

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DENHOLM FEUARS & HOUSEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

IN DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL – WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7PM

Present: Lee Baines (LB) (Chair), Dougie Crew (DC), Jane Currie (JC), Will Roberts (WR), Lisa Telford (LT), Jim Wilson (JW), Lynn Ferguson (LF). Muriel Wilson acting as Secretary.

Apologies: Duncan Rollo

There were 11 members of the DF&HA present.

1. Welcome

Lee Baines, who was chairing the meeting due to LF just recovering from her holiday, opened the meeting by saying it was great to see a good number of people attending. He said they were having a change in proceedings in that a Quarterly Review would be held. He thanked Muriel Wilson for taking the Minutes. Kenny Johnstone had resigned from the Committee due to personal reasons. He said anyone was welcome to join the Committee – hopefully the position of Secretary would be filled as soon as possible. He thought that the last five months working on the Committee had been fun. He asked that everyone be respectful of each other.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting - held on 26th August 2024

LB said the first point was that he had attended the last meeting but his name was not listed as being present.

Tom Sellar – there was only the A1 sign delayed. Also “Raising funds will go ahead for the Dean for 1400 broad leaf (not oak) saplings”. He also said that the Minutes should record that Public Liability insurance was now in place for all volunteers. Under AOB he had asked that the Secretary update the Constitution with the amendments made at the SGM as this had not been done yet.

John Millar said in previous minutes there was no proper motion of no confidence in old Feuars’ Committee and it was agreed to be discussed by the Board.

Subject to those corrections the Minutes were approved by Jim Wilson and seconded by Doug Crew.

3. Treasurer’s Report

WR reported that the current bank balance was £6,744.36, which was considerably less than previous months. This balance reflected payments of three bills paid for the Dean project: £185 (for SEPA), £300 for the planning application and £470 for Dean sign designs (total Dean costs £955), and several

donations sponsoring oak trees (as per the sponsorship form) for the Dean totaling £850. One invoice from the Hawick Paper was to be paid - £60. Two rent invoices had been served and paid for Plots 5 and 6, invoice for Plot 2 had yet to be paid. Late changes were receipts from car boot sale of £80, Hawick Paper payment for insert £60 and new bill for Newsletter insert £60, giving a working balance of £6,704.36.

A further signatory would be required in place of Kenny. This will be discussed by the Board.

Shirley Passmore asked who would be paying for insert in the September/October issue of the Denholm Newsletter. LF said she would check this out.

4. Quarterly Review

LB said that a Quarterly Review had been included to record what had been achieved by the Council in last few months. Some minor issues had occurred, mainly with Hawick Cornet's visit due to short time (3 weeks) the Committee had to make the arrangements. Feedback had been asked for from visitors and he had spoken with police and friends. Events which had been held included Cornet's visit, three Car Boot Sales (last one had been a rainy day but engagement between Feuars and sellers had resulted in good verbal feedback), and a Family Fun Day.

There had been increased participation at monthly meetings, errors had been made but the board were trying their best. Legal advice on SCIO had been free of charge.

He confirmed that the legal case with Two Hoots had ended.

There had also been more volunteers in Dean project.

Inclusive meetings of the Council had been held - all aspects of village included. Five months was not a long time.

EV chargers – movement had taken place, but not quite there yet.

Communication was ongoing with SBC and had spoken with local MP.

SCIO – great work had been done on that and points for consideration sent to Board members. Movement was proceeding in right direction. Tom Sellar pointed out to the Chair that he had omitted to include the biggest achievement of the Feuars which was the felling of the Sitka Spruce in the Dean.

See attached email for details for Quarterly Review Points.

Point of clarity, the Quarterly Review was concerning direct action by the new Board members and did not include any and all attached sub committees or individuals that had been continued from before the current Board creation.

5. Matters Arising and Appeals

(a) SCIO

There was much discussion on the SCIO process. The importance of giving householders clear and concise information prior to the public meeting was highlighted. LF said that the Public Meeting after the AGM would just be the start of discussions. It was agreed that the public meeting should be postponed till after the AGM so that the necessary information could perhaps be issued with the next newsletter

John Millar said he was prepared to join the Feuars Council to give assistance with this project. He thought that the Feuars must have business meetings to discuss things outwith their open meetings to which several participants agreed, that private meetings should be allowed but decisions required to be made public.

LB said there was an initial view to having everything open due to previous issues, with availability of Board members, but they were finding their way.

LF said that following a long telephone call with Morton, Fraser and McRoberts they had confirmed a fee of between £3-6k but Fiona Benton thought she could find funding for this. Tom Sellar said it was important to ask Morton Fraser what work was included in that estimate in case it did not include everything required.

John Millar asked if a reply had been received from the previous Chairman regarding the Haddon & Crowe invoice created by him regarding the Court Case - it was confirmed there had been no response.

LB reported that Denholm Primary School were planning to use the Green to host the Denholm Rugby Cup on the afternoon of Friday 25th October.

LF said it had been pointed out to her that there was damage to one of the trees which was diseased. Two trees had previously been removed. It was asked if SBC would consider replacing these trees but they would need to be inspected and SBC next examination was planned for 2025 and monies for tree planting had now expired.

LF thought the village was responsible for the trees but SBC were doing inspections as well. It was decided that the tree required to be inspected ourselves soon, as the tree was very diseased.

Appeals

Denholm Dean Community Woodland – an appeal was being made for trees being planted to be sponsored at a cost of £10/tree.

Woodland Volunteers - the next Saturday session would be held on 5th October and LT had heard that the next few sessions would see many more volunteers turn up to help. Saturday sessions were being held fortnightly from 11-1, and on Tuesdays from 10-1 .

6. AOB

LT suggested having a Halloween Competition perhaps both for children and adults. LT to approach Kym McKenzie to ask if she would be prepared to help with this.

Tom Sellar suggested that draft Minutes be issued for checking so that fewer changes were required at a full meeting and this was agreed to be discussed by the Board.

Shirley Passmore said that at the last meeting everyone had to sign their name for inclusion in Minutes, would names be required for this meeting. Following a discussion on this it was decided that names of members of the DF&HA attending meetings of the Denholm Feuars & Householders' Council would not be required to be recorded and the next time the Constitution was being reviewed the relevant section would be amended accordingly.

Gordie Campbell said that the sign on the pillar on Main Street which had a metal band round it required repairs to be carried out. Also the fence around the monument required painting which was meant to happen some time ago, it was identified as an issue that had been outstanding for 15 years. He mentioned that the grass at the Telephone Exchange hadn't been cut. LF said that Michael Lindsay usually cut this but had only cut it once this year. She would check this out.

Shirley Passmore reported that SBC had mended one section of the fence and cut the shrubs at the Play Park at the bottom of the Loaning. The remaining broken section of the fence would be repaired soon. SBC were planning to make considerable improvements to the Play Park.

Gwen Crew reminded everyone that Christmas was coming! She said that at the next meeting of Denholm Community Council on 16th October a decision would be made as to whether Santa would be coming to Denholm this Christmas.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The AGM would be held on Wednesday 30th October at 7pm in Village Hall followed by a Public Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.