

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2020

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor W Kirkpatrick	Treasurer
Community Councillor G Rennie	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary
Community Councillor J Simmons	

In attendance:

Cllr S Marshall	SBC
Cllr C Ramage	SBC
Cllr N Richards	SBC
Mrs L Ferguson	Resilience Gp Chair
3 Members of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC S Passmore, PC Patterson	
2.	Declaration of Interest. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	
3.	Police Report. Sec had received an email from PC Patterson explaining that in future, police reports for Denholm would form part of a combined Hawick & Denholm area report.. There was no report for the current meeting.	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 15 Jan 20. The minutes were proposed by CC Rennie, seconded by CC Nicol. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising.	
a.	Minto Pump (Item 5a). On-going. CC Clew had spoken with Rob Armstrong who was pursuing with the contractor.	(Armstrong)
b.	Traffic Speeding (Item 5b). Cllr Marshall, CC Rennie and Sec had met with Eildon representatives, who had indicated they had a "Community Fund" which may be able to assist with provision of flashing speed warnings in association with the current development.	
c.	Cemetery Headstones (Items 5d.) Diane Munro had explained the activity at Kelso cemetery, and stated that 121 headstones had been "socketed" at Denholm cemetery.	
d.	Hornshole Bridge and Hawick Flood Protection Scheme (Item 5g). Cllr Marshall reported that a small drainage issue on the bridge had now been referred to SBC Officers who had agreed to investigate and repair. He had asked that this and all other bridges be re-inspected after the recent storms.	
e.	BT Payphone Consultation (Item 5h). Situation re the Appletreehall phone box was still unclear.	

5. cont'd

- f. **Electric Car Charging Points (Item 5j).** Chair reported that there had been some disagreement within the Feuars regarding the possibility of a charging point on the small carpark opposite the Fox & Hounds, and the future was unclear.

CC Clew asked what the situation was regarding revenue from such charging points. Cllr Ramage offered to investigate.

Ramage

- g. **Street Lighting (Item 5k).** Chair reported that a “large box” had been installed (in association with a new lamp-standard) on the footpath around The Green, opposite her house. She felt this presented an obstacle to wheelchair users, but had been assured by SBC workmen that the remaining footpath width was more than the minimum prescribed. Cllr Marshall offered to investigate.

Marshall

- h. **Loaning Playpark (Item 5m).** Cllr Marshall reported that SBC officials had discussed the playparks issue with local representatives in several locations, and then with Council Officers. Once the views from all SBC councillors (34) have been sought, then the outcome of these discussions would be relayed to the SBC Sounding Board Committee.

Cllr Marshall and Cllr Ramage reported that they had conceded on various other playparks, but had insisted that the one at The Loaning, Denholm, should be retained. Cllr Richards stated he had maintained his previous position that this playpark should be scrapped.

CCs expressed their dismay at Cllr Richard’s position, and reported that:

- (1) They had witnessed the frequent and extensive use of the playpark by local children over the recent school holiday;
- (2) They had received widespread vocal representation from local residents that the park should be retained, as had been indicated in the local petition mounted earlier in the process;
- (3) That requiring children to cross the A698 to reach the playpark on The Green instead of using the Loaning playpark clearly presented a significantly increased road safety hazard;
- (4) CC Robinson reminded the meeting that, in the initial SBC survey, this park had failed by just one point to achieve the 20 points arbitrarily designated as the score set for retaining each playpark, clearly indicating this was a borderline case.

All present apart from Cllr Richards repeated their view that The Loaning playpark should be retained.

Cllr Richards argued he was simply maintaining the position of the administration of which he was a part. Sec summarised the views of those present that they were deeply disappointed that Cllr Richards had chosen to support the position of the SBC administration over the quite clear and declared view of the residents he had been elected to represent.

It was agreed that the Chair should write to SBC reiterating the community’s view that the playpark at The Loaning should be retained within the SBC purview. Sec to draft.

Sec

- j. **Resilience Group (Item 5n).** Mr Ferguson reported that she had recruited three new members for the Group; the “Call-list” had worked well during the recent storms, which the village had weathered without significant damage; and the storage units had now been refilled.

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cont'd

However, she requested that another small sandbag storage be provided at the top of The Loaning to help with diverting flood water. Sec to pursue.

Sec

The meeting thanked Mrs Ferguson and her team for their efforts.

- k. **Denholm Newsletter (Item 5o).** Chair reported that, just prior to the meeting, she had met with two volunteers who had agreed to take on the role of reporters and distributors, and the Newsletter would hopefully restart in April. Chair had initiated a FS grant application for the project.

Sec had received a letter from Rev Rachel Wilson suggesting an amalgamation of the Denholm Newsletter and that of the Parishes of Hobkirk & Southdean with Ruberslaw. The idea was discussed, but it was felt that, as the Parish paper was issued quarterly, and the Denholm one monthly, rather than an amalgamation as such, we would offer to distribute the latter with the Denholm paper. Sec to reply to Rev Wilson.

Sec

- l. **Road Surfacing – Ruberslaw Drive (Item 16b).** Cllr Marshal indicated there was no prospect of surfacing work being undertaken by SBC while the road remained unadopted.

- m. **Denholm Bridge (Item 16c).** Mr James Manners had indicated he was happy for the work to restore the steps to go ahead, and it was hoped the work would start in the very near future.

- n. **Bus Service Survey (Item 16f).** CC Robinson had received a number of responses to her initiative. The SBC Passenger Transport Manager, Mr Tim Stephenson, had offered to meet with a D&DCC sub-group to discuss the issues. CC Robinson would seek an early meeting; CCs Nicol and Roberts and Cllrs Marshal and Ramage said they would attend.

Robinson

- o. **Area Partnership Meeting Item 16g).** CCs Nicol and Kirkpatrick had attended the 18 Feb 20 meeting and reported briefly on the discussion, including that of the Teviot Electric Car Club – a local co-operative offering an affordable, environmentally efficient car hire service. Details available at: www.tecc.coop

6. **Treasurer's Report & Foundation Scotland Update.**

Treasurer was absent and no report was available:

Chair stated she had initiated a number FS grant applications for:

- a. Denholm Newsletter (see Item 5k above).
- b. VE Day Commemorations (see Item 9 below).
- c. Community Shed (see Item 12 below).
- d. Tables and Chairs for the Village Hall. (CCs Rennie and Kirkpatrick declared an interest at this point.)

It was agreed that the applications at b, c and d would be held until the Village Hall accounts had been updated and finalised.

7. **Correspondence.**

- a. **HFPS & Sustrans Meeting.** A meeting to clarify the way forward for the scheme would be held on 26 Feb 20, Hawick Town Hall, 2 – 8.00 pm.
- b. **Citizens' Rights and BREXIT Briefing.** To be held 16 Mar 20 at 2:30 – 4:30 pm in Old Gala House, Galashiels. CC members invited to attend. Register at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brexit-eu-citizens-briefing-session-for-advisers-in-galashiels-tickets-95240168909

8. **Planning Applications.** Cllr Ramage declared an interest in this Item; however, as no new applications had been received, she remained within the meeting.

- a. **19/00947/FUL.** Two dwelling houses on land opposite West Lodge, Minto – application previously approved.

CC Clew reminded the meeting of the 1993 Section 50 Planning Agreement which stated that “only a single property could ever be built on the land opposite West Lodge Minto”, and that, subsequent to the recent approval, the developer had applied to have the S50 Planning Agreement “set aside”. CC Clew had written to SBC opposing any such move to set aside the 1993 agreement, but SBC had replied indicating that the S50 was now irrelevant and the approval would not be reviewed.

Cllr Ramage expressed concern that the S50 had not been brought to the attention of planning staff prior to the granting of the approval, and indicated she would investigate the matter with the planning authorities.

Ramage

- b. **19/01135/FUL.** 12 new houses adjacent to Jedward Terrace - approved.

Cllr Marshall, CC Rennie and Sec and some residents had met with Eildon representatives, and had expressed considerable concern regarding the potential disruption to the existing road and footpaths in Selby Close and thus to their access during the construction phase, and the potential danger to resident children.

Eildon reps had agreed to hold regular consultation with the existing residents of Selby Close regarding the construction phase. They also intimated that they may be able to contribute towards improving nearby road signage through their own community benefit fund. Cllr Marshall agreed to monitor.

Marshall

- c. **19/01697/FUL.** Extension at West Lodge, Minto (by CC Clew). Chair had expressed concern that CC Clew’s application had not been notified to D&DCC for comment prior to approval being granted. This might be misinterpreted as “special treatment”, due to the applicant’s CC status which he wished firmly to repudiate. Sec had sought clarification from the planning dept, but their response had been less than satisfactory. Cllr Ramage agreed to investigate the process.

Ramage

Chair would send a letter of complaint asking why the D&DCC had not been circulated for comment, and to seek reassurance that all applications in the area would in future be so notified. Sec to draft.

Sec, Chair

9. **VE Day Commemorations.** Chair reported that a sub-group had been formed, and Denholm School had been very supportive when approached.

The school had proposed considerable participation by pupils including assisting with the poster campaign. Plans would include:

- a. **Friday 8 May 20.** Party on The Green on VE Day, format similar to last year’s event: “Bring Your Own” theme. Piper on The Green 3.00 pm.
- b. **Saturday 9 May.** An exhibition of WW2 associated artefacts in the Village Hall, with afternoon teas. Dance in the evening in the VH.
- c. **Sunday 10 May.** The above exhibition would continue. Commemorative service in the Church. Sounding of the Last Post at 6.00 pm.

Funds to support these activities would be available from SBC, and an FS grant was in process. Sec to action SBC grant application on **Monday 24 Feb 20.**

Sec

10. **Small Grant Scheme.** No new items at this time.
11. **Wind Farms Update.** Gilston Farm, Heriot - appeal had been rejected.
12. **Community Shed.** Awaiting VH committee action.
13. **Public Toilets.** Cllr Richards reported that the Denholm public toilets had been saved and would be retained. All present expressed their appreciation.
14. **Denholm Community Health Hub.** CC Kirkpatrick reported that NHS Borders Department of Public Health & Learning Disability Service would be operating a mobile unit (van) during 18-22 May at different venues throughout Scottish Borders. The aim would be to raise awareness of the multiple Scottish National Screening Programmes – bowel, breast & cervical screening as well as Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Diabetic Retinopathy Screening.

The van would be linking in with the What Matters-Community Health Hubs and would be at Denholm Hub on Tuesday 19 May 20.

It was hoped that awareness sessions would become integrated with the monthly Community Hubs sessions, expanding to include other screening programmes. For further information please contact: wendy.kirkpatrick@borders.scot.nhs.uk

15. **AOB.**

- a. **Local Fire & Rescue Plan Review 2020.** SBC had notified that they would be reviewing the local plan available at: <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/local-fire-and-rescue-plan-review-2020/consultation/> Consultation would close on 18 Mar 20.

- b. **Recent Flooding.** Chair recorded thanks of local residents for the success of recent efforts to contain flood waters, in particular with regard to Keyhole Cottage and The Loaning.

CC Nicol requested a site visit to review flood water impact on Dean Road and The Dean itself, in conjunction with Feuars. Cllr Marshall to pursue.

Marshall

- c. **Borders River Clean Campaign.** CC Robinson reported she was in contact with the organisers and urged members to join the Denholm effort, details as follows:

On **Sunday 1 Mar 20**, gathering at VH carpark; sweeping the river from Hornshole Bridge downstream to Denholm bridge; teas available afterwards in the VH. **Volunteer helpers urgently sought.**

CC Robinson to contact Fraser Dunlop for additional equipment.

Robinson

- d. **Scotland Rural Action Group.** CC Simmons would be attending and would be reporting back to the next D&DCC meeting.

Simmons

- e. **Road Sign.** A member of the public reported that a road sign was still down on the A698 near to Denholm Mill. Cllr Marshall agreed to pursue.

Marshall

Date of Next Meeting. Next meeting would be on 18 March 2020 at 7.00pm in Denholm Village Hall.

All

Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm with thanks to all who had attended

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs W Kirkpatrick
Mrs C Nicol
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Ms G Rennie
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)
Mrs S Robinson (Vice Chair)
Mrs J Simmons

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)