

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

#### Present:

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Community Councillor G Crew     | Chair     |
| Community Councillor S Clew     |           |
| Community Councillor C Nicol    |           |
| Community Councillor S Passmore | 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 |
| 3 Members of the Public |     |

| Item | Subject/Discussion   | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CC W Kirkpatrick, CC S Robinson, PC Patterson  |        |
| 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.   |        |
| 3.   | <b>Police Report.</b> A recent report from PC Patterson had been circulated prior to the meeting.  |        |
| 4.   | <b>Minutes of the Last Meeting held 20 Nov 19.</b> The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol, seconded by CC Rennie. Approved.   |        |
| 5.   | <b>Matters Arising.</b>  |        |
| a.   | <b>Minto Pump (Item 5a).</b> On-going. Cllr Marshall stated that the funds had been made available (confirmed by Treasurer) and that the work had been ordered.  |        |
| b.   | <b>Traffic Speeding (Item 5b).</b> Now that the further housing development at Jedward Terrace had been approved, Chair would discuss again with Eildon Housing to seek a developer's contribution towards possible flashing speed limit signs in the village. | Chair  |
| c.   | <b>Traffic Safety Measures (Item 5c).</b> Cllr Marshall confirmed that white lines had been repainted and that traffic calming signs were in manufacture for Horsley Hill.   |        |
| d.   | <b>Cemetery Headstones (Items 5d.)</b> Sec would e-mail Diane Munro at SBC for an update.  | Sec    |
| e.   | <b>Village Hall Car Parking (Item 5e).</b> Chair confirmed that the additional parking space at the village hall had been painted. A second space would be considered in conjunction with a decision on the Community Shed (Item 12).                          |        |
| f.   | <b>Dog Education Officer (Item 5f).</b> The officer would be attending the 30 Jan meeting of the Feuars. A further attendance at the CC would then be considered.  | Chair  |

- g. **Hornshole Bridge and Hawick Flood Protection Scheme (Item 5g).** Cllr Marshall confirmed that the repairs to the Hornshole Bridge had been completed ahead of the very recent heavy rainfall and had proved very effective.
- h. **BT Payphone Consultation (Item 5h).** Treasurer had enquired for an update from SBC, who were supporting the requirement to retain that phone box at Bedrule and this appeared to have been accepted by BT. The situation regarding that at Appletreehall was less clear. However, the CC was adamant that this too should be retained as a vital means of emergency communication for the community.
- j. **Electric Car Charging Points (Item 5j).** Cllr Ramage was pursuing. **Ramage**
- k. **Street Lighting (Item 5k).** Cllr Marshall reported that work was on-going. He also expressed his frustration over the lack of progress to repair the lighting at the Leyden memorial, which has been reported as long ago as October last – he would press the matter further. **Marshall**
- l. **Twelve Towers of Rule (Item 7a).** Chair had attended the 2 Dec 19 meeting and the project was progressing.
- m. **Loaning Playpark (Item 12).** Cllr Marshall reported that SBC officers were to meet with local representatives to discuss the status of the various playparks in the Borders.
- n. **Resilience Group (Item 16d).** Mrs Fergusson apologised for not being in attendance. Chair stated that efforts to recruit new members are on-going. **(Fergusson)**
- o. **Drain outside Village Hall (Item 16f).** Still no progress and Cllr Marshall would be pursuing with the Property Maintenance Officer. **Marshall**
- p. **Denholm Newsletter (Item 16g).** Chair was seeking new roving reporters. **Chair**

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

Treasurer presented her report dated 15 Jan 19, as follows:

The balance of the Current account stood at £1958.59, of which £1076.40 had been received from SBC for the Minto Pump work, and an invoice was awaited. This left a working balance of £882.19.

Treasurer had not received any invoices for the D&DCC use of the Village Hall since Apr last year. **(Village Hall Cmte)**

The Project account had a balance of £511.81. Seven village organisations had received donations, and a contribution made towards the Cross Keys Fireworks display.

The Langhope Rig Community Fund stood at £11661.33. There were no outstanding invoices. Treasurer was awaiting applications from Village Hall for funds to purchase the Community Shed and new chairs.

Treasurer would be completing returns for Foundation Scotland, and the new allocation of funding would be due in February. **Treasurer**

Treasurer said she had been approached by the local WI for funds to repair a “community bench” and this was under consideration. Chair would be seeking funds for additional planters for the village. **Chair**

Chair proposed thanks to Treasurer for her work.

Chair also proposed a donation of £100 to Jane & Kevin Currie for her work on the Denholm website which continued to prove a most valuable asset for the community; seconded by Sec - **Agreed unanimously**.

**Treasurer**

A member of the public enquired whether funding in support of the school was possible; it was explained that projects could only be supported if they could be shown NOT to be educational in nature and were not funded from the SBC Education budget. It was proving extremely difficult to identify such projects.

7. **Correspondence.**

a. **Thank you letters.** Received for D&DCC donations from the following:

Auld Cross Keys Hotel (for Fireworks display)  
B&Bs  
Denholm Rainbows  
Bairns' Christmas Party  
OAPs' Christmas Party  
Avril's Trust  
Phoebe Gale  
William Brodie

b. **The Wynd.** A copy of a letter from a resident of The Wynd to the SBC Access Officer regarding the status of The Wynd as a "Core Path" and/or as a "Right of Way". Chair to seek definitions of both terms.

**Chair**

c. **Red Squirrel Group.** Leaflets.

8. **Planning Applications.** Cllr Ramage declared an interest in this Item and left the room during the discussion. No new applications received.

a. **19/00947/FUL.** In December, SBC Planning Dept had approved this application for two dwelling houses on land opposite West Lodge Minto. However, CC Clew revealed that a Section 50 Planning Agreement from 1993 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 applicant had applied to have the Section 50 Planning Agreement "set aside".

Following a discussion, it was agreed that CC Clew was to draft a letter from Chair D&DCC addressed to SBC Head of Legal Services, Head of Planning and the Chair of the Planning Committee strongly opposing any such move to set aside the 1993 agreement.

**Clew**

b. **19/01135/FUL.** Twelve new houses adjacent to Jedward Terrace. It was noted that this application had been approved.

9. **Roadside Hedge Trimming.** Matter ongoing.

10. **Small Grant Scheme.** Minto pump already discussed at Item 5a.

No new items at this time.

11. **Wind Farms Update.** Barrel Law 2 had now been rejected and no appeal had been lodged to date.

12. **Community Shed.** No further progress to date.

13. **Public Toilets.** Now closed for the winter, with as yet no certainty to them reopening. A paper was to be presented to the full Council at their Jan meeting.

14. **VE Day Commemorations.** Chair lead a discussion on the proposals for 8 May 20 – the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, pointing out that the normal May Day Bank Holiday on 1 May 20 had been delayed one week to coincide. Chair proposed a format similar to the highly successful 11 Nov 19 events, including a “Street Party on The Green”; an exhibition and possibly other suggested events.
- It was agreed that commemorations should be held in the afternoon 8 May, to include school children. Chair sought to establish a sub-committee to organise the event. **Chair**
- 15, **Denholm Community Health Hub.** Chair had met with SBC Social Work staff; the Hub would be launched on 21 Jan 21; however there appeared to have been no publicity of this and no CC members were aware of it. Cllr Ramage would investigate. **Ramage**
16. **AOB.**
- a. **Jedburgh Library.** Chair informed the meeting that SBC planned to move the Jedburgh public library from its present location to be incorporated into the new High School campus. Jedburgh CC had raised objections observing that this would make it far less accessible to members of the local community, and they had asked for support from Denholm.
- D&DCC unanimously agreed to support the Jedburgh community against the proposed move; Sec to draft a letter to SBC accordingly. **Sec**
- b. **Road Surfacing – Ruberslaw Drive.** The road had not yet been adopted by the Council and residents were still having to put up with the unmade surface. Cllr Marshal had agreed to take this forward with the Roads Officer. **Marshal**
- c. **Denholm Bridge.** SBC Rangers Group had offered to restore the steps which gave access to the riverside at the north end of Denholm Bridge. Chair reported that the landowner, Mr James Manners, had indicated he was happy for them to go ahead with the work. **Chair**
- d. **“Borders Country Magazine”.** CC Passmore recommended a new bi-monthly publication which had appeared recently. Copies were available in the PO or online, and by subscription – 6 editions for £22.99.
- e. **Road Markings – The Loaning.** CC Passmore reported that the road markings (white lines) at the junctions on The Loaning were badly eroded and in urgent need of reworking. Cllr Ramage agreed to pursue. **Ramage**
- f. **Bus Service Survey.** CC Nicol reported that the recent survey into the quality of the local bus services had had a poor response. A new survey form was now available at the PO and members of the public were urged to respond with comments IN WRITING in order to ensure views were made known to the council.
- g. **Area Partnership Meeting.** Cllr Richards notified the meeting that the next Area Partnership Meeting would be on 18 Feb 20, but the venue had yet to be announced. **Richards**
- h. **“Scotland Starts Here”.** CC Clew informed the meeting of the launch of a new website so entitled, which was designed to encourage tourism, industry and business in The Borders. This was a development of previous initiatives and it was hoped it would have significant impact. He strongly recommended members to visit the site.

**Date of Next Meeting.** Next meeting would be on 19 February 2020 at 7.00pm in Denholm Village Hall.

**All**

Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm with thanks to all who had attended

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

19 Jan 20

**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)