

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor R Armstrong	
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	

In attendance:

Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
Ms Susan Grey	SBC Rangers Dept
Five Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Cllr S Marshall.	
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 presented his report for July and August, attached.	
4.	Dean Pathways. Ms Susan Grey briefed the CC on the on-going installation of a new footbridge on Core Path 125, adjacent to the current ford near Denholm Dean path. It was hoped the installation would be completed in the next few weeks. She also highlighted the extent of the various paths and rights of way throughout the D&DCC area, and stressed their importance for visitors and residents. She made available several leaflets and booklets and urged that these be made available in local tourist outlets. She also confirmed that a new signpost directing the path to Fatlips Castle had been installed. Chair thanked Ms Grey for her contribution to the meeting.	
5.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 Jul 17). The Minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Clew. Approved.	
6.	Matters Arising. a. First Aid Training. Chair stated that the date for the training session had been changed to 17 Sep.	

- b. **D&DCC By-Election.** The election had been held as promulgated, although with only two nominees, a ballot had not been required. Co-opted members Susan Robinson and Simon Clew had therefore been duly elected to full membership of the CC.
- c. **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.
- d. **SBCCN Meeting.** CCs Passmore and Nicol had attended the meeting on 12 Jul 17. They reported a poorly attended meeting, and a very confused meeting with regard to the advent of the new "Area Locality Committees" and their impact on the SBCCN work. The SBCCN was still seeking additional CC representatives and a secretary.
7. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report (attached). Current balance stood at £1,680.21, with 3 cheques outstanding.
- 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.
- Treasurer needed to open a third account to hold the grants from the Langhope Rig Community Benefits Fund, but required the CC's approval for a change of signatures.
- Treasurer proposed the deletion of Neil Richards to be replaced by CC Susan Robinson, seconded by Sec. Agreed unanimously.**
- Treasurer**
8. **Correspondence.** Several items, including:
- a. **Hawick Archaeological Society.** Request for a contribution to cost of republishing the Roll of Honour for local war dead. Donation of £100 proposed by CC Armstrong, seconded by CC Robinson. **Approved.**
- Treasurer**
- b. **Citizens' Advice Bureau.** Invitation to their AGM in Kelso on 10 Oct 17. CC Clew will attend.
- c. **Letter from Pheobe Gale.** Appeal for funds towards cost of equipment for the national mountain bike championships. Grant of £50 proposed by Sec, seconded by CC Clew. **Approved.**
- Treasurer**
- d. **Denholm Rugby Cup.** Appeal for funds for medals to be awarded to P4/5 and P6/7 sections, at cost of £132.50. (Similar grant made in 2016.) Proposed by CC Armstrong, seconded by CC Robinson. **Approved.**
- Treasurer**
- e. **Campaign for the Extension of the Borders Railway.** Proposal to form and Action Group, and an invitation for CC to be represented. CC Armstrong would attend.
- Armstrong**
- f. **"Inside Outside Borders".** Poster promoting a multi-media exhibition highlighting issues relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of women in Scotland, Heart of Hawick, Wed 4 Oct 17.

- g. **“Depressed Cake Shop”**. Poster promoting event to raise awareness of issues concerning mental health, Volunteer Hall, Galashiels, Sat 30 Sep 17.
- h. **SBC Local Plan – Main Issues Report**. Poster advertising a “drop-in” at Hawick Heritage Hub, Tues 3 Oct 17.
- i. **Cllr S Marshall – Report**. In his absence, Cllr Marshall had sent Chair a report re on-going issues:
 - (1) **Dog Fouling**. In touch with SBC officials, but there was currently no strategy apparent, but a report was in preparation.
 - (2) **Small Grant Scheme**. Approval now for repairs to cemetery gates and fencing at a cost £2,343.
 - (3) **Speeding**. Measures agreed: (a) Two signs to be erected indicating “Police speed check area”; (b) Possibility of solar powered flashing “30 mph” sign at start of Jedward Terrace; (c) Buff textured surfacing to be relocated to outskirts of village; (d) Red textured surfacing to be installed at Hawick end entrance to the village; (e) Police speed checks to be resumed “when resources permit”.
 - (4) **Denholm Flower Show**. Congratulations and thanks to organisers of the show.
- 9. **Planning Applications**. No new applications received.
 - a. **New Phone Mast**. Planning application approved. Erection timing to be notified.
- 10. **Small Grant Scheme**. See Item 8i (2).
- 11. **Foundation Scotland (FS)**. The Langhope Rig Windfarm Community Fund sub-group, CCs Robinson and Passmore, had met on 28 Aug and grants had been made to:
 - a. Denholm Newspaper - £600.
 - b. 1st Denholm Boys’ Brigade - £200
 - c. The Land, the Light and the Locals Festival - £500

Payments to date totalled £1,300. An application for funds had also been received from Denholm Folk Club, and forms had been provided to the local Brownies and Rainbows group. Denholm Drama Group had also expressed interest in applying.
- 12. **Wind Farms Update**. Chair reported the following:
 - a. **Birneyknowe Windfarm**. Sec reported that he had informed the authorities that D&DCC did wish to attend both the PEM and the Public Inquiry. The PI was tentatively scheduled for 25 Oct 17, but a venue had yet to be identified. CC Clew reported that Cliff Griffiths had indicated the Action Group fundraising (to pay for legal representation) was going well.

He was also keen that any local businesses which foresaw a negative economic impact of the windfarm developments, to write accordingly.

- b. **Pines Burn.** The amended planning application was expected to be submitted to SBC by 2 Nov 17.
 - c. **Wachup East & West/Newcastleton.** The proposed development had been sold to EDF and was expected to offer a “partnership scheme”.
 - d. **Cliffhope “Community” Windfarm.** This was a new proposal, involving 46 turbines, up to 200 min height, in the Wachup-Newcastleton area. This would be a Section 36 application, which would be dealt with directly by SG.
13. **Defibrillator Contract.** Chair reported that Mr Adams had offered to renew his contract (through Avril’s Trust) for the maintenance of the Denholm defibrillator. He undertook to do the routine work free of charge, but a £20 fee would apply for any call-out work.

Chair proposed a donation of £50 to the Avril’s Trust, to reflect the service provided to date. Seconded by CC Nicol. **Agreed unanimously.**

Treasurer

14. **Community Storage Facility.** Cllr Ramage reported that she had enquired at SBC regarding the status of the project, to be told the associated planning application was being considered by the SBC legal department, and no comment was available.

15. **A.O.B**

- a. **Standhill Greenhouse Opening.** Chair and CC Robinson had attended the opening of the facility that afternoon, where they had met with HRH The Princess Royal, and had greatly enjoyed the occasion.
- b. **Borders National Park Proposal.** Chair reported that the Feasibility Study was now available on-line.
- c. **SBCCN.** CCs Clew, Nicol and Passmore had attended the recent meeting of the Network, which was again poorly attended and little if any progress was noted. Indeed, there seemed little understanding of the purpose of the forum.
- d. **Borders Community Broadband.** CC Clew provided a comprehensive update on the work of the BCB group. However, the future of the project was now in doubt, and a further update would be provided at the next meeting.
- e. **Road Signage.** CC Nicol pointed out that the lack of a sign-post at the Ancrum Road junction with Minto Road, to indicate the direction for Denholm, was causing confusion for visitors. Cllr Ramage offered to take this up with SBC Roads Dept.
- f. **Resilience Group.** CC Nicol reported that the RG was again up and running under the leadership of Ms Lynn Fergusson. It was agreed that the provision of additional sandbag storage facilities around the village could be a suitable candidate for Langhope Rig Funds. CC Nicol to submit an application.
- g. **Reintroduction of Lynx.** Cllr Ramage reported that the proposed reintroduction of the Lynx wildcat into the Borders area was proving highly controversial and was under review.

Ramage

Nicol

- h. **Litter.** Mr N Cook reported an unwelcome amount of litter around the boundary of the school grounds. Cllr Richards offered to take the matter up with the school parents association, noting that the school janitor was no longer in post.

Richards

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be on Wed **18 Oct 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

21 Sep 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)