

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

#### Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
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
Two members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs Ferguson and Somerville. Mrs Michelle Richardson, who had volunteered to join as a co-opted member was unable to attend. Cllr Marshall indicated he would need to leave at about 7:45pm.
2. **Request for Co-opted Members.** Chair said she looked forward to Mrs Richardson joining the next meeting. No further volunteers to date.
3. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion **All**
4. **Code of Conduct.** CC Hutchings signed as agreeing to comply with the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. Sec was to email the guidance to Mrs Richardson. **Sec**
5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 18 Jan 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Ploughman. Approved.
6. **Matters Arising.** Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
  - a. **New Notice Board (Item 6a).** Cllr Ramage reported that progress had been delayed due to staff absences at SBC, but it was hoped the new board would be installed by the end of the month. **Ramage**
  - b. **Pavement Repairs (Item 6c).** It was noted that the repairs near the butcher's shop had now been completed, for which the CCs were most grateful.
  - c. **First Aid Training (Item 6e).** Chair reported that a training session had been arranged for 8 or 15 Apr, but only 3 members had indicated they would attend. Sec indicated he would also be able to attend. Chair indicated she intended to open the session to the general public. **All**
  - d. **Signage (Item 6f).** Cllr Richards reported that new "No Dogs Permitted" signs would be installed at the playpark; however, these would only be laminated card, not hard, durable notices. Cllr Marshall reported that he was still pursuing replacement of the pedestrian signs where required. **Marshall**

- e. **Denholm Resilience Group (Item 15).** Chair reported that CC Somerville had identified suitable phone charging units at £25 each, and a number would be ordered imminently. **Chair Treasurer**
- f. **Telephone Box (Item 18a).** Weather had precluded repair work to the base, but CC Hutchings had undertaken to do the work as soon as the weather permitted. **Hutchings**
- g. **Placemaking (Item 18d).** Members had attended a meeting with SBC officers who explained the purpose and thinking behind the scheme. It had been agreed that the Southdean “questionnaire” would be used as a model for developing a similar survey for Denholm.
7. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for February 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. Details of recent activity in these three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices. .  
Treasurer indicated she would be submitting the accounts for audit at the end of the month.
9. **Correspondence.** Chair had circulated recent correspondence to members.
10. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **22/00118/FUL Denholm Mill Development.** SBC Planning department had approved the application for development under the “Scheme of Delegation” to a planning officer which, under the current regulations, precluded any appeal. **Chair**
- Chair read out a letter which the DMPA had submitted to SBC arguing that, under the circumstances, an appeal should be permitted. The D&DCC members supported the DMPA in their contention. Following some discussion, the 3 Councillors agreed to take the matter up with planning officers, with a view to their accepting an appeal against the decision to allow the development as currently proposed. **Marshall Ramage Richards**
- b. **22/01588/FUL – Restoration of Cavers House.** *[CC Hutchings declared an interest and did not participate in this discussion.]*  
Sec drew the attention of the meeting to the recent addition to the relevant portal of a number of documents proposing a “Traffic Management Plan” to be implemented in support of the proposed restoration work. He argued that the plan misrepresented a number of aspects of the situation at Cavers, and would in itself constitute considerable disruption and inconvenience to residents in the area. He asked that members study the documents and email him with their reactions; he would then undertake to represent the collective D&DCC view of the Traffic Management Plan to SBC. **Sec**
- Sec also sought clarification of the position of the 3 Councillors regarding their individual freedom to express their views during considerations of the project at SBC, notwithstanding their domestic location and/or their position on the planning committee; he was reassured that they would be free to express such opinions.

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

- a. **Pot A and Pot B Funds.** CC Ploughman related events at a recent meeting of the TLAP panel, at which a particular application for funds from Pot B had been considered. Following considerable disagreement, the application was eventually approved on condition the funds were found from the applicant's Pot A.
- b. **Denholm Map.** Chair asked whether the increase in the projected cost of the maps might preclude their approval. CC Ploughman reassured the meeting that, provided the cost did not exceed the funds available in Denholm's Pot A, this should not be a problem. The application would be considered by the 3 nominated representatives.

*Cllr Marshall departed the meeting.*

12. **Coronation Celebration.** No clarification was yet available regarding the exact timing of the coronation ceremony on Saturday 6 May 23, although it was stated to be "in the morning". It was therefore decided to hold the "Picnic on The Green" in the afternoon of Saturday, starting from 2.00 pm.

Chair confirmed that £500 had been earmarked by SBC for the event. It was proposed that all children attending Denholm School would be given a small memento of the event (detailed to be confirmed), funded from Project fund money. A sub-committee is needed continue to plan the event.

**Chair**

13. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing – The Way Forward.** Philippa Gilhooly had agreed to hold a drop-in clinic to discuss the proposal with members of the community, to run from 3.00 to 7:00 pm on the chosen date. Sec had emailed her with suggested dates, namely: 12, 13, 20, 26 or 27 Apr, and he was awaiting her preferred date. Once agreed, he would arrange a preparatory "Teams" meeting with her and Chair to discuss details.

Mr Gordie Campbell asked if the drop-in clinic could be started at 2:00 pm in order to allow children to attend from the school; however, the meeting was not in favour of this as it was felt the discussion should be between adults, while fully acknowledging the proposal would enhance child safety.

**Chair  
Sec**

14. **Petanque on The Green.** Chair confirmed that the position of the court had been determined, a contractor had been engaged, and work would hopefully start at the end of the month. CC Hutchings had kindly agreed to supply and install suitable temporary fencing to protect the work and adjacent trees. .

**Hutchings**

15. **Denholm Resilience Group.** Boxes had been distributed in Denholm, Minto and Bedrule. CC Nicol reported that some Resilience Group members had recently updated their contact details.

16. **Small Grants Scheme.** No update.

17. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Muirhall.** Sec had agreed to attend a "Teams" meeting in the evening of Monday 20 Mar 23, which would address the matter of community benefits and proposals for community shared ownership. Chair stressed that D&DCC was against participation in such schemes prior to windfarm applications being approved.

18. **AOB.**

- a. **Road Safety.** Chair reported a recent significant increase in incidents of vehicles driving the wrong way on Sunnyside and Westgate, presenting a very real potential for accidents. She requested urgent action to enhance the “NO ENTRY” signage at the junction with Leydens Road (B6405). Cllr Ramage agreed to pursue the matter with SBC
- b. **Restored Pavement.** CC Nicol reported that SBC teams had made significant improvements to pavements in the Murray Place area, which was most welcome. An area of pavement at the bottom of The Loaning remains in urgent need of repair, and Cllr Ramage agreed to pursue.
- c. **Hornshole Bridge.** Cllr Ramage reported significantly increased traffic using the bridge, resulting in frequent damage. This may well be due to the closure of Mansfield Road in Hawick and the resulting diverted traffic. She would continue to raise the matter with SBC, but further efforts to stop HGV use of the bridge were clearly necessary.
- d. **“Placemaking”.** Cllr Ramage said she hoped to encourage ideas from children at Denholm School towards the “Placemaking” project.
- e. **Community Funds.** Mr Gordie Campbell spoke about the need for the community as a whole to engage in activities which could attract funds available for certain eligible projects. He also questioned why Denholm had not been entitled to “Festival Funds” which had benefitted other SBC communities for many years.

**Ramage**

**Ramage**

**Ramage**

**Date of Next Meeting.** The next D&DCC meeting would be on **19<sup>th</sup> April 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

17 Mar 23

Sec

D&DCC

**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)