

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 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 W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

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

Prior to addressing the agenda, Chair made a short statement in response to comments of a personal nature which she had recently received from a member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CC M Richardson.
2. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. **All**
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 19 Apr 23.** The minutes were proposed by Sec and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Chair addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Board (Item 5a).** Cllr Ramage reported that problems had arisen, but the new notice board would be installed shortly **Ramage**
 - b. **Signage (Item 5c).** On going - Cllr Marshall would continue to monitor, but staff shortages continued to delay the process. **Marshall**
 - c. **Telephone Box (Item 5d).** CC Hutchings hoped to complete the work within the week. **Hutchings**
 - d. **Street Lights (Item 17a).** One standard remained unserviceable. Cllr Ramage would report this again. **Ramage**
 - e. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 17b).** On-going.
 - f. **Purchase of the Community Shed (Item 17e).** Chair reported that she, Sec and Treasurer had met with SBC Officers at the site, together with the school Head Teacher, members of the Village Hall committee and the Flower Show group to review the situation. The outcome was that the legal position needed to be clarified, some structural damage had to be assessed, and the price confirmed. Treasurer stated that funds were still available for the purchase. The precise method of transfer of ownership had also still to be finalised. All agreed that, in view of the delays hitherto, the processes should be completed as quickly as possible. **Chair**

- g. **Borders National Park (Item 17f).** Frustration was expressed at the lack of progress to date. Dumfries & Galloway Council appeared to be fully behind their project, but there appeared to be little attention on the Borders proposal at SBC.
- h. **Road Signage (Item 17g).** Cllr Ramage thought that the staff issues at SBC were behind the lack of progress to date, but she would continue to pursue the matter. **Ramage**
6. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for April 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 the three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices. .
8. **Correspondence.** Chair had been notified that:
- a. Upgrading of the core-path at the top of The Loaning was now complete, thanks to the SBC Rangers.
- b. The SG Boundaries Commission process would start later in the year.
10. **Planning Applications.** Cllr Richards declared an interest and left the meeting for this item. CC Hutchins declared an interest in the Cavers House item.
- a. **23/00619/FUL – Alterations at Hazeldean, Eastgate.** The application had been circulated; there were no comments. Sec to report. **Sec**
- b. **22/00118/FUL Denholm Mill Development.** Sec asked if SBC Planning had received and were addressing the request from the Denholm Mill Proprietors' Association to reverse their approval of the application in its current form. Cllr Ramage agreed to make enquiries. **Ramage**
- c. **22/01588/FUL – Restoration of Cavers House.** Sec reported that he was not aware of any fresh developments, but the situation would continue to be monitored closely.
10. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.**
- a. **Pot A and Pot B Funds.** Pot A Funds for the production of the Denholm Maps had been approved. There had been no applications for Pot B funds to date.
- b. The next Area Partnership meeting would be 14 Jun 23; however, the venue of Hawick Lesser town hall was now not available, and the meeting would be conducted via "Teams", link to be circulated.
11. **Coronation Picnic.** Chair reported that the event had been greatly enjoyed by those who attended, and the Tug-of-War competition had been particularly well contested. A new "King's Head" 50p coin had been presented to every child at Denholm School as a souvenir of the day, funded from the D&DCC Project Account. Chair thanked all those who helped set up the event and with the clearing up afterwards.
12. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing – Drop-In Clinic.** The public information drop-in clinic had been held earlier in the day, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Chair expressed her thanks to Philippa Gilhooly and Garry Haldane from SBC for their participation, and the three Councillors for their attendance.

She reported that it had been a busy meeting, although the total attendance by residents had been somewhat disappointing, with a total of approximately 70 written comments having been submitted. Chair stressed that this had not been a referendum, but an attempt to permit SBC officers to gauge the weight of opinion for or against the project, and to understand the nature of residents' concerns. SBC Officers had tried to explain their proposals to residents attending, how the crossing might be implemented, and the regulations governing such installations.

It had been stressed that the decision on whether to install a crossing or not had yet to be made and would rest with SBC Elected Councillors, who would take into account the advice of the Officers.

At the D&DCC meeting, members of the public expressed their concerns regarding the origin of the proposal and the rationale behind it, the level of preparation of the SBC Officers prior to the meeting, and their perceived impacts on the community and the businesses of the village were the crossing to be installed.

Cllrs Marshall, Richards and Ramage all expressed their support for the Officers who had engaged with residents, stressing their impartiality and professionalism. Cllrs recognised that the Officers would not have had all the answers prior to the meeting, but would now continue their investigations into the justification for the project and the legal situation regarding aspects of land ownership affected.

13. **Petanque on The Green.** Chair reported that the Petanque court was now being used by members of the community, and that sets of boules were available to borrow from the Cream Puff Café, both pubs or the box by the side of the Church. Mr Peter Harrington also confirmed that the surface was satisfactory and additional gravel was not required. Following a question from the floor, it was also confirmed the funding for the court came from the Langhope Rig Community Fund through Foundation Scotland and made payable to the Denholm Feuars and Householders Council, who then subsequently paid the contractors for the work and materials.
14. **EV Charging Points.** . CC Ploughman reported that, following the meeting with SBC Officers and the Feuars, Scottish Power had confirmed sufficient power was available, had conducted a site survey and had tendered proposals for a number of charging point installations around the village. Questions had arisen regarding land ownership of one site, and this would be investigated. There was agreement in principal from all parties for the project to move forward, with further discussion to finalise details. The meeting agreed that there was considerable merit in the project to the benefit of the community, with the possibility of Denholm becoming a model for EV charging projects in rural areas nationally.
15. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall indicated that the scheme was open with funds for the new financial year.
16. **Wind Farms Update.**
 - a. **Pines Burn – Traffic Management Plan.** The preparations for the delivery of the various components continue resulting in widespread problems and delays for local residents. The proposed closure of the A6088 are delayed until after the Common Riding. There have been no further discussions regarding Community Benefit.
 - b. **Teviot.** It is understood that the Teviot windfarm application is due to be considered by Planning in July.

17. **AOB.**

a. **Placemaking.** Chair has spoken to SBC who had offered to give a presentation to explain placemaking. It was agreed this should wait until after Common Riding. It was agreed that a questionnaire for the Denholm community would be finalised following the presentation.

b. **Potholes.** Several potholes remained to be fixed – in the Village Hall carpark, and on the Minto Road near Riverside Drive. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue with SBC.

Ramage

c. **Borders National Park.** Cllr Ramage said she would continue to press for action at SBC.

Ramage

d. **Highway Code.** Mr Miller raised the matter of recent changes to the Highway Code, which put greater pressure on motorists to give way to pedestrians in certain circumstances. There followed a discussion on the need for traffic calming measures through the village, and the functioning of flashing speed limit signs. Cllr Marshall offered to pursue the matter with SBC.

Marshall

Date of Next Meeting. The next D&DCC meeting would be on **21st June 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

ALL

Chair closed the meeting at 8.42 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

W A B Roberts
Sec
D&DCC

20 May 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)