarding FS – Sec to note.

Sec

12. **Community Storage Facility.** Cllr Marshall reported that for SBC, this matter was now “closed”. The existing facility would remain available to the village for storage. Mr Campbell stated that the Feuars would be discussing meeting future maintenance costs at their next meeting.

(Feuars)

13. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair reported the following:

a. **Birneyknowe Windfarm.** Chair had yesterday attended a meeting with Mr John Campbell, the QC representing the group of Community Councils at the forthcoming Inquiry. This would be held at Minto Golf Club, starting 5 March at 10.00 am, and was open to the public. Some points of interest were:

- (1) “Landscape and Visual Impact” was expected to take the most time and had been scheduled for 2 full days, followed by “Cultural Heritage”.
- (2) These discussions would be followed by “Hearings” including one addressing “Transportation” issues.
- (3) It was noted that the MOD had withdrawn its objections to the windfarm, following negotiations with the developer.

b. **Pines Burn.** Now in appeal.

c. **Others.** No further news.

14. **A.O.B.**

a. **Anti-Speeding Measures.** Cllr Marshall reported progress on the matter of addressing speeding through the village as follows:

- (1) “Police Speed Check Area” signs had been fabricated and would be erected at each end of the village shortly. Experience elsewhere indicated these should have a significant impact on motorists’ behaviour.
- (2) A Mobile Speed Camera unit would be scheduled to locate to Denholm in due course. Suitable hard-standings would need to be identified before this could take place.
- (3) Provision of red-textured road surfacing had now been agreed and funded.
- (4) The “Pop-Up Bobby” figure would be deployed again in the near future.
- (5) The flashing “30” sign on Jedward Terrace could not be moved due to the excessive cost involved.

b. **Pot-holes.** Cllr Marshall commented on the excessive number of pot-holes in the local roads, particularly in the village, and urged CCs and members of the public to report such holes to the Council, attaching photographs where possible.

ALL

In case of a claim for pot-hole damage to a vehicle, Cllr Marshall advised drivers should visit the SBC Contact Centre, Hawick Town Hall and provide a photo of the pot-hole concerned, and an invoice from the

repairing garage reporting the damage as “consistent with pot-hole impact”.

- c. **Street Lighting.** Cllr Ramage reported that she had made a site visit which may result in additional lighting being provided in the area between Denholm Mill and the Primary School. Cllr Ramage would continue to pursue. **Ramage**
- d. **Cross Keys Hotel Rates.** Cllr Marshall reported that despite efforts to date, the proprietors were still facing demands for excessively increased commercial rates. These could impact severely on the continued viability of the business, and this was of grave concern to the CC and to the community as a whole.
- A number of Councillors, MPs and MSPs had expressed support for the appeal against the increased charges, but to date this had been unsuccessful. A meeting was scheduled for 8 Mar 18, and Cllr Marshall would report the outcome to the next D&DCC meeting. **Marshall**
- e. **Resilience Group.**
- (1) Mrs Lynn Fergusson had apologised for the lack of a meeting of the RG Committee due to family commitments. However, she had asked that the CC approve an application for funds for a further sandbag store on the Dene Road, opposite Mr English’s property “Corrieston”. A suitable location was available.
- Chair to contact Kevin Sewell at SBC. Funding to be considered by the Langhope Rig Fund sub-committee. **Chair Passmore**
- (2) SBC had agreed to replace the broken shovels – hopefully with more suitable equipment.
- f. **Teviot & Liddesdale Locality Plan.** The inaugural meeting of the Area Partnership had been held on Tuesday evening. Voting on the proposed Localities Bid Fund was due to close on 27 Feb, so all were urged to cast their vote for the project of their choice, from the 14 bidding for funds (list attached). A ballot box was available in Denholm Village Hall. **ALL**
- For the next round of bidding, Chair proposed the establishment of an “IT Training Group”, to help those in the community who were unfamiliar with, or lacked competence in, computer-based activities. A survey should be mounted to assess the requirement and likely response to such an initiative. Chair to action. **Chair**
- g. **Health & Social Services Locality Group.** CC Nicol reported that a plan had now been drafted and would be published shortly.
- h. **KEEP CLEAR Markings.** It was reported that the “KEEP CLEAR” markings in the school carpark had deteriorated badly and should be reapplied. Cllr Ramage agreed to pursue. **Ramage**
- i. **The Loaning - Subsidence.** CC Robinson reported that the road appeared to have suffered subsidence following the work to erect the new telecoms mast. Cllr Richards agreed to investigate and pursue. **Richards**
- j. **Fly Tipping.** CC Armstrong reported frequent fly-tipping on the road approaching Minto Golf Course. He was to email Fraser Dunlop at SBC. **Armstrong**
- k. **Broadband Provision.** CC Clew reported that Borders Community Broadband (BCB) attended the Scottish Affairs Public Committee in Aberdeen earlier in the month. BCB pressed for high speed internet

access to be made available throughout the Scottish Borders area, and expressed the absolute requirement for the design to be “future proof” and not just for today.

- l. **Footpath Sinking.** Mr George Pilch reported some sinking in the footpath along the south side of Jedward Terrace. Cllr Richards agreed to pursue repairs.
- m. **Fisherman’s Carpark.** Mr Scott Tait requested that the site would benefit from more “planings” when available.
- n. **Festival Grants.** It was noted that, under the SBC Community Grants and Funding programme, a grant may be available for a “traditional local festival”. Both the CC and the Feurs Committee would be considering an appropriate application for the coming year.

**Richards**

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed **21 Mar 18** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

**All**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Will Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

23 Feb 18

Attachments:

1. Police Report
2. List of Bids for Localities Bid Fund 2017/18

**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)