

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023

Present:

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| Community Councillor G Crew | Chair |
| Community Councillor L Ferguson | Treasurer |
| Community Councillor C Nicol | |
| Community Councillor S Passmore | |
| Community Councillor W Roberts | Secretary |
| Community Councillor J Somerville | |

In attendance:

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| Councillor S Marshall | SBC |
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1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr C Ramage, CCs D Hutchings and D Ploughman
2. **Request for Co-opted Members.** A request for volunteers had been included in the local newsletter and social media. Chair reported that one resident, Mrs Michelle Richardson had expressed interest in joining as a co-opted member and hoped to attend the next meeting. **Chair**
3. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. **All**

Sec had circulated the appropriate paragraphs from the SBC Scheme for Community Councils to guide members as to the need for declarations, and had received declarations from all members.
4. **Code of Conduct.** At the meeting, CC Somerville signed as agreeing to comply with the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. Sec would seek a signature from CC Hutchins, the only outstanding member, at the next meeting. **Sec**
5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 18 Jan 23.** The minutes were proposed and agreed.
6. **Matters Arising.** Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Board (Item 6a (1)).** No progress to report. **Ramage**
 - b. **Community Shed (Item 6a (3)).** Cllr Marshall had today written to SBC officers seeking action to conclude the sale of the shed to D&DCC. A response was awaited.
 - c. **Pavement Repairs (Item 6b (1)).** No progress to report. Sec was to write to SBC Roads Safety to express the CCs' frustration at the lack of response to previous requests for action. **Sec**
 - d. **The Community of Twelve Towers of Rule (Item 11a).** Sec had forwarded the CCs' support for the application to Gillian Jardine at SBC as requested.
 - e. **First Aid Training (Item 15).** Chair reported that the trainer was now charging more per person attending a one day first aid course, and it was agreed this as unaffordable. She would pursue alternative options, and Treasurer would approach FS for possible funding **Chair Treasurer**
 - f. **Signage (Item 18b).** Cllr Richards was not present to report any progress regarding replacement of the "No Dogs Permitted" and

realignment of the "Pedestrian" signs reported last month. Also, CCs reported further signage problems, and Cllr Marshall offered to pursue correction action.

Marshall

7. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for January prior to the meeting. There were no queries. Sec reported that PC Patterson had emailed that neither he nor his colleagues would be able to attend the meeting.

8. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report.

There are three accounts in operation:

The main Current Account (which includes the COVID fund and the Jubilee fund);

The Project Fund Account (including some cash transactions); and

The Community Fund, reflecting grants from Foundation Scotland (FS).

Details of recent activity in these three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices. .

9. **Correspondence.** Chair had circulated recent correspondence to members. Also:

a. Chair had received letters of thanks from the Beavers and the Cubs for their Christmas donations.

b. A letter from Mr Guy Cooper informing the CC of a tree planting effort in the vicinity of Denholm Mill.

c. An email re the SBC Draft Revised Capability Investment Plan.

10. **Planning Applications.**

a. **Denholm Mill Development.** The meeting agreed to support the residents' position regarding the development; Chair was to clarify which application was relevant.

Chair

b. **22/0184/FUL.** Replacement dormer windows at Text House, Main Street. Sec had written in support of the application, which the proprietor informed him had now been approved..

c. **Planning Application Notifications.** Sec reported he still regarded the SBC policy of not informing directly the interested CC of planning applications in their area, and the need for CCs "to search the weekly and monthly lists", as unacceptable. Cllr Marshall suggested a further letter to Ian Aikman, SBC Head of Planning, requesting a review of the current policy and a reversion to the earlier policy, whereby CCs were informed directly.

Sec

11. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.**

a. **Pot A and Pot B Funds.** Chair indicated that, at the Jan meeting of the T&LAP SBC had proposed that T&LAP adopt the same system as the other APs, ie a single pot (Pot B). Members unanimously objected to this proposal, and pressed that the status quo be maintained. CC Ploughman was tasked to inform the T&LAP accordingly.

Ploughman

b. **Denholm Map.** Chair reported the costs of the project were now £790 for 2000 maps, plus £145 for the protective sleeves. There was now a

degree of uncertainty regarding the timing of the meeting which would be approving the funding for the maps. CC Ploughmen was ask to clarify.

Ploughman

12. **Coronation Celebration.** Chair proposed that the village hold a “Picnic on The Green” to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III, similar to that for the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Funds were being offered by SBC in support of such activities, although the precise means of funding was as yet uncertain. A discussion followed on:

- a. Whether this might be held on Saturday 6 May after the televised coronation itself, or on Sunday 7 May; and
- b. Whether to rely on SBC funding or to apply to FS for funding.

It was decided to await clarification of the timing of the coronation, and to press SBC for resources, such as waste bin distribution and collection, irrespective of their allocation of funds. Chair and Treasurer to pursue.

**Chair
Treasurer**

13. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing – The Way Forward.** Philippa Gilhooly at SBC had indicated her preference for a “Drop-in Clinic” to inform as many residents as possible of the feasibility and consequences of such a crossing, rather than a set public meeting.

Following some discussion, it was agreed to arrange such a clinic, ideally mid-week, at a time to suit SBC officials, to run from about 1.00pm to 7.00pm.

Once a date was agreed, the CC was to publicise the event as widely as possible, using all means available to maximise public attendance, and thereby to ascertain the levels of support for and opposition to the project in the community.

**Chair
Sec**

14. **Petanque on The Green.** Chair presented the latest revised costings for the project. The contractor had indicated work could start at the end of March and would take approximately three days. Chair was to contact the Feuars and inform them of the decision to proceed.

Chair

15. **Denholm Resilience Group.** CC Nicol reported that two new members had volunteered to join the group, and this was much appreciated. Emergency boxes were now available in Denholm, Bedrule and Minto. CC Somerville was investigating an upgrade to the contents of the boxes, including a more affordable mobile phone charging facility.

Somerville

16. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall reported that this year’s funds were exhausted, but a new allocation was likely in the budget for FY 2023-24.

17. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Teviot.** Chair reported that Muirhall Energy were proposing that communities establish a “Company Ltd Group” (CLG) to process their proposed community funds. However, the meeting agreed that it was premature to take such an initiative, in view of forecast delays in windfarm applications in general, and the likelihood of Muirhall’s sale to another developer.
- b. **Millmoor Rig.** Chair had responded with comments on the consultation for the windfarm.

18. **AOB.**

- a. **Telephone Box.** Chair reported that the concrete base of the phone box had been damaged. She would be seeking repairs from an appropriate contractor.

Chair

- b. **Pot-holes.** CC Passmore thanked the SBC staff who had made excellent repairs to various pot-holes around the village.
- c. **Waste Collection.** CC Nicol reported that at least two waste/recycling collections had been missed in the area of Riverside Drive and Minto Road. Cllr Marshall explained that SBC had recently suffered a number of staff absences and vehicle break-downs. He emphasized that efforts were being made to address the problems, and urged residents to visit the SBC website which detailed schedule failures and the action to take. Residents should report missed collections as soon as possible to SBC.
- d. **“Placemaking”.** The CC members were invited to attend a meeting with SBC officials the following evening, which aimed to clarify the so-called “Placemaking” project.

All

Date of Next Meeting. The next D&DCC meeting would be on **15th March 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

ALL

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

W A B Roberts
Sec
D&DCC

18 Feb 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)
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)