

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017

**Present:**

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor R Armstrong	
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor N Richards	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

**In attendance:**

PC J Irvine	Police Scotland
Six Members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CC S Robinson.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest.</b> Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	<b>All</b>
3.	<b>Police Report.</b> PC Irvine presented the police report prepared by PC Patterson (attached). He added that traffic speed checks were being carried out in the village. He emphasised the need for the public to remain vigilant and praised the action of some who had reported a suspicious vehicle mentioned in the report.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (15 Mar 17).</b> The Minutes were proposed by CC Richards, seconded by CC Lothian. <b>Approved.</b>	
5.	<b>Matters Arising.</b>	
a.	<b>Borders Broadband Community Project (Item 5b).</b> CC Clew reported his continuing involvement with the BBCP, which it was hoped would help with the future provision of high speed BB in our area.	
b.	<b>Denholm Cemetery Kissing Gate (Item 5c).</b> CC Armstrong enquired of progress on repairs to the gate. Cllr Marshall had been pursuing the matter, but had reported that Small Grant Scheme funds would not be available until the new FY allocation had been made. It was agreed that CC Armstrong should retrieve the fallen elements of the gate and store them for safe keeping.	<b>Armstrong</b>
c.	<b>Cavers Church Roadside Verge (Item 5d).</b> Sec reported he had received a response from Fraser Dunlop of SBC regarding the proposal to replace the verge adjacent to Cavers Churchyard with either hardcore/gravel or by extending the carriageway to include the verge. Unfortunately, neither proposal would be supported by SBC. He also reported that the current wall on the east side of the church entrance was	

already showing signs of deterioration and bulging. SBC's Property Maintenance Section had been made aware of this, as the Council had a maintenance responsibility for this wall.

- d. **Hustings (Item 14c).** The hustings had been arranged for Tuesday 25 Apr 17, starting at 7:00 pm. Mr Andrew Farquhar would be in the chair.
- e. **Defibrillators (Item 14d).** There remained confusion over the registration of the local defibs, but action now lay with Avril's Trust.

- 6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report (attached). Current balance stood at £1,479.75 with one invoice outstanding – namely the bill for the use of the village hall.

Treasurer asked for CCs agreement to transfer £265.05 ring-fenced for the Defibrillator Fund out of the Current Account and into the Projects Account.  
**Approved.**

Balance in the Projects Account stood at £983.67.

- 7. **Correspondence.** Four items, including:

- a. **Road Safety at Denholm Mill.** Chair has received a copy of a letter from residents at Denholm Mill to Cllr Stuart Marshall requesting action to ameliorate perceived road safety issues concerning the A698 and the turn-off to Denholm Mill at the western end of the village.

- b. **New SPG Guidance on Renewable Energy.** Chair had written to SBC, and to MSPs Paul Wheelhouse and John Lamont expressing concern over the new guidance. Chair had received an acknowledgement from the former, and a response from the latter expressing his support and asking if he should raise the matter with SG ministers. Chair had agreed with alacrity!

- c. **Dog Fouling.** Chair had received an email from a resident observing that there appeared to be an increasing amount of dog fouling in the area above Ashloaning, which is a popular children's play area, and in the vicinity of The Loaning and the paths around. This represented a health hazard and a considerable inconvenience to other residents and to the more responsible dog owners who cleared up after their animals. It was agreed that an increase in signage deterring dog fouling would be a useful first step to improve the situation. Chair would take forward.

**Chair**

- d. **Blackbird Cottage, Westgate (formerly Braemar Cottage).** Chair had received a letter pointing out that work being carried out at Blackbird Cottage appeared to not be in accordance with the Conservation Area regulations. Chair had forwarded this to SBC and had received a response indicating that the situation would be investigated. The work had now stopped.

- 8. **Planning Applications.**

- a. **17/00228/FUL.** Erection of 5 houses, land east of Craigard, Canongate. Sec had submitted comments on the application, as per the minutes of the 15 Mar 17 meeting. He reported that a site meeting had been

attended by Chair and himself, Mr Andrew Evans of SBC Planning Office and some members of the public. It was understood that the Planning Office would be discussing the matter with the applicant, and the views expressed would be taken into consideration.

- b. **New Phone Mast - Consultation.** Chair had arranged a site visit with the developer for 11:00 am on Friday 21 Apr 17. CCs were encouraged to attend, meeting at the top of The Loaning. It was pointed out that the new proposal included a change to a “lattice” mast, which may or may not improve the visual impact of the mast, and that it was uncertain what electronic services would eventually be supported by the mast.

All

9. **Small Grant Scheme.** It was noted that no schemes would be accepted until allocations for the new FY were known.

[CC Lothian retired from the meeting at this point.]

10. **Foundation Scotland (FS).** CC Passmore reported that she and CC Robinson had discussed the way forward, but had not yet spoken to Rachel Searle-Mbullu of FS. Sec provided a Micro Grant Application form to CC Passmore.

Robinson  
Passmore

The situation was recently confused by the news that the windfarm had now been sold by GE / Anemoi to a new owner, but it was thought the community benefit scheme would not be materially affected by the change.

11. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Birneyknowe.** As a S36 application, this was now with SG.
- b. **Pine Burn.** EnergieKontor’s planning application was with SBC Planning department for consideration.
- c. **Barrel Law.** Chair and CC Nicol had attended the Barrel Law “exhibition” which they had found most unsatisfactory and ill prepared.
- d. **Highlee Hill.** No news
- e. **Windy Edge.** No news.

12. **Resilience Group.** Chair reported that **Mrs Lynn Ferguson** had volunteered to take over as Chair of the Resilience Group, and CC Nicol would act as her deputy in that capacity. Mrs Ferguson had expressed concern over the apparent lack of a cohesive training programme from SBC for the resilience activity. The meeting expressed their grateful thanks to Mrs Ferguson for taking on the role, and wished her well.

13. **Community Storage Facility.** Chair had been advised that SBC Planning Office was awaiting the submission of estimates for the building of a new storage facility in the school carpark, before progressing the planning application from Old School House.

Chair had now obtained two such estimates and these would be forwarded to SBC for consideration.

Sec

14. **A.O.B**

- a. **First Aid Training.** Chair had been approached by the First Aid trainer pointing out that a number of FA certificates issued prior to the 2014

Walking Festival were now in need of renewal. It was agreed that funds were available for refresher training. Chair to pursue.

**Chair**

- b. **River Teviot Banking.** It was reported that the banking of the river in adjacent to the old bridge parapet had crumbled away, threatening the structural integrity of the parapet. Chair would report to SBC.

**Chair**

- a. **Walking Festival 2019.** Chair reported that Jedburgh would be hosting the 2019 Borders festival, in association with Ancrum.

- b. **Denholm May Fair on the Green 20 May 17.** CC Nicol again sought support from within the D&DCC for fundraising activities on The Green. CC Clew had agreed to run the barbecue.

**All  
Clew**

- d. **Dog Fouling.** Mr Shann reported that there was an apparent decrease in the amount of dog waste in the Deanburn woods, but expressed concern that fouling in other areas represented a danger to farm stock..

- e. **Access to Fatlips Castle.** Mrs Augusta Greenlees of Minto reported that several gates on the track leading to the castle from the Cleuchhead side, which had hitherto allowed access, were now being routinely kept locked, so discouraging visitors. In view of the large amount of public money which had been invested in the restoration of the castle over recent years, this development was viewed with concern. Mrs Greenlees had approached the landowner, but had not received a satisfactory explanation for the gate closures, and asked if the D&DCC would raise the matter with SBC Core Paths.

It was agreed that Chair would raise the matter with SBC Councillors, following the forthcoming election.

**Chair**

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed **17 May 17** at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm. Sec gave notice that he would not be attending.

**All**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

21 Apr 17

**Membership of D&DCC:**

Mrs G Crew (Chair)  
Mr R Armstrong (Vice Chair)  
Mr S Clew  
Mr T Lothian  
Mrs C Nicol  
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)  
Mr N Richards  
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)  
Mrs S Robinson

**Information:**

Mr A Cranston (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr W McAteer (Councillor, SBC)  
Democratic Services Team, SBC  
PC A Patterson (Community PC)  
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)  
Ms K Wylie (Hawick News)  
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)