

DENHOLM FEUARS & HOUSEHOLDERS' COUNCIL

Meeting held in Denholm Village Hall

12 JUNE 2024

Present: Lynn Ferguson, Chair (LF), Will Roberts, Treasurer (WR) Lee Baines, Vice chair (LB) Dougie Crew (DC), Jane Currie (JC), Lisa Telford (LT) Jim Wilson (JW)

Apologies; Duncan Rollo(DR) Kenny Johnstone (KJ)

Before the public meeting commenced, a short discussion was arranged with Frances Stuart and Vicky Oswald regarding a new draft constitution and membership to a SCIO.

However, before the following matter commenced, a query was raised about the accuracy of the village map being used for Feuars' purposes. This also included a map for the Dean. No dimensions appear to be shown anywhere on the map used, and its use for future needs questioned. The query also raised the question of the details supplied for the land registration done by the previous committee last December.

New Constitution and SCIO application

Frances Stuart and Vicky Oswald have been working on a draft constitution to present to the Feuars Committee and to outline an application for the organisation to become SCIO member. Once the committee arrange the time to discuss and agree a new format, it would be presented to members for further discussion and agreement.

The drafted issues were to consider:

- a) Is a SCIO acceptable for this organisation?
- b) The level of SCIO wanted. Level 2 was probably the most suitable
- c) That a SCIO gives protection to the committee instead of individual Trustees as in the current format.
- d) An engagement with members, and a possibility to include a wider area outwith the village of Denholm in due course.
- e) Any member in a household could be a member, not as only 1 per household as at present format
- f) If agreed, new legislation would be implemented as per the new agreement regarding meetings, membership and decision making.

The proposed change of name to a SCIO would be DENHOLM VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

The suggested purposes of the organisation are:

The Denholm Village Association exists to listen, and respond positively to the views of residents of all ages and abilities, and will work to maintain and enhance the well-being and sustainability of our local Community.

- a) To administer in the best interest of all people in the community, the ownership of the property and rights gifted by Mrs. Mary Douglas Malcolm or Palmer Douglas of Cavers in a disposition and deed of gift dated 1946.
- b) To administer in the best interest of all people in the community, the ownership of the property and rights gifted by Mr. Michael Braithwaite in 2019.

- c) To promote the conservation of the physical and historic heritage of the Village.
- d) To demonstrate good stewardship by managing the green spaces in the gift of the community in a manner which promotes ecological value and enhances biodiversity while maintaining public access.
- e) To work closely with other local organisations, agencies, and funding bodies to achieve these purposes.

This is presently a draft proposal; however further information and discussion is required and agreement by members would be required in due course.

A further meeting with Ms. Fiona Benton, Lynn Ferguson, Frances Stewart and Vicky Oswald would be arranged to further discussions on the matter as soon as practicable.

With the committee now having this information to hand, and following a vote of thanks, Frances and Vicky left the meeting and public members arrived.

Present committee members continued to attend
Approx. 18 members of the public

1. WELCOME

After thanking those present for their attendance, Chair (LF) explained a slight change of order for the agenda, which was felt would be better to allow discussions.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held in Denholm Church Hall on 16th May had already been circulated. With no further comments regarding the minutes, they were proposed by (JC) and seconded by (LT). Any matters arising would be discussed later in the meeting.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

(WR) presented his report which is attached.

Some proposals to the everyday working of the bank account have already been changed and accepted by the new working committee. A move to on line banking should ensure that accounts, payments etc. are speedily dealt with.

Some questions from the floor regarding the payment of legal fees were answered by (WR). A query was asked if any approach would be made to the outgoing chair regarding a contribution to the legal fees incurred by the previous committee.

It was confirmed that a new solicitor would be appointed for the Feuars committee in due course.

(LF) reported she had arranged a meeting with Mr. Tait to collect the Feuars past documentation, papers and information, & although this was proving difficult, she would continue to try.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Rideout

(LF) thanked everyone involved for helping to make this a successful day. Beautiful weather had contributed to bringing more people to the village event. Special thanks were also given to Charlie McCrerie for his help in roping off areas and distributing the Heras fencing as requested.

(LB) reported he had drafted a feed back report and asked for further comments to be made directly to him, so any improvements or lessons could be learnt for another year. Various comments were made by attending members. Parking in residential areas continue to be a problem, with some visitors being verbally abusive when challenged re parking outside homes. 'No parking cones' placed by SBC have also been ignored as people feel entitled to park where they want.

The rubbish left by supporters on the day is also a concern with various suggestions being made to improve the situation. Despite every vehicle receiving a black bag, few visitors took their litter home. The hired skip was overflowing and thanks should be made to Mr. Caitlin for flattening the contents to allow the remaining bags and dumpy bags to go on. A suggestion was made to ask the skip supplier to supply a net to cover the skip to prevent items blowing around the area while awaiting collection.

A suggestion was also made that the ride-out could be a Tuesday instead of the Saturday, as it was noted that some rides had already changed for this year.

Legal Case against Two Hoots

(LF) gave an update following the follow up court case at Jedburgh on 6th June. (WR) & (KJ) had attended. The writ against Ms. Cranston & Ms. Scott was no longer being pursued. Following this (LF) informed members present that an email had been received from Mr. John Biggar and this was read out. She had already acknowledged this and the matter was ongoing. An enquiry was raised asking what past members the letter actually referred to supporting the contents.

A question was also raised regarding information that had been passed to Mr. Sellar after an enquiry to Mr. Biggar.

Sherriff Patterson had already offered a solution in court to draw a line under the matter and this would be discussed further by the new committee and members. It was agreed any decision must be in the best interest for the community.

Ms. Scott felt that a lot of information was in the public domain following the court cases, and some details were inaccurate.

Denholm Dean Update

(TS) reported that a Pre - Commencement meeting had been held that day with all contractors. As they were used to working together, it appeared that each stage would be properly managed to minimize disruption and promote safe conditions for the workforce. Residents have already been informed and it is hoped disruption for them will be minimal. Warning signage was already in place and would continue to be there until the job was finished. Felling should take approx. 2 weeks, with another 2 weeks to deal with clearance. A final decision regarding the brash would be made when felling is complete. The price of wood has increased slightly, so it will be hoped that a small profit might be made after costs.

Unfortunately, many of the trees have been infected through a type of Beetle, and this could affect the final value of the timber. Although it is unfortunate that the Dean will be stripped back in this way, (LT) suggested it was a way to plan better for the future. Many of our village children would have a better understanding of the reasons behind it all and possibly have a say in how it will look for future generations as this is important. A mixture of 5 native hardwood trees will be planted in due course.

The public were urged to go for a walk into the Dean for a last look before the operations start on the 17th June.

SCIO Update

Following information obtained earlier (LF) gave a brief description of the type of SCIO the Feuars Council should follow. A new updated Constitution would also be incorporated into it. Work still has to be done and members would have input into this before final agreements are reached. A query was asked regarding the continuation of the 'Denholmgreen' F&HC webpage. (JC) suggested addition information could be placed on the Denholm Village FB page, similar to updates. (ongoing (LF) & (JC))

Car Boot Sale

A date had been set for Sunday 23rd June on Denholm Green and was being advertised as widely as possible to help make the day a success. Volunteers were requested to help on the day. It was suggested that the public should also park on the Green to alleviate street congestion. All traffic should enter via the gate on the Main Street with car booters to the right and buyers to the left.

Toilets would also be open and available at the village hall. Signage would be placed with directions.

A query was made as to whether a charge should be made to charity 'car booters'.

Further dates should be arranged in due course.

AOB

1. (LF) thanked (LT) for her work in tidying up the banking at the bottle bank. She reported it would need further work as required, but hopefully would be easier to maintain in due course.
2. Some paths were overgrown by hedging and would require trimming when permitted. Some trees on the Green required trimming as they were obstructing the speeding signage on the Main Street. (ongoing LF)
3. A suggestion had been made to develop the Quoting Haugh area into a suitable recreational area, with more tree planting, seating & picnic benches. As this area can be prone to flooding, the plan would need careful consideration. (ongoing LF)
4. (LB) again reminded members about further comments for the ride-out report. He also asked about the possibilities of grants to aid ongoing costs for the event.
5. Mr. John Miller hoped that all organisations would now work together to move the village forward. It was also hoped that younger people would be encouraged to come along to share their important input.
6. Mr. Gordie Campbell requested that 2 members of the Feuars rejoin the Place making team to help move that all forward again. Questionnaires were still available for residents to have their say on what should be our local plan.

7. Mrs. Gwen Crew reported that an inspection was due to take place to ascertain the possibility again for Electric Vehicle (EV) points in the area.

This would hopefully continue as a future joint project with Denholm Community Council and all parties concerned. (Ongoing LF)

The next committee meeting was arranged for Wed. 17th July at 7pm in the Village Hall.

A vote of thanks & appreciation was made to the Chair and the committee by attending members.

Gwen Crew
17/06/24