

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

**Present:**

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Passmore	
Community Councillor T Lothian	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor S Robinson	

**In attendance:**

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
PC A Patterson	Police Scotland
Two Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CCs R Armstrong, S Clew &amp; Cllr C Ramage.</p> <p>Chair had apologised that she would be late arriving at the meeting, and in the absence of the Deputy Chair, she had asked Sec to chair the meeting until her arrival.</p> <p>Sec indicated he would defer certain agenda items to await Chair's arrival.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Interest.</b> Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.</p>	All
3.	<p><b>Police Report.</b> PC Patterson presented his report for Aug/Sep (attached).</p>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting (15 Aug 18).</b> The Minutes were proposed by CC Robinson, seconded by CC Nicol. <b>Approved.</b></p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising.</b></p> <p>a. <b>Shooting Incident at Minto, 10 Aug 18 (Item 4).</b> Sec stated that Chair had received a reply from Lord Minto in which he refuted the allegations against his gamekeeper. PC Patterson informed the meeting of the details he had ascertained regarding the incident, and it transpired that the CC had previously been appraised of only one side of the story; PC Patterson presented a more balanced description of the incident. It was agreed that Chair should write again to Lord Minto expressing the CC's acceptance of this version events, and to apologise for the earlier misrepresentation.</p> <p>b. <b>Community Storage Facility (Item 6a).</b> Sec had recently received a response to his email to Mr Neil Hastie at SBC, in which he indicated that, pending formal approval by SBC, a leasing arrangement was possible. The proposed rental would be £1 pa; SBC would continue to insure the premises although D&amp;DCC would be required to reimburse the premium charged; SBC Insurance Section would provide the amount of the premium. In progress.</p>	Sec, Chair

- c. **Fly Tipping (Item 6d).** There still remained a quantity of rubbish on the Minto Road. Cllr Marshall stated that action was in hand, but the fly-tipping problem was very widespread as evidenced in PC Patterson's report. The news that a culprit had been identified and charged was most welcome. Efforts to clear up such deposits were on-going.
- However, CCs noted that the incidents of fly-tipping had increased significantly since the introduction of exorbitant fees for commercial businesses wishing to dispose of rubbish at council recycling centres.
- Sec pointed out that the child's bicycle was still in the Slitrig River at the Drumlanrig Bridge in Hawick. Cllr Marshall had conveyed the matter to the Hawick Cllrs, but it seemed the problem had yet to be addressed. **Marshall**
- d. **Minto Pump (Item 12b).** CC Armstrong had provided one quote for the work to SBC, and a second was pending. Cllr Marshall asked that this be forwarded as soon as possible as officials wished to get the work started. **Armstrong**
- e. **Cemetery Signs (Item 12c).** SBC Roads Dept had provided plans for the signs and had sought comment. It was observed that, as planned, although the sign to the cemetery would be readily visible to traffic approaching from Minto, it would not be so visible for those approaching from The Green. Cllr Richards agreed to raise the matter with Roads. **Richards**
- f. **Denholm Phone Box (Item 15a).** The repainting work had been ordered.
- g. **Development at Denholm Mill – Access (Item 15 b(3)).** A Denholm Mill resident (present) reported that this matter was still in dispute. Denholm Mill Residents' Assoc were still awaiting a response from SBC Legal Dept, and would be meeting shortly to consider the way forward.
- h. **Manhole Cover, Denholm Main Street (Item 15c).** Cllr Marshall had been informed that the broken cover would be replaced "soon".
- i. **Speeding (Item 15f).** Cllr Marshall had raised the matter of installing adequate hard-standings for speed-camera vehicles, but these had yet to be provided. Until these were available, there appeared to be little that could be done to deter speeding drivers. It was agreed that D&DCC should submit a request for the entire village to be subject to a 20mph restriction for consideration at a forthcoming traffic review. **Sec**
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer presented her report, attached.
- Treasurer confirmed that she had the grant of £50 had been made to the WW1 Commemorative project. She requested that a grant of £600 be made available to the project from the Langhope Rig Community Fund, and this was **Approved**.
- Treasurer had received an application from Christine Roger of Minto for £182 to meet the cost of a replacement battery for the Minto defibrillator – **Approved**.
8. **Planning Applications.** No new planning applications had been received.
10. **Denholm Main Street Footpath.** Sec indicated that no residents had come forward with deeds showing evidence of the history of the footpath and their entitlement to park thereon. General concern was expressed that, in the event that no such evidence was forthcoming, the Council may press ahead with their plan to install bollards to prevent parking. Mr Campbell of the Feuars indicated that the next Feuars' meeting would pursue such evidence.

12. **Small Grant Scheme.**

- a. **Playpark.** Cllr Marshall indicated that SBC were seeking additional options for new equipment, within the grant of £12K which had been earmarked for the project; however time was running out and a decision would be required in the near future. It was agreed that a degree of consultation with residents would be desirable, but it had to be recognised that options would necessarily be bounded by the above grant.
- b. **Minto Pump.** See Item 5d above.

**Chair arrived and took over the chair of the meeting.**

7. **Correspondence.** Chair confirmed receipt of the reply from Lord Minto (see Item 5a above) and accepted the proposal to write again expressing regret at the position taken earlier.

9. **Battle's Over WWI Commemorations.** Chair updated the meeting on the arrangements made to date.

With regard the school children's participation, new ideas were being pursued.

The planned display of WWI memorabilia in the village hall would be limited in view of the paucity of items forthcoming, however on-going publicity would bring more items.

A minister had yet to be identified for the church services proposed, but efforts were on-going.

Cllr Marshall offered a list of possible pipers to participate at various events.

**Chair**

11. **Avril's Trust – Memorandum of Understanding.** The new MOU was agreed unanimously.

**Chair**

13. **Foundation Scotland.** CC Robinson reported no updates.

14. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Birneyknowe.** Windfarm Public Enquiry. There were no new developments.
- b. **Pines Burn.** On behalf of the community as a whole, the meeting expressed its considerable disappointment and frustration that the project had been approved on appeal. Efforts should now concentrate on Denholm being fully included in the associated community fund.
- c. **Barrel Law 2.** The project had been rejected at SBC Planning on 3 Sep 18, but it was likely that the applicants would now appeal that decision. Denholm was currently not a consultee and would therefore not be included in the associated community fund process.

15. **A.O.B.**

- a. **Denholm Toilets.** Concern was expressed that the toilets were in a poor state and it was questioned whether the maintenance schedule had been reduced. Cllr Marshall agreed to make inquiries.
- b. **Cemetery.** Chair noted that work had started on the inspection of headstones; SBC had undertaken to contact families in the event of a

**Marshall**

stone being considered unsafe. In the event that no contact was possible, headstones would be laid flat.

- c. **Street Lights.** CC's commented that a number of new street lights were burning 24/7. Cllr Marshall urged residents to inform SBC of such issues as soon as possible.
- d. **Salt Bin.** Cllr Marshall commented that the bin at the entrance to Minto Golf Club had been damaged; SBC had been informed and would be replacing the bin as soon as possible.
- e. **Mobile Phone Mast.** Chair reported that the interference previously reported had been effectively suppressed by the insertion of appropriate filters at their television installation.
- f. **Borders Riding for the Disabled (RDA).** Sec said he was seeking funding support for the Borders Group of RDA, which was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Although based at Ancrum, the group provided exceptional benefits for disabled children and adults throughout the Borders, including some from Denholm. He explained that running costs were constantly on the rise, and that additional support was needed.  
  
Cllr Marshall advised Sec to contact SBC with regard to certain "redundant" funds which might be an appropriate source.
- g. **Flower Show.** Mr Campbell expressed the thanks of the Denholm Horticultural Society for the CC grant for the 2017 Flower Show.
- h. **Monument Lighting.** Mr Campbell noted that the monument lighting had now ceased and asked that efforts be made to reinstate the lighting. Cllr Marshall agreed to pursue.

Sec

Marshall

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting would be on Wed 17 Oct 18 at Denholm Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

All

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

23 Sep 18

Attachments:

- 1. Police Report
- 2. Treasurer's Report

**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 W Roberts (Secretary)  
Mrs S Robinson

**Information:**

Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)  
Mr N Richards (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)