

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	Treasurer
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	
Community Councillor D Ploughman	Vice-Chair
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor N Richards	SBC
2 Members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllrs S Marshall and C Ramage, CCs D Hutchings and J Somerville
2. **Request for Co-opted Members.** Chair urged members to seek volunteers from the community to stand as co-opted members of the CC, in particular from Bedrule, Minto and other areas outwith Denholm village. Chair would input request into the newsletter. **All Chair**
3. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. **All**

Sec indicated that, in view of the recent CC election, it was necessary for all members formally to declare any personal interests, to be noted for the record. Sec would circulate the appropriate paragraphs from the SBC Scheme for Community Councils to guide members as to the need for declarations, and for members to respond to him with their declarations. **Sec All**
4. **Code of Conduct.** Sec circulated a paper requiring members to sign as agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, in accordance with the SBC Scheme for Community Councils. Sec to engage absent CCs at the next meeting. **Sec**
5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 30 Nov 22.** The minutes were proposed and agreed.
6. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the 19 Oct and 30 Nov 22 Meetings..** Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the two previous meetings:
 - a. **19 Oct 22 Meeting.**
 - (1) **New Notice Board (Item 4a).** Produced but not yet installed. Cllr Ramage would pursue. **Ramage**
 - (2) **Denholm Map (Item 4c).** See Item 11b below.
 - (3) **Community Shed (Item 4d).** No progress to report.
 - (4) **Resilience Group Boxes (Item 4f).** Items had been purchased and the boxes restocked, awaiting distribution. It was agreed that boxes would be held at central locations in Denholm village, Bedrule and Minto. **Chair**
 - (5) **Minto Bench (Item 10b).** Purchase of a commemorative plaque for the Minto Bench was in hand.

- b. **30 Nov 22 Meeting.**
- (1) **Pavement Repairs (Item 5b).** No repair to the pavement near the butcher's shop had yet been done. On-going. **Marshall**
7. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report.
- There are three accounts in operation:
The main Current Account (which includes the COVID fund and the Jubilee fund);
The Project Fund Account (including some cash transactions); and
The Community Fund, reflecting grants from Foundation Scotland (FS).
Details of recent activity in these three accounts are summarised in the attached annex.
- There were no outstanding invoices.
8. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for December prior to the meeting. There were no queries. Sec reported that PC Patterson had emailed that he hope either he or a colleague would be able to attend future D&DCC meetings, and he also hoped to produce a local report.
9. **Correspondence.** Chair had circulated all recent correspondence to members. There were no issues arising.
10. Planning Applications.
- a. **22/0184/FUL.** Replacement dormer windows at Text House, Main Street. Chair pointed out that the seriously degraded windows to be replaced were at the rear of the property and were not significant in terms of the conservation area. All members agreed that the application should be supported. Sec to respond to SBC. **Sec**
- b. **22/01942/FUL.** New dwelling house NW of Westcote Farm. There were no objections. Sec to respond to SBC. **Sec**
- c. **Millmoor Rig Wind Farm - ECU Reference ECU00003426.** Chair reported that D&DCC were now consultees for this project having already submitting comments at the Scoping stage. The public were invited to attend the information meetings being held locally, and further comments would be welcome either to the CC for a submission by 13 Feb 23, or sent directly to the S.G. Energy Consent Unit by 31 Jan 23. **Chair**
11. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership, Pot A and Pot B.**
- a. **The Community of Twelve Towers of Rule.** CC Ploughman reported that an application had been made from the Campaign for a Scottish National Park for a grant of £1,000 to support their project "The Community of Twelve Towers of Rule". He asked whether the D&DCC was prepared to support their bid, and this was **agreed unanimously**. Sec to inform SBC accordingly. **Sec**
- b. **Denholm Map.** Chair stated that a quote for a second batch of maps was ready. CC Ploughman asked that a bid for Pot A funds be submitted in time for a meeting in the first week of Feb. Sec to arrange. **Sec**
12. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing.** Chair shared the outline plan for a crossing offered by SBC; it was emphasised that this was intended as an illustration of what might be possible, were a formal request for a crossing be made from the community.

- Following some discussion, it was agreed that Sec was to approach Philippa Gilhooly at SBC to see if her team would be willing to attend a second public meeting, to explore what might be possible, and the consequences of such a crossing. *[Afternote: Philippa Gilhooly is not available until mid-February.]* **Sec**
13. **Petanque on The Green.** Chair stated that the contractor had been asked for a revised to quote for the project in view of the delays. On-going. **Chair**
14. **12 Towers of Rule.** Addressed under Item 11a.
15. **Denholm Resilience Group.** CC Nicol reported that the group had lost some members for various reasons and the group urgently requires new additional members. CC Ferguson would publicise the matter in the Denholm newsletter. No call-outs had been received due to the recent snow. **Ferguson**
- CC Nicol also pointed out that new First Aid classes were needed and all CCs should renew their training. Chair to take forward. **Chair**
- CC Ferguson reported that the sand-bag stores had recently been checked and found satisfactory.
16. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall was not present, and no update was available.
17. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair gave a summary of the latest position.
18. **AOB.**
- a. **Christmas Events.** Chair expressed her own appreciation, and that of the whole community, to all those individuals and organisations who had so readily supported the various community Christmas events, either by personal involvement or financially. **Agreed unanimously.**
- b. **Signage.** Chair reported that a number of “**No Dogs Permitted**” signs at the playpark had been removed, and that the “**Pedestrians**” warning signs near the Teviot bridge had become misaligned. Cllr Richards agreed to investigate. **Richards**
- c. **Coronation Event.** Chair observed that the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III offered an opportunity for a village party on The Green, and some funding may be forthcoming in support. **Chair**
- d. **Road Gritting.** CC Ploughman reported that several back roads had not been adequately gritted and he had witnessed a serious road accident as a result. Cllr Richards reported that the SBC depot had not received adequate warning of the impending snow and were having difficulty catching up with the overall task. The meeting recognized that significant work of the SBC gritting crews, and thanked them for their efforts.
- e. **EV Charging Points.** Mr Gordie Campbell enquired how the funds made available to SBC for the assessment of the need for EV charging points had been used. No information was available. CC Ploughman reported that the work in assessing the availability and installation of EV charging points in the area was on-going.
- f. **“Place-Making”.** Mr Campbell made a plea that the CC engage with the “Place-Making” project, as this could result in benefit for the community at large. Chair would pursue. **Chair**

Date of Next Meeting. The next D&DCC meeting would be on **15th February 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

ALL

Chair closed the meeting at 8.15 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

W A B Roberts

25 Jan 23

Sec

D&DCC

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
Mrs C Nicol
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Mr D Ploughman (Vice Chair)
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)
Mr J Somerville

Information:

Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)
Mrs C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)
Mr N Richards (Councillor, SBC)
Democratic Services Team, SBC
PC A Patterson (Police Scotland)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)