

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 16 August 2023

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
3 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs D Hutchings, M Richardson, and PC Allan Patterson.
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 Jun 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Ploughman and seconded by CC Ferguson. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Chair addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Board (Item 4a).** SBC workshop have the board but have yet to install it. On-going. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase. **Marshall**
 - b. **Signage (Item 4b).** SBC officers had requested details of sign locations and the reason for work. Sec to send details. On-going **Sec**
 - c. **Telephone Box (Item 4c).** On-going **Hutchings**
 - d. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4d).** CC Ferguson confirmed that the Village Hall committee did require the defibrillator, but had yet to decide whether this would be within the Hall or in a cabinet outside. She would pursue a decision with the committee. Treasurer confirmed that funds were available for the unit and for the installation. On-going. **Ferguson**
 - e. **Purchase of the Community Shed (Item 4e).** Chair understood that the sale was going through, but it was unclear what the delay was. Cllr Marshall offered to pursue with officers. **Marshall**
 - f. **Potholes (Items 4f).** Several potholes remained a problem: Village Hall car park, Minto Road near Riverside Drive, and several near the Church. On-going. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue. **Ramage**
 - g. **Meeting with Rachel Hamilton MSP (Item 7a).** The meeting was with local CCs but was cancelled by the Pines Burn officials.
 - h. **Denholm Maps (Item 7d).** Maps were now available to the public.
 - i. **Lighting (Item 17 b).** The Village Hall outside light was still not working. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue. **Ramage**

5. **Police Report.** PC Allan Paterson had sent his report (attached) as he was unable to attend. There were no comments from the members.
6. **Treasurer’s Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity in the three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices. **Passmore**
- Treasurer observed that in this financial year, the CC would be required to contribute to insurance premiums, unlike in previous years.
- Treasurer also reported that she had experienced some difficulties in dealing with SBC; Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Council was experiencing considerable staffing issues, with members leaving/retiring and new appointees receiving adequate training. He said these issues affected many areas of SBC business, including road repairs, refuse collection as well as financial dealings.
- Treasurer said an application has been received for funding for a booklet celebrating 100 years of the SWI.
7. **Correspondence.** Chair had distributed all email correspondence as it came in.
- .8 **Planning Applications.**
- a. **22/01588/FUL – Restoration of Cavers House.** Sec summarised the latest position as he understood it: following the two Planning Committee meetings, reports had been received of crested newts (a protected species) in the area, and a formal study had been ordered. Any decision on the application would necessarily await the findings of the study.
- b. **Application for Development at Canongate.** Chair expressed her surprise at reading in the Hawick Paper of an application for a housing development at Canongate for which no notification had been received from SBC. Cllr Marshall similarly expressed his astonishment that he had also not been notified.
- Sec reminded the meeting that he had complained to SBC several months ago that the CC was no longer being notified of planning applications in the D&DCC area; he had been told he had to search the “monthly list” to identify such applications. All agreed, yet again, that this situation was simply unacceptable. Cllr Richards was asked to investigate and report back to the next meeting. **Richards**
9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** Cllr Ramage said the next T&LAP meeting was scheduled for 12 Sep 23, and that she had requested that this be held “face-to-face” rather than via video link. **Ramage**
10. **Placemaking.** Chair reported that she had arranged a meeting of interested residents and SBC reps to explore the way forward. A group had been formed with a rotating chair, including CC Hutchings (CC Rep), members of the Feuars and of the public. Their next meeting was on 23 Aug where they would discuss the possibility of drafting a Denholm Area questionnaire. **Hutchings**
11. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported he had spoken to Scottish Power in late July. SP were now stating they needed “proof of ownership” of each of the areas of land identified as potential EV charging point sites; as yet no such proofs had been made available. Mr Chris Ryde of the Feuars (present) said the matter would be discussed at the forthcoming Feuars meeting on Friday 19 Aug and he would report to CC Ploughman of any information forthcoming. **Ploughman**

12. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall reiterated that funds were available. He had been asked why a new bench was required for the playpark area when there were several benches already in place around The Green. CC Nicol argued that grandparents minding young children needed to be seated close by their charges. CC Fergusson indicated that a new bench was available outside the Post Office and she would arrange for this to be moved into the playpark. **Fergusson**
- Mr Campbell (present) reported that a picnic table at the playpark was damaged and in need of repair or replacement. Cllr Marshall agreed to arrange repairs. **Marshall**
13. **Wind Farms Update.**
- a. **Pines Burn – Traffic Management Plan.** All at the meeting expressed their irritation at the disruption being caused by the movement of HGVs delivering loads to the Pines Burn site, and by the recovery of those vehicles. These movements were causing immense inconvenience and even damage to local communities, which could not be justified. It was noted that work had started preparing the routes before the development had been approved. Cllr Marshall reminded the meeting that SBC had rejected the windfarm application, but this had been overturned by the SG on appeal. It was also observed that SG had approved the development before a detailed traffic plan had been finalised and communities informed; this was simply unacceptable and must not be allowed in future windfarm applications.
- Cllr Ramage reported that frequent meetings had now been arranged with the Pines Burn developers to monitor the situation. Cllrs had insisted that HGV traffic must not pass through the village of Denholm, although the developer had appeared reluctant to accept this stipulation. Cllr Ramage agreed to report back on their meeting. **Ramage**
14. **AOB.**
- a. **Ashloaning Playpark.** Chair expressed her satisfaction that funds had been identified for redevelopment of various playparks, including that at Ashloaning. Cllr Marshall agreed but pointed out that this was within the 2024/25 budget, so there would be some delay in implementation.
- b. **Grass Cutting.** Chair asked whether there was a plan for regular cutting of grass in cemeteries. Cllr Marshall stated grass cutting was carried out on a 20-day cycle; however, this was often disrupted due to lack of staff. He asked that CCs notify him and/or Cllr Ramage if a problem arose. **All**
- c. **12 Towers of Rule.** Chair reported that leaflets were being prepared to show a proposed route around the 12 Towers.
- d. **Ashloaning Manhole Repair.** Still awaited. *[Afternote: repair was carried out over the following weekend.]*
- e. **Transport Review.** Cllr Richards reported that SBC planned to carry out a review of public transport, primarily of bus routes, following calls for additional schedules on existing routes. He would be monitoring. **Richards**
- f. **Unrestricted Speed Limits.** CC Ploughman expressed his frustration that single track roads in the area were not subject to speed limits below 60 mph, having witnessed several near accidents. A discussion ensued over the practicality of imposing such limits but the consensus was that, unless actual accidents occurred, this was very unlikely.
- g. **The Green Footpath.** Mr Campbell asked whether the question of ownership of the footpath along Main Street beside The Green had been

resolved. Chair responded that at this time it was not known. Mr Campbell then questioned the decision not to install a crossing on Main Street, but it was pointed out that the decision had been taken by SBC and was no longer in the remit of the CC.

- h. **Funds for Youth Projects.** Mr Campbell also asked whether funds could be made available to restart a youth club within the community. Cllr Ramage offered to investigate.

Ramage

Date of Next Meeting. The next D&DCC meeting would be on **20 August 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

ALL

Chair closed the meeting at 8.35 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

W A B Roberts
Sec
D&DCC

22 Aug 23

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
Mrs C Nicol
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Mr D Ploughman (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Richardson
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)
Mr J Somerville

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)