

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Present:

Community Councillor D Ploughman	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
10 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs G Crew, D Hutchings, M Richardson; Cllr S Marshall, and PC Allan Patterson. Chair welcomed the members of the public in attendance.
2. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. **All**
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 18 Oct 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **Telephone Box (Item 4b).** On-going **Hutchings**
 - b. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4c).** CC Ferguson reported the project was on-going. **Ferguson**
 - c. **SBC Planning Notification Policy (Item 4e).** Cllr Richards reported that SBC had now included guidance to CCs on how to identify relevant planning applications in their revised Guidance to Community Councils. He gave the reasons for the current system were financial and a lack of personnel. Sec once again expressed his frustration that the system was unsatisfactory, but agreed to test it out. **Sec**
 - d. **Christmas Arrangements.** Santa had been consulted and his visit to the village was now planned for Wed 20 Dec 23 starting at 5.00 pm. **Sec**
 - e. **Village Hall Notice Board.** CC Ferguson reported that the VH notice board was now in place. Thanks were expressed to the SBC personnel involved.
 - f. **Rubbish Collection.** CC Ferguson reported that the rubbish which had lain by the resilience store by the VH was still there. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue. **Ramage**
5. **Police Report.** The monthly MMWR report had been received. There were no comments.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity in the three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices.

- a. **Newsletter.** Treasurer reported that Ms Adele Gourlay had produced the latest issue of the Denholm Newsletter, but had indicated this would be her last. A volunteer was now sought to take over the task. Chair expressed the CC's thanks to Ms Gourlay for her excellent work.
 - b. **Donation.** Treasurer also reported that Johnsons Oil had indicated that they wished to make a donation towards a Denholm community based activity; members were asked to identify a suitable recipient by no later than 20 Dec 23.
7. **Correspondence.** Chair had received no correspondence other than any circulated by CC Crew.
8. **Planning Applications.** Neither Chair nor Sec were aware of any new planning applications in the Denholm area.
 - a. **SBC Notification Policy.** See Item 4c above.
9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** Cllr Ramage reported that the group had met on line on 7 Nov 23; she expressed her frustration that this had not been "in person", which she felt was a far more productive approach.

She reported that NHS Borders had joined the meeting and had given a most informative presentation "Time for Change". The NHS team were holding drop-in clinics to seek views from the public on the subject, but she hoped that these would in future be more widely publicised and accessible to the public.
10. **SBC review of Financial Support to CCs.** CC Crew had circulated emails to members regarding the planned review. A significant element had been the proposed increase in the Annual Support Grant by some 10%. One item highlighted by Treasurer was the change to the SBC cover of insurance costs which, from FY 2024/25 would no longer include additional insurance cover for CC-sponsored events. Such charges would henceforth be re responsibility of the CC concerned.

There was no further discussion of details of the review.
11. **Main Street Footway.** Sec indicated that there had been no further development on the issue to date. For the public present, he explained that, following the meeting last month, the various ideas put forward for the way ahead would be sent to the appropriate SBC departments for consideration and cost estimates, and these were awaited.

Members of the public were reminded of the SG consultation on the matter of footways generally in Scotland, to be found at the link:
<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/assets-and-infrastructure/footway-parking-2023/>
12. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** In CC Hutchings' absence, Mr Gordie Campbell gave a very informative update on the formation of the Denholm Placemaking Group and its recent activity. The group were looking for representatives from all community organisations – in particular he sought a rep from Minto. He indicated that the group would be working with the assistance of a "facilitator" to be provided through SBC, and eventually with a Consultancy, again to be provided and funded by SBC.

The Placemaking Group was due to meet again on 23 Nov at 6:30 pm in the Denholm Church Hall, and subsequently on 13 Dec 23. Chair thanked Mr Campbell for his update.

13. **EV Charging Points.** Chair reported that he had met with the Scottish Power representatives on 20 Oct. They had now been provided with proof of ownership documents for the Village Hall location, and (by the Feuars) for the fisherman's carpark location. The project now awaited a further visit by the Scottish Power Team to survey and decide the grade of each charging installation, and to cost the installation for each site,

14. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Ramage indicated that the funds were still available for proposed projects for the coming year, and members were encouraged to bid appropriately.

All

15. **Wind Farms Update.**

Pines Burn. Sec reported on the (lack of) progress in transporting the second turbine blade, currently stuck in the A7 layby near Selkirk, having been the subject of vandalism during its delay there. It was forecast to move again on the coming Friday.

14. **AOB.**

- a. **Minto Speed Limit Area.** Several members of the Minto community were in attendance, specifically to seek CC support for their request for SBC to move the current speed limit signs so as to include the new and recently constructed houses in the village.

Mr Alan Reid, present, argued that the new houses, both at the southern end of the village and on the Hassendean Road end, had been constructed in accordance with the planning permission granted, but these now lay outside the existing speed limit area and were, consequently, being denied the added safety that the limit was intended to provide.

Residents also stressed their firm wish that no extension of the current street lighting be mandated as a consequence of an increase in the speed limit area. They had received advice from SBC staff that this would not be the case, but this needed to be confirmed in writing.

Mr Reid stated he intended to consult with more members of the Minto community to confirm their support for the issue, and would contact the CC again in due course. The CC in general supported the proposal, but would await confirmation from Mr Reid before approaching SBC.

- b. **Leaf Clearing.** CC Nicol asked whether SBC were undertaking leaf-clearing in view of the current build-up of leaves in the roads. Cllr Ramage undertook to discuss with officers.

Ramage

- c. **Thanks.** On behalf on CC Crew and the whole CC, Chair expressed the his thanks: to Jane and Kevin Currie for their support by maintaining the Denholm Village Facebook website; to George Lothian for his help with the various defibrillators in the area; and to the three SBC Councillors for their continued and invaluable support throughout the year.

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **17 January 2024** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Chair closed the meeting at 8.05 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

ALL

W A B Roberts
Sec
D&DCC

17 Nov 23

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)
Mrs M Richardson
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)

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)
Mrs J Currie (Denholm Facebook)