

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 13th July 2016

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew
Community Councillor C Nicol
Community Councillor S Passmore
Community Councillor R Armstrong
Community Councillor T Lothian
Community Councillor M Wilson

In attendance:

Councillor A Cranston SBC
Councillor W McAteer SBC
3 members of the public

| Item | Subject/Discussion | Action |
|------|---|---------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence. CCs Roberts, Richards, Cllr S Marshal. P.C 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 due to staffing problems, however sent his report (attached). | |
| 4. | Minutes of the Last Meeting (15th June 16). Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Wilson Approved. | |
| 5. | Matters Arising. | |
| a. | Resilient Community (Item 6a). Helen Howden had taken photographs of various proposed sites for the storage units and was awaiting confirmation of actual sizes from SBC before pursuing further. | |
| b. | Street Lights (Item 5j). No confirmation had been given that the faulty light opposite the Fox & Hounds had been repaired and would be checked. | McAteer |
| c. | School Buses – Obstruction. CCs reported the situation was still on-going. Cllr McAteer offered to investigate. | McAteer |
| d. | Defibrillator (item 12) A Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with Avril's Trust. The Minister Rev Douglas Nicol also agreed to have a sign placed on the gate at the side of the Church to indicate the location of the defibrillator. | |
| 6. | Treasurer's Report. Treasurer presented her report. Payment received on 17 th June from SBC was £1452.00, including CC grant of £630.00 and payment of Queen's Birthday Party grant. Balance stood at £822.00 following payments of £673.01 in respect to the Picnic on The Green and £138.23 for medals to | |

Denholm School. £40.00 for party expenses which was not covered by the SBC grant was paid from the Projects account, leaving a balance of £1441.00.

A breakdown of all monies sent from SBC had been requested by Treasurer who had queried the amount allocated by them.

7. **Correspondence.** 6 items:

- a. Fire Service Questionnaire.
- b. Scotland Law – Future Policy.
- c. Royal Air Force Befriending Service – appeal for volunteers.
- d. Public Protection Briefing.
- e. SBC Formation of a new disabled parking bay in Ashloaning and removal of existing bay at Westgate Denholm.
- f. Flood Management Booklet – Local plan.

8. **Planning Applications.**

- a. **16/00413/FUL.** Erection of Mobile Phone Mast. Following the planning meeting where several residents voiced their concerns, the application was approved by the committee following a vote.
- b. Following lengthy discussions re the outcome, concerns were reiterated as to the Planning process not necessarily informing residents of proposals because of a change of the distance between properties and new developments. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to the developer to reiterate the feelings of the residents and highlight the disappointment that an alternative site could not at least have been considered.
- c. No other applications had been received.

9. **Boundary Change Proposals.** The proposals were now with SG Ministers to consider. CC's Crew & Roberts attended Council meeting where a new proposal was accepted to reject the proposed new boundaries and conditions, and revert to 'status quo.' However time was now very short to change SBC policy on the matter. Letters had been sent again to Jo Fitzpatrick, SG Minister responsible, from ourselves and Councillor McAteer.

10. **Small Grant Scheme.**

Following the completion of the new housing development at Jedward Terrace, the flower planter had never been replaced. It was suggested this might come under a small grant scheme project.

[After Note: Following the meeting it was noted the actual 'Denholm' sign was also missing. Cllr McAteer would investigate where it was removed to.]

McAteer

11. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Chair reported that following a discussion, Mrs Short from Hawick CC. agreed to try and collate a meeting with 2 reps from each of the 5 CC's who were beneficiaries from the monies accrued from the Langhope Rig windfarm. Date and venue tbc. Hopefully this would identify and resolve any problems and concerns within the CC's.
- b. **Windy Edge.** (Infinis) Chair reported that following the rejection of the application by SBC, an appeal had been upheld by the SG Reporter. The 9 turbines agreed were between 110 & 125 metres high. No delivery route had yet been disclosed. It was also a concern that Infinis were reported to be in talks with a Chinese company to sell off some of their Business concerns.
- c. **Birneyknowe.** (Banks) No further news had been received. However their planning application had to be amended to include the now agreed 9 turbines at Windy Edge in their Cumulative statement. It was also not clear if this amendment also included the new proposal at Pinesburn (Harwood).
- d. **Pines Burn.** (Energie Kontor) Scoping report had been published and an "open day" had been attended by Chair and Sec. A further open meeting had been held in Denholm Village Hall. Lack of clarity again over delivery routes and because of mast heights it was revealed that lighting would need to be placed on them. Comments re the scoping document would be sent in due course.
- e. **Wauchope East and West, Newcastleton.** (Partnership for Renewables) No news on these developments. PFR had just had their windfarm at Cloich approved on appeal from SG despite many objections from individuals and SBC.
- f. **Highlee.** (RES) Proving to be very contentious now that photo montages show real scale of these turbines. 11 turbines at 176 metres high. Public meeting arranged by Southdean CC for 27th July. Documents also on show at Southdean. Most too large to download onto lap top. CC comments also required within time scale, probably 1 month.

Chair, Sec

12. **Borders National Park – Update**

Cllr Cranston would be meeting his local SNP group for clarity and to gauge support. No questions had been raised at last SBC meeting as requested as no motion had been raised to discuss it. CC Armstrong gave an update on information he had received. Alison McKnight from Cairngorm NP was willing to attend a future NP meeting to share her knowledge.

**Cranston,
Armstrong**

13. **A.O.B**

- a. **D&DCC Vacancies.** Vacancies for 2 councillors were still ongoing
- b. **Flood Protection Scheme.** A roll out scheme for Denholm was not imminent or required at the moment. There were concerns of a lack of action at the local sewerage works. Cllr McAteer had been in touch with SEPA and Scottish Water (SW) and impressed upon them the urgency for remedial work to be started as soon as possible. Scottish Water plan

to reinstate and money has been set aside. Cllr McAteer offered to arrange Bill Elliot from SW to come to CC meeting.

McAteer

Mr N. Cook, speaking on behalf of Denholm Mill Residents Association, commented regarding work being done at the riverbank at Honeyburn Farm. Permission had now been granted to the farmer to re-instate the banking, and to prevent further erosion with large amounts of earth, stones and cages and residents were satisfied their properties would not be impacted by flooding in them by doing this work.

- c. **Roadside Hedging.** Concern re overhanging hedging on main Road from Jedward Terrace to top of Cemetery Road. Chair to check on ownership.

Chair

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **17th August 16** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8.15 with a vote of thanks to members of the public for attending

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