

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2019

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor G Rennie	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	Vice Chair
Community Councillor J Simmons	

In attendance:

Cllr N Richards	SBC
PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
Five Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Cllrs S Marshall, C Ramage.	
2.	Declaration of Interest. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	
3.	Police Report. PC Patterson presented his report for Apr/May (attached).	
4.	Minutes of the AGM held 17 Apr 19. The minutes were proposed by CC Robinson, seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
5.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 17 Apr 19. The minutes were proposed by CC Rennie, seconded by CC Nicol. Approved.	
6.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Minto Pump (Item 5c). Chair had secured the one estimate obtained by Rob Armstrong for work to restore the pump base, priced at £1,076.40 inc VAT. Without a second quote it was unlikely a grant could be secured. CC Clew offered to investigate an alternative plan for restoration.	Clew
b.	Traffic Speeding (Item 5h). Sec to contact Cllr Ramage and ask her to pursue the various matters regarding speed reduction measures and report to the next meeting.	Sec
c.	Jedward Terrace Planter (Item 5j). Sec to ask Cllr Marshall to pursue and report at the next meeting.	Sec
d.	Community Shed (Item 5k). Chair has received an email from Mr Hastie at SBC, who had apologised for the excessive delay in resolving the matter. This now been passed to Ms Annabel Scott who would be pursuing it. On-going.	
7.	Treasurer's Report & Foundation Scotland Update. Treasurer's reported there had been no activity on the account since the last meeting. The SBC annual grant was awaited. Treasurer had received advice from FS regarding	

eligibility of school projects for funding, and would pass this on to Cllr Richards and to Mr Gordie Campbell of the Parents' Council.

Treasurer

8. **Correspondence.** Nil received.

9. **Planning Applications.** One application received:

19/00588/FUL. Construction of 3 dwelling houses on land south of West Lodge, Minto. The application was discussed in some detail and strong objections were voiced from the CCs and from members of the public attending. These addressed the density of the proposed development, the design of the houses, parking facilities, road safety, access to school buses and the probability of future expansion of the development. Irritation was also expressed over the failure of SBC to notify the immediate neighbours of the application. Sec to lodge comments with SBC Planning Dept (copy attached) by Friday 17 May 19.

Sec

10. **Small Grant Scheme.** No new applications.

11. **Pines Burn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.** Sec reported he had forwarded an extract of the minutes of 17 Apr 19 to Newcastleton and Southdean CCs for onward distribution to fellow CCs, recording the motions agreed at that meeting. He summarised those decisions and reiterated the position of the developer to revert to a policy of "equal shares to each affected CC" in the event of Hawick CC's continuing to undermine the original agreement.

12. **Other Windfarms Update.** Nothing to report.

13. **Hawick Recycling Centre.** Chair expressed frustration felt by several residents over the recent change of opening hours, which had caused considerable inconvenience to users. Several reported unannounced closures for internal operations, and long queues waiting for the gates to open and to reach disposal points. Sec pointed out that, although the new times were published in local press and on the SBC website, better signage at the site promulgating the new times and unscheduled temporary closures would be helpful. It was felt the changes would inevitably result in an increase in illegal fly-tipping.

14. **Rural Partnership.** The matter was discussed but no decisions taken.

15. **Community Councillors' Expenses.** Chair expressed the need for CCs to be able to claim out-of-pocket expenses, properly to reflect running costs. More travelling was now called for with the advent of new bodies, such as SBCCN and Area Partnership meetings, and CCs should be reimbursed costs incurred in supporting their community. It was agreed that motor mileage would be paid at a rate of 42pence per mile. Routine expenses for stationery etc should also be reimbursed at cost. Sec to produce an appropriate Expenses Claim Form and distribute to CCs.

Sec

16. **A.O.B.**

a. **Playpark Official Opening.** Chair reported that the event had been very successful. She thanked the Denholm school children who "cut the ribbon" and Cllrs Marshall and Richards for their attendance.

b. **Fundraising Effort.** Chair reported the success of 5 year-old Lilly Wilson in raising the sum of £1,038 which she would be donating to The Prince's Trust. Chair proposed that D&DCC mark this outstanding effort with the award of a "Certificate of Achievement". Agreed unanimously. CCs Clew

**Clew
Rennie**

and Rennie offered to design and produce a suitable certificate for this and future achievements within the community.

- c. **Dog Walking.** A complaint had been received about a person walking his dog(s) in the vicinity of a badger set near the cemetery. It was felt that posting signage warning of potential issues was not within the remit of the CC. Chair had sought advice from the police and SBC but neither had indicated they would take any action. All dog walkers were advised to consult the Country Code regarding the protected status of badgers and badger sets.

- d. **Cemeteries.** Chair reported that, under its current policy, SBC staff had recently inspected Denholm cemetery and had consequently laid flat no fewer than 141 gravestones. This caused consternation amongst CCs who felt the action had been very heavy handed. SBC policy did not require, where possible, any notification of next-of-kin.

It was felt that maintenance of such cemeteries might partly be the responsibility of the community. A local memorials company had quoted £45,350 for the restoration of all 141 stones, a sum beyond the means of most CCs. However, such work might be eligible for grants under other schemes. It was agreed that the list of gravestone names be publicised through the Newsletter and the village website, to inform relatives of the deceased whose stones had been laid flat.

Chair

- e. **Denholm Dean.** Mr Campbell informed the meeting that there would be a formal handover of the deeds for the Dean from Mr Braithwaite to the Feuars on Friday 17 May at 10:00 am at Woodside Cottage near the entrance to the Dean. A community consultation on the future management of the woodland would be announced in due course.

- f. **SBCCN AGM.** The AGM was set for Wed 22 May 19 at “6pm for 7pm” at the Men’s Shed, Kelso. CCs Nicol and Passmore would be attending.

Nicol
Passmore

- g. **Benches.** The refurbishment work had started with benches on Main St.

- h. **Public Toilets.** Visitors had reported the public toilets on Westgate to be in a filthy state. Sec to ask Cllr Marshall to take up with SBC Neighbourhood Services.

Sec

- i. **Denholm May Fair.** Set for Sat 25 May. Sec to provide a BBQ unit.

Sec

- j. **Cemetery Sign.** Now installed.

- k. **Localities Bid Fund.** Cllr Richards reminded members that it was necessary to register prior to casting a vote for any project. Voting was scheduled for Sat 18 May 19.

All

- l. **Denholm Rideout Refuse Disposal.** Mr Campbell reported that in previous years, local residents had collected litter and refuse after the rideout, but SBC had then charged for its disposal - £170 in 2018. He requested that this charge should be dropped in future. Cllr Richards agreed to take the matter up with SBC.

Richards

- m. **Village Hall Car Park.** CC Rennie asked if it would be possible to designate two disabled parking bays within the carpark adjacent to the Village Hall, to cater for possible expansion of the use of the hall. Cllr Richards agreed to pursue with SBC.

Richards

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be held on Wed 19 Jun 19. Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

18 May 19

Attachments:

1. Police Report
2. D&DCC Comments on Planning Application 19/00588/FUL

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs C Nicol
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Ms G Rennie
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)
Mrs S Robinson (Vice Chair)
Mrs J Simmons

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)