

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor N Richards	SBC
3 members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC D Hutchings, Councillors S Marshall, C Ramage	
2.	Declaration of Interests. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. Code of Conduct. Chair also asked that all members restate their agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors, as published under SBC Schedule 3. All members so agreed , (including CC Hutchings previously by phone).	All
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 17 Apr 24. The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Ploughman. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:	
a.	Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4a). Funded and delivered and now awaiting installation – hopefully over the coming week.	Ferguson
b.	Denholm Church Clock (Item 4b). Foundation Scotland have approved the cost of upgrading & modernising the clock mechanism (which was the cause of the problems) and maintenance costs will be reviewed in the future. The Church has paid for a service to be done.	
c.	Litter Pick (Item 4c). Chair reported the event held on 11 May had been very successful and that, pleasingly, very little litter had been found. The Chair thanked all the volunteers who had attended and Hawick CC for the loan of their additional litter pickers. The CCs also expressed their thanks to Mrs Trish Witten of Lower Hallowdean, Cavers, for her efforts in routinely patrolling the roads of the area and collecting litter found. Her contribution was greatly appreciated.	Sec
d.	Village Planter (Item 4e). Cllr Ramage had raised the issue with SBC but no progress to report to date.	Ramage
e.	Street Light (Item 4f). Cllr Ramage had reported the problem again, but still no progress.	Ramage
f.	D&DCC Membership (Item 10). See Item 5 below.	

- g. **Placemaking (Item 11).** See Item 11 below.
 - h. **EV Charging Points (Item 12).** See Item 12 below.
 - i. **Main Street Footway (Item 15c).** Cllr Ramage had received a response from SBC Roads indicating that sums had been provisionally allocated for repairs to the footway, but questions remained over the issue of parking on the footway, and consequently over the specification for the potential works. The position thus remained unclear.
 - j. **Future of the Feuars Council (Item 15a).** Chair apologised that she had not read out a statement regarding the issue at the last meeting of the CC, but she had distributed the statement to all members. The situation had now moved on significantly and the first meeting of the new Feuars Council was due the next day, Thursday 16 May 24.
5. **D&DCC AGM 2024.** Sec apologised for failing to schedule the AGM earlier in the year, but it was agreed that this would now be held at the start of the next CC meeting on 19 Jun 24.
- The matter of recruiting an additional Co-opted member was again discussed. It was decided that, as two co-opted members had resigned in recent months, Mr Simon Clew would be invited to join the CC as a co-opted member at the AGM.
6. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for January to members, who again expressed their concern at the high rate of Anti-Social Behaviour.
7. **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.
- a. An FS grant of £2,188 for the Dean walk signs had been approved, subject to planning permission, and the required logo had been provided.
 - b. An FS grant of £1,764 for the village hall defibrillator would be paid shortly.
 - c. An FS grant of £2,901 had been approved for Escape Youth Services for the Denholm Youth Club.
 - d. Funding for repairs to the church clock was still to be approved..
 - e. Treasurer would be submitting a bill for printer ink.
8. **Correspondence.** Chair had distributed received correspondence. She highlighted the planned “Review of SBC Non-Financial Support for Community Councils”. Volunteers were sought from various “locations” and CCs across the Borders, but none were forthcoming from members.
9. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **24/00537/FUL** Ashybank House – Erection of boundary wall. No objections were raised. Sec to respond to SBC accordingly.
10. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** Nothing to report.
11. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** In CC Hutchings absence, Mr Gordie Campbell reported that the sub-committee had lost two members, leaving just three. He reported that the consultation period was being extended in the hope of receiving more responses to the survey than hitherto, and it was hoped to engage a Consultant shortly to help move to the next stage.

Chair

Sec

Hutchings

12. **EV Charging Points.** On the question of ownership of the small carpark by The Green, Mr Scott Tait (present) informed the meeting that documents showed this had originally been set up by Roxburgh County Council in 1930. Its shape and size had changed due to the widening of the A698 roadway.

In view of the ongoing uncertainty over ownership, and the impact of the recent demise of the Feuars Council, CC Ploughman had asked SP if efforts could be concentrated on the proposed Village Hall carpark installation, and SP had responded positively. A survey had now to be arranged.

Ploughman

CC Ploughman reported a debate at the SG on 9 May, which resulted in support for a trial by BT to convert redundant telephone network cabinets into EV charging pints. One had already been converted at Haddon in Lothians, and further trial installations were planned in Scotland and more widely in the UK.

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** No updates.

14. **Wind Farms Update.** Sec had attended the meeting of the multi-CC group at Southdean Hall on 20 Apr 24, and had agreed to represent D&DCC at further meetings. These would pursue agreements with developers, operators and government bodies regarding windfarm developments in the Borders, their impacts, and proposed community benefits. He would aim to keep members aware of proposals, and would be required to sign various agreements on behalf of the CC going forward

Sec

15. **AOB.**

a. **Police Reports.** Chair had received a suggestion that the monthly police report should be posted on the noticeboard and/or the village website. Members expressed doubts over whether they had the right to publish the reports, which were the property of the police. Chair to respond.

Chair

b. **Road Speed Signs.** Chair had been asked for advice on where a new speed-reading warning sign should best be located. It was agreed that this should be on the footway on the north side of Main Street, as far to the western end as practicable. Chair to respond.

Chair

c. **Grass Cutting.** Members thanked the SBC staff for initiating grass cutting following the wet weather. However, Gordie Campbell did point out that the grass on The Green had been cut to "Amenity" standard whereas it should be cut to "Sports ground" standard. Chair to raise with SBC.

Chair

d. **Potholes.** CC Ploughman reported that the potholes between Hassendean Burn and Hassendean Bank had been repaired, but the road from Hassendean Burn and Hassendean had become almost unusable due to the size of some potholes.

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e. **Denholm Cemetery.** Mr Scott Tait reported that some headstones had been damaged recently and that at one corner of the track, it was clear that a vehicle or vehicles were driving over part of a grave. SBC should be made aware and action taken to avoid.

Chair

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **19 June 2024** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The regular monthly meeting would be preceded by the AGM. Chair closed the meeting at 8.10 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

ALL

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

19 May 24

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)