

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor M Richardson	

In attendance:

Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC,
Ms Sarah Culverwell	Community Engagement Officer, SBC
4 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CC W Roberts and Cllr S Marshall.
2. **Request for Co-opted Members.** Chair welcomed new co-opted member Michelle Richardson to D&DCC
3. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. CC D Hutchings declared an interest for planning issue on Cavers House. **All**
4. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 18 Jan 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.
5. **Matters Arising.** Chair addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Board (Item 6a).** Cllr Ramage reported that the new notice board would be reinstated when manpower allowed. **Ramage**
 - b. **First Aid Training (Item 6c).** Chair reported 6 local persons had either first time or renewed first aid training and thanked the trainer Mr Iain Riddell. Course was paid through CC general account.
 - c. **Signage (Item 6d).** On going - Cllr Marshall would be asked to monitor. **Marshall**
 - d. **Telephone Box (Item 6f).** CC Hutchings confirmed that now the weather was improving the cement base would be redone asap. **Hutchings**
6. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for March prior to the meeting. There were no comments from the members.
7. **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. .
8. **Correspondence.** Chair had circulated various emails and communications and urged members to respond to any questionnaires that were sent for local opinions and to discuss if required.

10. **Planning Applications.** Cllr Richards declared an interest and left the meeting for this item.

a. **22/00118/FUL Denholm Mill Development.** It was briefly explained as a reminder what the problems had been and to date no further information had been given

b. **22/01588/FUL – Restoration of Cavers House.** Several concerns had been relayed to Chair regarding a new traffic management plan that had been included to the SBC planning portal. A letter had been submitted to SBC highlighting residents' concerns. There had also been an increase in traffic /people movement at weekends who used passing places and parking in-inappropriately and were possible visitors to the house. It had been suggested that a security firm, "Sovereign Security" was now resident at the property, but this has not been confirmed.

10. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.**

a. **Pot A and Pot B Funds.** CC were successful in their application for funding for a further supply of village maps and these would be ordered in due course. Other groups in the area were also granted funding. Cllr Ramage also reported discussions on the Police Report, Strategic care and an update on the proposed National Park by Mr. Malcolm Dickson. The next Area Partnership meeting will be 14 Jun 23.

Ramage

11. **Coronation Picnic.** Chair reported a small sub-committee was now in place and following discussion, arrangements for the day were taking shape.

**Chair/
Subgroup**

Detailed posters would go out in the local area, an information sheet distributed as per the Newsletter round, details via school children and social media nearer the time.

Various competitions were being arranged and the day would hopefully follow the format similar to the successful Jubilee picnic last year.

12. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing.** The public information drop-in had been arranged for 17 May 23 in the lesser hall from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Chair circulated copies of the proposed crossing to members and attendees. A discussion ensued when a member of the public disagreed with the way the CC had handled the matter. Chair explained why actions were taken in the way they were, but he continued to disagree. A request was also made for photographs of the puffin crossings at Peebles, Innerleithen and Duns to be available at the drop in session; Chair would pass on this request to the relevant department. It was important that members of the public try to attend, to view the proposal and to ask questions of SBC officials who would be in attendance. It was also stated that young people and their views were equally important and their attendance welcome.

**Chair
Sec**

13. **Petanque on The Green.** . Chair reported that the Petanque Lane was now finished and thanked CC Hutchings for his input and for supplying the temporary fencing that was now round the area to allow the surface area to 'bed in'. Some sets of boules had been donated for community use. A member of the public then raised concerns that the area was not safe and was a potential trip hazard because of the wooden edging, that areas were left untidy and that there were tracks left by machinery.

Chair

Chair reported that the plans were similar to other petanque lanes, that the work had been done in accordance with the approved planning application, and that

no safety concerns had been raised at the time. Another member of the public suggested that soil be piled on the 'Grass' side to the top of the wooden edge to minimise the height. Chair did not feel able to comment on this suggestion, so the matter was now disappointingly ongoing. Further advice from experts in this field would be sought.

[Afternote: On 26 Apr 23, additional soil was laid on the outside of the petanque court edges, and the issue was considered to have been resolved.]

14. **Denholm Resilience Group.** . CC Fergusson reported no new members had come forward and another appeal would be made in due course to keep numbers strong. **Ferguson**

15. **Small Grants Scheme.** Any new schemes would be considered when funding was released. **Marshall**

16. **Wind Farms Update.** **Chair**

a. **Pines Burn – Traffic Management Plan.** The preparations for the delivery of the various components has been ongoing resulting in widespread problems and delays for local residents. The proposed closure of the A6088 for 6 weeks has now been delayed until after the Common Riding, so problems have only been rescheduled to another date and will cause further problems as the tourism season gets busier. It is disappointing that little consultation re the traffic plan has been forthcoming from the developers to any of the CCs in affected areas.

No further discussions have been made regarding Community Benefit at this time.

Chair gave brief details of the other windfarms ongoing in our area. Teviot Windfarm (62 turbines) possibly lodged for planning in July. Millmoor Rig (15 turbines) ongoing.

The Border Windfarm combining Waughope East, West and Newcastleton was possibly coming back for consideration again.

17. **AOB.** a. **Street Lights.** CC Nicol reported street lights off. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue. **Ramage**

b. **Village Hall Defibrillator:** CC Nicol asked if the Village Hall had a working defib. It was noted that the hall had received the old village one when it had been renewed, but the pads would now be out of date and likely obsolete. This would be checked with their Chairperson. **Chair**

c. **Placemaking.** Chair welcomed Ms Culverwell of SBC to the meeting. Ms Culverwell reported on Placemaking and the meeting held recently by her colleagues. She offered help in the future with any ideas CC wanted to take forward. Chair reported a proposed questionnaire on similar lines to Southdean will be created in due course. She also briefly explained that welfare grants and other community funding was now open for applications and details would be sent for display in the area

d. **Hornshole Signage.** Cllr Ramage reported that new signage has been placed at Hornshole Bridge to try and reduce inappropriate traffic and lessen damage to the bridge. She also reported repairs to the pavement

- at the corner of the Loaning/Douglas Drive could possibly be considered through small grant scheme in the new financial year. **Ramage**
- e. **Community Shed.** Cllr Ramage had received contact from Jo Stewart, Interim estates manager at SBC who suggested arranging a meeting with Alasdair Watson and interested parties regarding the community shed. Chair would liaise asap to get this moving again. **Chair**
- f. **Borders National Park.** Some discussion also followed after a question asking why SBC officials are not better supporting the proposed Borders National Park. Cllr Richards agreed to pursue. **Richards**
- g. **Road Signage.** CC Ploughman asked again about signage for 'passing place, no parking' on the back roads from Denholm to Hawick. Cllr Ramage agreed to investigate. **Ramage**
- h. **EV Charging Points.** Chair asked if any further details were available following on from the joint meeting held with Scottish Power on Electric Vehicle points for the future for the village. CC Ploughman said further contact was expected in due course. **Chair Ploughman**
- i. Mr G Campbell reported that Hawick had organised several public meetings to get a voice for what changes they would hope for the future and he encouraged Denholm residents to join them or to set something similar for this area. It was understood a member from the Hawick Team, Mr Muir was planning on visiting the school.

Date of Next Meeting. The next D&DCC meeting would be on **17th May 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. **ALL**

Chair reminded members that the next meeting falls on the same date as the Crossing meeting and the start time may need to be amended for that night. Details would be sent in due course

Chair closed the meeting at 8.40 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

G Crew
Chair
D&DCC

27 Apr 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)