

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 18th October 2017

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor R Armstrong	
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor S Robinson	

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
Three Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Cllr S Clew, Cllr W Roberts, PC A Patterson	
2.	Declaration of Interest. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. Cllr Ramage declared that, as a member of SBC Planning, she would not be able to comment on planning issues.	All
3.	Police Report. PC Patterson emailed his report for September and this was read out.	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (20 Sept 17). The Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Dean Pathways. The work was ongoing in the Dean and signs were up informing the public what was being done	
b.	Public Toilets. Cllr Ramage reported there had been no change, and that the new policy of charging for the use of public toilets within Scottish Borders would be reviewed within 12 months.	
c.	Dog Fouling. Unfortunately this topic continues to cause a problem in certain places in the village and a further notice highlighting the need to 'pick up' after their pet was given to a member of the public to display near her garden in an attempt to deter the culprit.	
d.	Road Signage. Cllr Ramage had spoken to a member at SBC Roads Dept and this was on-going.	

- e. **Litter.** Cllr N Richards had walked around the school and the surrounding area to assess the situation and removed all the litter that was there. No further action required.
 - f. **SBC Main Issue Report Workshop/Drop-in.** Cllr Nicol reported that she had attended the drop in and completed a survey that was proposed to gain further input. She noted it was the same one already completed at an earlier meeting, and was told responses had been very poor. Attendance on the day had also been low.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report (attached). Current balance stood at £1215.04.
- The Defibrillator Fund had been transferred to the Projects Account and now stood at £175.50.
- The new Community Fund started with a deposit from Foundation Scotland of £8,000.00. Following successful applications, the balance stood at £5900. Further applications were awaited.
- A separate account to hold the monies from the Langhope Rig Community Benefits Fund would be opened once the Bank had agreed a change of signatures. **Treasurer**
7. **Correspondence.** Several items, including:
- a. **Letter.** Invitation to attend The Community Council Regional Workshop in Edinburgh on 23rd November from 6.30 - 8.30 Venue tbc.
 - b. **Letter from William Brodie.** Appeal for funds towards cost of equipment for the national mountain bike championships. Grant of £50 proposed by Chair, seconded by CC Nicol. **Approved.** **Treasurer**
 - c. **Denholm Rugby Cup.** Thank you letter from the Denholm children taking part in the competition to show their appreciation at the support they were receiving.
 - d. **Letter from Avril's Trust.** A letter of appreciation for the recent donation was received and details of their future fundraising ideas.
 - e. **Traffic regulation Order.** Details of the proposals for speed limits at Jedward Terrace. It was noted that some street names were incorrectly stated on the letter and correct details would be passed on by Cllr Marshall. **Marshall**
8. **Planning Applications.** Two new applications received.
- a. **New Phone Mast.** Planning application approved. Timescales yet to be notified and confirmed.
 - b. **Craigard Canongate.** This planning application had been re submitted with several changes. Concerns remained that the views of the local residents were still not being considered. A further objection would be sent to SBC in due course. Several residents were intending to submit further objections on the grounds of increased traffic, bad access and the overdevelopment of the site. **Sec**

- c. **The Grove, Denholm.** This application consisted of several different works, including replacement of windows, modernisation of garage, replacement gutters and downpipes, and a reinstatement of the back door. It was also proposed to add a porch at the back door and an erection of a wooden summer house. As it was not clear what type of windows were proposed, a comment to SBC should include the need to consider the age of the property and the enhancement of the Conservation Area. **Sec**
9. **Small Grant Scheme.**
- a. Cllr Marshall confirmed money had been set aside for the new textured road surface at both main entrances to the village. The timing for this work was not yet known.
- b. Following further consultation, Cllr Marshall also reported speed warning signs may be erected to help in the fight to slow down motorists. Funding for this may also be considered from the Small Grant Scheme.
- c. Funding had also been confirmed to repair the Kissing gate and Cemetery gates in Denholm. However this project may need to be reviewed, following the collapse of a local business involved with the quote. **Marshall**
10. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** Notification had been received regarding several changes to the existing agreement with the current owners, and these had been agreed in principal by Chair and Secretary. New contracts would be issued in due course. The Langhope Rig Windfarm Community Fund sub-group (CCs Robinson and Passmore) had met and grants had been made to Denholm Brownies £300, and to Denholm Folk Festival £500.
- Payments to date totalled £2,100. Interest for funding had also been expressed by the Minto defib fund, Denholm School, Denholm Village Hall and Denholm Drama Group. The Resilience Group would also be applying for some funding. **Passmore
Robinson**
11. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair reported the following:
- A very successful information “drop-in” night had been hosted by D&DCC on 12th October to highlight the impact of all the windfarm proposals in the area, and to answer as many questions from the public as possible. Anonymous feedback forms were encouraged and comments ranged from size of turbines, impact on tourism, and from anger to disbelief that so many windfarms were deemed to be acceptable in such a small area. A large scale map had proved very useful in highlighting the proposals; it soon became obvious that the public was not aware of the proposed locations by windfarm names, but this was quickly clarified when the area was seen on the map.
- a. **Birneyknowe Windfarm.** Chair reported that D&DCC did wish to attend both the PEM and the Public Inquiry. The PEM was scheduled for 25 Oct 17, and the venue had controversially been arranged at Hawick Rugby Club. It was reported that the Action Group fundraising effort (to pay for legal representation) was continuing; Cliff Griffiths (Hobkirk CC) had reiterated that any local businesses which foresaw a negative economic impact of the windfarm developments should write accordingly, so comments could continue to go forward. **Chair
Secretary**

- b. **Pines Burn.** The amended planning application was expected to be submitted to SBC by 2 Nov 17.
- c. **Wauchope East & West/Newcastleton.** On-going.
- d. **Cliffhope “Community” Windfarm.** This was a new proposal, involving 46 turbines, up to 200 min height, in the Wauchope-Newcastleton area. This would be a Section 36 application, which would be dealt with directly by SG. A consultee response was required in due course. Members of the public from that area had attended the information night, as they hoped to get further information which they were currently finding sketchy from their own CC. **Chair Sec**
- e. **Barrel Law 2.** Although D&DCC are not official consultees in this project it now looked as though the traffic plan showed that most vehicles would travel via Denholm. Our response would reflect that, and also the other comments given to us relating to size, position and adverse effects on the environment. **Chair Sec**
12. **Defibrillator.** Chair reported that Mr Adams (Avril’s Trust) had offered to contact Scottish Ambulance with all the details of the defibs in the area as an update to their records. Minto residents were pricing a required cabinet for their unit, possibly with a grant from the Langhope Rig Windfarm funds.
13. **Community Storage Facility.** Cllr Ramage and Cllr Marshall reported that the situation was on-going and that hopefully the matter would be resolved soon. **Marshall Ramage**
14. **A.O.B**
- a. **Speeding.** Following a site meeting with Chair, Cllr Marshall and Vincent Fisher, the following measures were agreed **Marshall**
- (1) Two signs to be erected indicating “Police speed check area”.
 - (2) Possibility of solar powered flashing “30 mph” sign at start of Jedward Terrace;
 - (3) Buff textured surfacing to be relocated to outskirts of village;
 - (4) Red textured surfacing to be installed at Hawick end entrance to the village;
 - (5) Police speed checks to be resumed “when resources permit”.
 - (6) A request for further speed monitoring and a vehicle count was also proposed near the boundary with Jedward Terrace and Bulman Lane.
- b. **Borders National Park Proposal.** Chair reported that a hard copy of the proposal was available to interested parties unable to access a web copy.
- c. **Locality Funding.** Applications for this funding was being encouraged in the local area, although it was highlighted details were sparse and the time very limiting. It was suggested a local meeting with a member from SBC would be useful, dates to be suggested. Funding in our local area was for £78,000 and projects would be the subject to a voting procedure with required funds going to the successful candidate. **Crew**
- d. **Borders Community Broadband.** CC Clew had sent his apologies and a further update would be provided at the next meeting. **Clew**
- e. **Road Signage.** CC Nicol asked if any progress had been made regarding the lack of a sign-post for Denholm at the Ancrum Road

- junction with Minto Road. Cllr Ramage would check again with SBC Roads Dept. **Ramage**
- f. **Resilience Group.** CC Nicol reported that Mrs Lynn Fergusson and herself would be attending a meeting on 24th Oct at SBC to learn more about operations. It was agreed that costings be made for 3 additional sandbag storage facilities around the village, which could be a suitable candidate for Langhope Rig Funds. The Co-ordinator, Mrs Ferguson, would be submitting an application for consideration. She also asked that the drains in the Dean Road be checked, as autumn leaves could cause a problem. **Nicol**
- h. **Pavement.** A query had arisen regarding the formation of a pavement on the main road from the Denholm Meet to Denholm Mill. As this had been suggested some time ago and declined by SBC for various reasons, further investigation would be required. It was also noted that the path from Denholm Mill to the school was badly lit and in need of further repair. More details of ownership and responsibility for maintenance would need clarification. **Chair**
- i. **Path Maintenance.** A query had arisen regarding the maintenance of local paths and if payment had been made for this year. Treasurer confirmed they had been cut once and a payment sent.
- j. **Feuars Matters.** Chair had received two queries which she would pass on at Feuars meeting on 26th October:
- (1) Request for trees to be trimmed around Small Green.
 - (2) Permission to hold a wedding reception on the Green next year.
- Mr Gordie Campbell also indicated that lighting on the Monument at night could be considered again if changes were made to the electricity supply. This would be taken forward by the Feuars Committee.
- Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed **15 Nov 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm. **All**
- Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Gwen Crew
Chair D&DCC

30 Oct 17

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)