

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 21st June 2023

Present:

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

In attendance:

3 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs D. Hutchings, W. Roberts, J Somerville; SBC Councillors Marshall and Ramage; PC Allan Patterson.
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 17 May 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Ferguson. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Chair addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Board (Item 4a).** On-going **Ramage**
 - b. **Signage (Item 4b).** On-going **Marshall**
 - c. **Telephone Box (Item 4c).** On-going **Hutchings**
 - d. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4e).** On-going. **Somerville**
 - e. **Purchase of the Community Shed (Item 4f).** Chair reported that the Village Hall committee were contacting their solicitors to take the matter forward, but there was concern that funding would need to be sought to do the necessary repairs after purchase. A short discussion followed regarding the requirement for the purchaser to pay all the legal costs, but this was deemed to be normal practice. Treasurer stated that funds were still available for the purchase, and some funds could also be available for repair at a later time. The precise transfer of ownership had still to be finalised. All agreed that the purchase for the Community was paramount and would be completed as quickly as possible. **Chair**
 - f. **Potholes (Items 17b).** Several potholes remained a problem: Village Hall car park, Minto Road near Riverside Drive, and several near the Church. On-going **Ramage**
5. **Police Report.** P.C. Allan Paterson had sent his report (attached) as he was unable to attend. There were no comments from the members.
6. **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. **Passmore**

CC Passmore also indicated that as this was a new financial year, Members of the CC were required to agree to the Code of Conduct and SBC so notified. All

present agreed and those not in attendance would do so in due course and notification given.

Sec

7. **Correspondence.** Chair drew members' attention to several emails that requested the CC to comment:

a. A meeting is to be arranged with Rachel Hamilton regarding the Pinesburn windfarm, between 31st July and 3rd August and local CC representatives would be invited to attend.

Chair

b. Comments were requested regarding the proposed Community Council Funding Review.

c. A request for input from Samantha Elliot regarding the ongoing commitment for 20mph measures, and if further signage was required. Chair would discuss with Philippa Gilhooly to see if this would be appropriate at this time.

Chair

d. As funding had been agreed and received, an order had been placed for a further supply of Denholm maps which would arrive in due course.

.8 **Planning Applications.**

a. **22/00118/FUL Denholm Mill Development.** No further information was available at this time

b. **22/01588/FUL – Restoration of Cavers House.** Chair reported that application for this had been considered at a planning meeting on 15 Jun 23, notified to the CC at very short notice. Initially the CC registered an interest to speak at the meeting, but this was withdrawn when a Cavers resident agreed to speak on objectors' behalf. After further discussion about the proposed planning conditions relating to possible approval, the planning committee deferred their final decision until a site visit could be arranged to view in person some of the highlighted issues and especially those over access into the property.

[Afternote: A follow-up Planning Committee meeting to decide on the application has been arranged for Monday 3 Jul 23 at 1000. Clearly, any site visit to inform this meeting will have to be held in advance of the meeting.]

9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.**

a. **Pot A and Pot B Funds.** The status of these funds will remain the same.

b. A report was given to members regarding Community Policing and included Newcastleton highlighting the need for more manpower to cover such a large area.

10. **Denholm Pedestrian Crossing – Decision.** Chair reported that elected SBC members and SBC officers had discussed the proposal. The collated information from the comment forms received on the day of the drop-in clinic, together with further information given from members of the public, in their opinion there was insufficient support to proceed with the proposed crossing. 58 responses had been received on the day, with 17 in favour and 41 against.

Mr G Campbell raised his objections to the decision as he believed that there had been insufficient publicity given to the public, and that people did not realise that a decision by Councillors would be considered on the responses from a drop-in clinic.

He believed the Crossing was paramount to keep people safe with the ever-increasing volume of traffic on the Main Street, and this negative response was disappointing and short-sighted. He believed if the meeting had been publicised and it made clearer that a decision would be based on those attending, then more people would have come along to state their views. He felt that not enough time had been given for discussion, and that the numbers that were used to decide, were not a true indicator of feelings in the village about the crossing.

A further discussion ensued regarding the problems of continued vehicles speeding through the village, and what could be done next to slow traffic down. Also, SBC officers would be engaging with residents to clarify ownership of the pavement on the north side of the Green with a view to better pedestrian safety.

Chair reported that discussions would continue with SBC members and SBC officers to determine what improvements could be made.

11. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported that Scottish Power were continuing with preparations for formal surveys, design and pricing for the proposed suitable sites in Denholm and would be in touch again when this had been done. Chair commented that it was imperative that all parties involved with the project worked together for the benefit of the whole village

12. **Small Grants Scheme.** The scheme was open with funds for the new financial year and any suitable projects would be considered

16. **Wind Farms Update.**

a. **Pines Burn – Traffic Management Plan.** The preparations for the delivery of the various components continue, however the company was now providing details of their traffic management plan and this is proving beneficial for local residents to plan ahead.

b. **Border Windfarm.** The proposed windfarm, with 80 turbines covering Waughope East, West and Newcastleton, was expected to go to Community Councils for scoping within the next few weeks.

17. **AOB.**

a. **Placemaking.** Chair had spoken to SBC who had offered to give a presentation to explain placemaking. This had been re-arranged for Monday 26th June at 6.30 in Denholm Village Hall. Notice had been placed on the village FB page and posters around the village. Ideas or comments could be submitted and hopefully volunteers would step forward to take the project forward.

Chair

b. **Lighting.** It was reported that the outside light at the Village Hall was faulty.

Somerville

c. **BT Openreach.** It was noted that BT were currently working throughout the area to replace the cables with fibre optics. This may temporarily affect some electronics, but once connected, the speeds and service should be greatly improved for everyone for business or pleasure.

d. **Platinum Jubilee Plaques.** After some unavoidable delays, the plaques to celebrate planting trees and roses in our area for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, had been produced and would be placed accordingly beside the trees at Minto & Denholm School and at the roses at Bedrule, Denholm & Minto. They had been made by local resident George Pilch and mounted by Vicky Oswald, whose efforts were greatly appreciated.

- e. **Denholm Planters.** Mr Campbell had arranged for some of the Denholm school children to come down to the Green and the wooden planters were planted up with a variety of flowers. He suggested that an acknowledgement be sent to the school for their help by means of a certificate of achievement from the CC. Chair would organise. **Chair**
 - f. **Public toilets.** Mr Campbell also wished to thank SBC for their prompt attention when it was pointed out that the public toilets were out of action the day before Denholm Rideout
 - g. **Denholm Flower Show.** CC Passmore declared an interest as Treasurer for that organisation. Mr Campbell would be applying for funding through Foundation Scotland to replace the tables already held in storage for the flower show use. Forms would be completed in due course. **Campbell**
- Date of Next Meeting.** The next D&DCC meeting would be on **16th August 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. **ALL**

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

G Crew
Chair
D&DCC

28 Jun 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)