

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOV 2024

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor M Richardson	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Mr John McLellan	Media House
5 Members of the public	

Sec apologised to all present for the very late distribution of the agenda.

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Councillors S Marshall and C Ramage.	
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 Oct 24. The minutes were proposed by CC Hutchings and seconded by CC Ploughman. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Chair addressed the action points from the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Dangerous Tree (Item 4d). Chair had spoken to Eildon Housing about the tree, but they were unsure of their land boundary, and were investigating further.b. Main Street Road Condition (Item 4e). CC Passmore believed the problem had been resolved.c. New Speed Sign (Item 4f). CC Ferguson said the Feuars were aware of the issue and she would arrange for tree-trimming if and when this was necessary.d. Loaning Playpark (Item 4g). CC Ferguson had emailed SBC with the information required, and this had been acknowledged.e. Dangerous Tree (Item 15d). CC Ploughman reported the tree in a dangerous condition between the Denholm bridge and the Minto crossroads had been sorted out.	Ferguson
10.	Centre Parcs Proposal. Chair welcomed Mr John McLellan, a consultant with Media House, who had kindly arranged to attend the meeting to outline the present situation regarding the recent announcement that Centre Parcs (CP) were planning to create a substantial visitor attraction in the Borders between Hawick and Selkirk. Mr McLellan said plans was at a very early stage, with a planning application likely to be submitted in the next 12 months. Construction would take 2-3 years, with the site opening for visitors in 2029. Access to the site would be via the A7.	

He stressed that the company was intent on close engagement with local communities, and had a good track record in this regard on previous projects. He indicated that CP intended to engage local labour, both during construction and eventual operations, and intended to provide a substantial outlet for local produce, to be sold within the site. He agreed to ensure a map showing the intended site would be made available asap.

Members of the CC and of the public present expressed their excitement at the potential benefits to the local economy, but also their major concerns over the impact on some local farms and properties, particularly in the area of Cotfield and Huntlaw. They stressed the need for careful scrutiny of transport plans, highlighting the huge negative impact of recent windfarm developments.

Chair thanked Mr McLellan for his contribution and said that everyone was looking forward to the consultation session planned for late January.

[Afternote: The proposed location of the centre of CP site is now indicated on Googlemaps; search for Huntlaw Farm House.]

5. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for Oct. No comments.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.
7. **Correspondence.** Chair had forwarded a number of items of correspondence by email. In addition, she had been in correspondence with the Mayor of Denholm in Ontario, Canada, who had thanked the CC for the Denholm (Scotland) maps sent earlier. He had expressed a desire in his community to sponsor a number of birch trees in The Dean. This was greatly appreciated, and details of how to do so would be forwarded asap. **Chair**
8. **Planning Applications.**
 - a. **24/01059/FUL** – Alterations, Croft Cottage, Kirkside, Denholm. Sec reported this had now been approved.
 - b. No new applications were currently evident on the SBC monthly list.
9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** CC Ferguson reported that the Pot B panel were currently considering three applications for funds which she understood were likely to be approved. .
11. **"Anti-Poverty Strategy" Consultation.** Chair explained she had been in touch with "Sustainable Borders" (formerly Sustainable Selkirk), and it was hoped to arrange a consultation for mid to late Jan 25. A date had yet to be agreed. **Chair**
12. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that the updated survey was now live but was due to expire on 1 Dec 24. Following discussion, it was agreed this should be extended to 8 Dec. The next Newsletter was not scheduled until later, so a special flier should be produced and distributed to all households., including those in Minto and Bedrule. **Hutchings**
13. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported the discussions with SP were continuing. Ownership of the Fisherman's Car Park remained unresolved but the SP legal team were prioritising the issue. His contact at SP remained optimistic that a solution could be found.
14. **Small Grants Scheme.** Nothing to report.

15. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair summarised the complex nature of the windfarm issues across the Borders. She had visited the exhibition regarding the Stirches Energy Park, just north of Galalaw and west of the A7, which will be for battery storage and a large solar array. Chair and Sec had attended an introductory meeting with other local CC members regarding another large windfarm proposal at Mid Hill. Details are not finalised yet.

D&DCC remain part of a larger local multi community council group, with the aim to support their communities better. Final agreements regarding the proposed community benefit schemes for Teviot and Pinesburn Windfarms should be finalised in the New Year.

There were several comments and questions from by members of the public.

16 **AOB.**

- a. **Christmas.** The Christmas Tree lights were due to be lit on The Green at 6.00 pm on Sunday 8 Dec. There would be mulled wine and mince pies available. Help would be needed to erect the gazebo in the event of inclement weather. Santa had indicated he would be visiting the village on the evening of Thursday 19 Dec 24 at about 6 pm.

**Chair
Sec**

Treasurer highlighted the need to purchase more batteries for the fairy lights for the trees. CC Ferguson offered for the Feuars to share the cost, and this was much appreciated.

**Treasurer
Ferguson**

[Afternote: Four boxes of batteries have been received.]

CC Richardson indicated that Johnson Oils had again offered to contribute to the cost of the hand-out packages, and this was greatly appreciated by the CC. She would take this forward with JO.

Richardson

- b. **Bottle Bank.** It appeared that one of the bottle bank receptacles at the Fisherman's Car Park had been removed; this was most unfortunate as the festive season approached. Sec would contact Cllr Marshall and ask him to investigate with SBC and seek to have it restored.

Marshall

- c. **Footpath from School to The Wynd.** It was reported that the hedges along this path were now heavily overgrown and in urgent need of trimming back. Questions arose over responsibility for this work, and Chair would take the matter up with Cllr Ramage.

Ramage

- d. **Potholes.** CC Hutchings reported no action had been forthcoming to repair the potholes on the roads around Cavers. Sec would approach SBC Roads for action.

Ramage

- e. **Power Grid Proposals.** CC Passmore had attended a presentation on the proposed power grid extensions across the Borders. The route had yet to be finalised, but it was clear a significant impact on the area was inevitable.

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **15 January 2025** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:40pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

ALL

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

23 Nov 24

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Mr D Ploughman (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Richardson
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)

Information:

Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)
Mrs C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)
Mr N Richards (Councillor, SBC)
Ms C Malster (Comm Eng Off, SBC)
PC A Patterson (Police Scotland)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)
Mrs J Currie (Denholm Facebook)