

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DENHOLM FEUARS & FOUSEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

IN DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL
WEDESDAY 17TH JULY 2024

Present: Lynn Ferguson (LF), Jim Wilson (JW), Dougie Crew (DC), Will Roberts (WR), Jane Currie (JC), Ducan Rollo (DR) Lisa Telford (LT), Kenny Johnstone (KJ)

Apologies: Lee Baines

12 members of the DF&HA

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIR & ITEM 1.

Lynn Ferguson welcomed everyone and thanked those present for their continued interest and support and reminded all present the need for appropriate behaviour. Also any committee member who had a conflict of interest with any item on the Agenda must declare it.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Matters Arising
5. Denholm Dean Update
6. SCIO Update
7. AOB
8. Date of next meeting

ITEM 2

LF addressed the question of the previously used Denholm Green website for posting minutes and notes of interest. The admin of this site was run by Adam Massey and since he has re-located outwith the area it was agreed that the site will not be used by the association in the future. Future posts will be put on the Facebook page and Denholm Village Webpage in a section dedicated to Denholm Feuars.

John Miller stated that all attendees, in line with the constitution, should have their names published on the minutes and this will be checked by the Chair and amended if need be.

Two Hoots update, that all legal proceedings had been halted and a request from Iona Cranston that "a mutual agreement had been reached"

Comments via email by John and Doreen Biggar have been circulated to the committee members and a response will be issued once a consensus of opinion is agreed upon.

Agreement was reached that due to the success of the previous car boot sale another will be held on the green on Sunday 4th August. It was decided not to hold one on the day of the Hizzy Run as it would be not be appropriate to clash these events.

Scottish power is hoping to have the two charging points at the village hall before the school returns after the summer, in order to minimize disruption and thereafter two charging points at the Fishermans car park and only one opposite the Cream Puff. This is due to the power available at the latter's location. Tom Sellar asked if there would be an income to the charity but as yet we have no information from SP as this is a somewhat complex issue, revenue is unknown. Dougie Crew raised the question of Scottish Power needing confirmation of ownership before the installation can start and this would seem to be a joint agreement between SBC and Scottish Power.

ITEM 3

Treasurer's Report. WR reported that as of the 9th July the charity's account stood at a credit of 6459 pounds and 35 pence.

ITEM 4.

No matters arising from the floor.

ITEM 5

The Dean. Addressed by Tom Sellar. Felling. Without official figures the total weight is estimated at 330 tons compared to quote of 266 tons but 60% is inferior quality due to bark beetle damage. It is still hoped that income will be enough to pay for costs of felling.

Brash - Gordon instructed the harvesting contractor to move all brash to below the roadside to be chipped. The cost for this was not included in the original contract and therefore there will be an additional cost which is not yet known, Jenkinsons who will chip the brash have indicated a price of £10 per tonne giving an expected income of £750.

Volunteers. It had been planned to invite volunteers to help tidy up surface brash to make space for replanting, but it had just been found out that the Zurich policy does not cover volunteers. A quote will be requested and meantime implemented thorough risk assessments

Insurance – Suggested that someone on the Council should study the policy to ensure it meets DFHC needs

Benches – 2 benches are planned to be installed if grant application is successful

Boundary Fence – Mr Sandy Laing who farms at Honeyburn had insisted that DFHC pay 50% of cost of replacing the 240m boundary fence – estimated £1,200. This was because the original plan by the felling contractor meant that the fence would have to be

removed to allow extraction of the cut timber. However, the contractor was able to use another route and the fence and crops were not damaged. No commitment will be made unless grant application to Foundation Scotland is successful. Shirley Passmore agreed to contact Foundation Scotland to ascertain if this request was likely to be met.

Borders Forest Trust – They had provided potential sources of free saplings as well as producing suggested planting plans for each of the 4 zones. They had also offered to bring their volunteers to help in the Dean

Signage – we are still awaiting planning approval.

Bike Ramps – they need to be removed as a No Cycling was a condition of the gift from Michael Braithwaite.

Gwen Crew asked if the Green Team or Community Payback organisations had been contacted and perhaps that would be an avenue for enlisting volunteers who would be insured and supervised.

Shirley Passmore raised a concern of road safety due to there being no barrier or fence in place on the road where the trees have been exited from. Tom Sellar said that the hedge would be replaced in due course.

ITEM 6

SCIO Update. Vicky and Frances a draft constitution compiled. Vicky had been using 2 templates and some paragraphs had been removed. Under advice from Fiona Benton from Community Action these paragraphs will have to be re-inserted to satisfy OSCR the charity regulator. It will be then be sent to Fiona Benton of Community Action. A copy will then be made available in the Post Office for anyone to make comments on. This will be advertised in the September newsletter. It will contain a supplement in a different colour with the pros and cons of becoming a SCIO. This information will be supplied by Fiona Benton. The supplement will also contain advice on which sections/paragraphs are to be commented on as the rest of the document are the legal parts which must remain in the document. A box for comments will be made available in the Post Office.

We therefore need to set a date for an AGM which will be provisionally set for Wednesday 30th October. Fiona Benton will be in attendance for a short question and answer session and will require questions to be submitted in advance – again through the suggestion box in the PO. Tom Sellar queried if there would be a public meeting to discuss the changes and the SCIO and the chair advised that the AGM would be the public meeting.

At the AGM the current committee would be required to stand down and will be available for re-election if they wish to continue. There are still 4 vacancies on the committee and it is hoped that some youths who are interested in the village would like to join the committee.

Morton, Fraser and McRoberts, a charity specialist solicitor has been approached to supply a quote for undertaking the work associated with becoming an SCIO and becoming our legal representatives for all future work now that Hadden & Crowe have withdrawn their support. One other company was recommended by Fiona Benton and it may be possible for funding to be available through Foundation Scotland to cover legal fees, whole or part. Shirley Passmore has kindly volunteered for this task and LF stated that it will be a tier 2 SCIO and both constitution and SCIO will be ready for discussion at the AGM.

A new charity name will be required and as yet no suggestions have come from any residents in the village. This will be highlighted in the September newsletter also.

DR suggested a poster for the Facebook page and John Millar suggested a mix and match approach with web page and a smaller version for the news latter.

ITEM 7

AOB.

Michelle and Allan Richardson had emailed the Chair and Secretary questioning the shared/public access of their car port which was raised by the previous committee. LF replied that we will happily reply through our new solicitor to have this amended and put to rights with no public right of way and shared access.

Helen Howden had approached the Chair to request if the Feuars would agree to host a Family Day on the Green. The previous committee had agreed to this and some early arrangements were underway. It is proposed to hold this event on Saturday 10th August. WR has kindly offered to supply a generator so that teas and coffees can be offered. Vicky and Paul to contact council regarding the 16 amp supply on the green.

Bonfire night will not go ahead due to the new legislation and liability issues, not to mention the parking chaos. As an alternative LF has had a suggestion made from a resident to hold a sausage and sparkler evening on the Green on November 5th.

Gwen Crew reported that a resident had complained about the state of the car park opposite the cream puff. It is untidy with weeds and rubbish. Although it was not the responsibility of the Feuars or the Community Council the Chair said that she would ask a volunteer to do a clean up.

Tom Sellar asked if the previous chairman been approached regarding the Haddon and Crowe bill which had been created by himself. It was highlighted that the poor state of the Feuars finances was caused by the legal bills and that he had made contributions in the past to offset them. It was agreed to contact him to see if any further contribution could be made.

The meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting 26th August at 7.00 pm