

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor M Richardson	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Mr Allan Baillie	
3 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs L Ferguson, D Hutchings, J Somerville; Cllrs C Ramage, N Richards, and PC Allan Patterson.

CC J Somerville had also announced his resignation from the CC due to unforeseen workload.
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 16 Aug 23.** The minutes were proposed by CC Passmore and seconded by CC Nicol. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Chair addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **New Notice Boards (Item 4a).** The new notice board for The Green had been installed, but left locked with the key missing, and Chair apologised that no notices had been placed to date. A replacement key had now been delivered.

Cllr Marshall indicated that the new notice board for the Village Hall was ready for installation.
 - b. **Signage (Item 4b).** Sec to inform SBC of the outstanding damage to the "No Footway" notice at the junction of Riverside Drive and Minto Road. **Sec Hutchings**
 - c. **Telephone Box (Item 4c).** On-going
 - d. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4d).** CC Nicol pointed out that it was essential that the defib be located outside the Village Hall to allow 24 hr access for the school. On-going. **Ferguson**
 - e. **Purchase of the Community Shed (Item 4e).** Treasurer announced that she had issued a cheque for £6,000 in respect of the purchase, and completion of the sale was expected for 28 Sep 23. All expressed their satisfaction that this matter was being concluded at last.
 - f. **Lighting (Item 4i).** The Village Hall outside light was still not working. Cllr Ramage had offered to pursue. **Ramage**
 - g. **Area Partnership Meeting (Item 9).** This had been cancelled due to lack of attendance by SBC Councillors.

- h. **Grass Cutting (Item 14b).** Cllr Marshall agreed to monitor the process. **Marshall**
5. **Police Report.** PC 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**
7. **Spital Tower.** Chair welcomed Mr Allan Baillie, who addressed the meeting with a detailed description of the state of the footpaths around Spital Tower and leading to the summit of Ruberslaw. He described the work he had been doing recently to improve these paths, and those he was planning to carry out in the future. He stressed that he and his neighbours welcomed the use of these paths by residents and visitors. While fully recognising the "Right to Roam", he did urge walkers to stick to the paths and, in particular, to avoid newly planted trees, and not to wander unnecessarily into fields holding livestock. He also stressed the need to keep all dogs on leads.
- He intended to ask SBC to realign the published core path so that this was depicted as within the woods.
- He pointed out that the quarry was now back in use and therefore posed a potential danger, and he urged walkers to avoid approaching the quarry.
- Mr Baillie also mentioned proposals to announce a network of footpaths to follow the 12 Towers of Rule, and one to convert churches in the area now closed to provide accommodation for the needy.
- The meeting thanked Mr Baillie for his contribution.
8. **Correspondence.** Chair described the following:
- a. Denholm Brownies had requested a donation of £80 to fund a visit to a local Christmas pantomime. Approved unanimously. **Treasurer**
- b. A request to provide information for a "Slow Ways" project to publish a network of walking routes.
- c. **Main Street Footway.** Chair had been offered a number of dates for a meeting with SBC officers, to include members of the Feuars, to discuss the future of the footway along Main Street beside The Green.
- There followed a lengthy discussion between CCs and the members of the public present in which considerable frustration was expressed at the lack of clarity regarding the legal status of the footpath, the need for proper maintenance (highlighted by several recent walking accidents), and the desirability of retaining adequate parking space for the residents and local businesses.
- It was agreed that Chair would press for a meeting at 0930 on Wednesday 18 Oct 23
9. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **SBC Notification Policy.** Cllr Richards (absent) would be pressed to seek clarification of SBC's current policy regarding notification of planning applications pertinent to the Denholm and District area, and to report at the next meeting. **Richards**
- b. **Application for Development at Canongate.** The original application dated back many years, and CCs were curious why the normal period of

discretion before work was commenced had been so considerably extended. Cllr Richards to pursue.

Richards

Approval having now been granted for the development, which included 19 new dwellings, CCs were interested in what rights did D&DCC have to appeal against the decision. Cllr Richards would be asked to seek advice from SBC on both the above questions.

Richards

- c. **22/00532/PPP. – Dwelling House, Briary Yard, Hornshole.** This application had been submitted in early 2022 but had recently been refused by SBC. The D&DCC had considered the application at its 20 Apr 22 meeting, but had offered no comment, for or against. Chair had now been approached by the applicant to ask whether the CC could support an appeal against the refusal. Members agreed to examine the application again and consider whether it could add its support. Chair would respond in due course.

**All
Chair**

Cllr Marshall departed the meeting at this point.

10. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** The due meeting was to be rescheduled.

Ramage

11. **Placemaking.** CC Hutchings was not present to report. Mr Gordie Campbell (present) reported that a strong group (which he had joined) had now been formed to pursue the project, and a chair and vice-chair had been appointed. He was confident that progress would be made in the coming weeks.

Hutchings

12. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported that Scottish Power were still awaiting evidence of land ownership (or the right to lease) for the sites they were proposing for EV charging points in the village. He understood the Feuars' lawyers were "working on it". He welcomed the news that the Community Shed purchase was now going through, and asked that evidence could be provided for the relevant site as soon as possible to SP.

**Treasurer
Ploughman**

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** Nothing further to report.

Wind Farms Update.

- a. **Pines Burn.** All at the meeting agreed that Chair should express the D&DCCs' full support for Mr Philip Kerr's proposed objections to the manner of EK's handling of the project and to their proposals for varying the initial position on community benefits.

Chair

It was thought that PB vehicles were still using the Dean Road, despite earlier demands to avoid it. Chair asked that any further sightings be reported to her so they could be followed up with the contractors.

- b. **Liddesdale.** The scoping document was now out for consideration.

14. **AOB.**

- a. **Ashloaning Repairs.** Chair expressed her satisfaction that the pavement repairs at the foot of Ashloaning had now been completed.

- b. **Christmas Arrangements.** It was agreed that arrangements would be made for the Christmas celebrations similar to those for 2022.

- c. **Playpark Bench.** CC Nicol reported that the proposal to place a bench within the children's playpark on The Green had been rejected by Health

and Safety officers of SBC; they had indicated the bench would have to be located outside the playpark.

- d. **Unrestricted Speed Limits.** CC Ploughman had written to Mr John Lamont MP asking him to pursue his proposal for a 30mph limit on single-track roads with both Scottish and UK Governments. The SG had responded saying that the idea would be considered in a forthcoming overall examination of all road speed limits within Scotland.
- e. **Bus Service Co-ordination.** Mr John Millar (present) welcomed the addition of a new Hogg's bus evening schedule from Galashiels to Hawick. However, this did not always allow time to link with onward service to Denholm. Sec to draft letter to SBC requesting that these routes be better co-ordinated.
- f. **Footbridge Closures in Hawick.** Mr Millar also asked if efforts could be made to better signpost information about closure of the footbridge over the Teviot in the vicinity of the health centre. Sec to write to SBC.
- g. **Feuars Meeting.** Mr Campbell indicated that a meeting of the Feuars was scheduled for Monday 25 Sep and he encouraged members of D&DCC to attend.

Sec

Sec

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **18 October 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

27 Sep 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)