

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCT 2024

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillors S Marshall, N Richards	SBC
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Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Councillor C Ramage, CCs L Ferguson and M Richardson,	
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 21 Aug 24. The minutes were proposed by CC Passmore and seconded by CC Ploughman. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Litter Pick (Item 4b). Sec thanked CC Clew for his help, and reported he had delivered the certificate for Mrs Trish Witton recognising her considerable efforts at litter picking. She was most appreciative.b. Village Planter (Item 4c). Cllr Marshall reported the funds for the planter(s) would available under the Small Grants Scheme in the spring.c. Public Toilets (Item 14d). Cllr Marshall reported SBC had agreed to the toilets remaining open until November.d. Dangerous Tree (Item 7e). Cllr Marshall reported the tree on The Loaning was not SBC property, and advised D&DCC should approach Eildon Housing SBHA for action.e. Main Street Road Condition (Item 4h). It was thought the damage in the road had been repaired, but CC Passmore agreed to check and report back.f. New Speed Sign (Item 14d). Cllr Marshall reported the obstructing tree was not SBC responsibility, but owned by the Feuars. Sec agreed to pass the problem to the Feuars.g. Loaning Playpark (Item 14e). Cllr Marshall reminded the meeting that £60K remained in the 2025/26 SBC budget earmarked for upgrading of the playpark. As this stood on Feuars land, CC Ferguson had earlier agreed to contact SBC to discuss documentation for the work to proceed.	Chair Treasurer Sec Ferguson
5.	Police Report. Chair apologised for the late circulation of the MMWR but would do so the following day.	Chair

6. **Treasurer’s Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.
- The meeting agreed to make donations of £500 to both the Denholm Folk Festival in Nov 24, and to the Land, the Light and the Locals in Jan 25. Also agreed were donations of £100 to the Brownies, and £25 each to the Rainbows and the Beavers. **Treasurer**
7. **Correspondence.** Chair reported a number of items of correspondence:
- a. **Festive Lighting.** SBC had issued instructions on the procedure for installing festive lighting, which could impact on the Feuars’ Christmas lights on The Green.
- (Afternote: CC Ferguson reported that Feuars had been in contact with SBC and the matter had been resolve.)*
- b. **Pathways Project.** A project to help aspiring entrepreneurs. Anyone interested go to: www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/pathways
- c. **Muirhall Energy** were hosting a consultation meeting at their Hawick offices on Wed 23 Oct 24 at 6:30pm. Chair and Sec would be attending. **Chair Sec**
- d. **Road Closures.** Chair had circulated emails notifying of upcoming road closures in the Borders.
- e. **Private Water Supplies Research.** Chair reported an email informing of a survey into the quality of private water supplies in Scotland, link: <https://forms.office.com/e/4LvZqeU64J>
- Sec would respond to report the recent total failure of the Ruberslaw supply to some Cavers residents. **Sec**
8. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **24/01059/FUL** – Alterations, Croft Cottage, Kirkside, Denholm. No objections and Sec had reported to SBC.
- b. Sec expressed his appreciation of Ms Alla Hassan’s efforts to keep him informed of recent planning applications in the Denholm area, and asked Cllr Richards to pass on his thanks. **Richards**
9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** Nothing to report.
10. **“Anti-Poverty Strategy” Consultation.** Chair explained she had been approached with regard to participating in the consultation. There was increasing concern over the need to help needy people, and indeed identifying those people who might be in need. Cllr Marshall praised the Hawick Morrisons supermarket who had been making considerable amounts of foodstuffs etc available for distribution to the needy.
- There ensued a discussion on the involvement of the organisation “Sustainable Selkirk”, and it was decided to invite the scheme lead Mr Liam Tait to talk to the CC. Cllr Marshall offered to arrange contact and Chair would invite him. **Marshall Chair**
11. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that Rev Rachel Wilson had rejoined the sub-group, and work was now proceeding following a quiet period. A meeting was planned to progress the survey work on Mon 28 Oct 24 at 6:30 pm in the Denholm Church Hall. **Hutchings**
12. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported on-going discussions with SP, and that they had now indicated that the principal problem lay with identifying

legal ownership of the Fisherman's Carpark. Hopes of a satisfactory conclusion were now fading.

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** Nothing to report.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at this point.

14. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair reported that she and Sec, together with members of the UT&BWCC, had attended a meeting at Robertson with "Invenergy". The American owned developer was planning a wind farm known as "Mid Hill" comprising up to 42 turbines with tip-heights up to 240m, northwest of the A7, between Hawick and Teviothead.

Chair described the massive impact that the development would have on the community, both during construction and eventual operation.

- 15 **AOB.**

a. **Christmas.** Chair proposed that the CC sponsor the selection boxes for distribution among the village's children. **Agreed.** Santa had yet to indicate when he would be visiting the village, but it was hoped this would be confirmed in the near future.

Chair

b. **Minto Phone Box.** CC Clew confirmed the phone box had been painted.

c. **Potholes.** CC Hutchings reported he had received a number of complaints from residents about the very poor condition of the road past Honeyburn Farm. This had been "patch-repaired" but had since deteriorated very quickly. Sec reported similar problems at the Ashybank junction. Cllr Richards agreed to report both matters to SBC for action.

Richards

d. **Dangerous Tree.** CC Ploughman reported a tree in a dangerous condition between the Denholm bridge and the Minto crossroads. A large branch presented a potential road hazard. Cllr Richards agreed to report the matter to SBC for action.

Richards

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **20 November 2024** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:15pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

ALL

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

20 Oct 24

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
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)