

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2025

#### 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:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
1 Member of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> Councillor C Ramage.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interests.</b> Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	All
3.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting held 15 Jan 25.</b> The minutes were proposed by CC Hutchings and seconded by CC Ferguson. Approved.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising.</b> Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting:	
a.	<b>New Speed Sign (Item 4f).</b> CC Ferguson explained that SBC would be doing a tree survey later in the year and would do trimming, if required by the survey. However, she would e-mail Grant Turnbull at SBC (copy to Cllr Marshall) to seek earlier assistance.	Ferguson
b.	<b>Correspondence – Mayor of Denholm, Ontario (Item 7).</b> Sec reported nothing seen to date.	
c.	<b>“Energy Saving Event”.</b> (Formerly “Anti-Poverty Strategy” (Item 4c)) Chair reported that a public meeting was scheduled for either 20 or 28 Feb 25 (to be confirmed) and would be held in the Village Hall.	
d.	<b>Bottle Bank (Item 4d).</b> Cllr Marshall reported that SBC would be replacing the missing bottle bank “when resources allowed”.	
e.	<b>Defib Equipment Costs (Item 6).</b> Treasurer stated that the proposal to fund defib equipment from the Community Fund had been approved. An on-loan defib had been temporarily installed at Minto, pending an upgrade to the permanent item.	
f.	<b>Leyden Memorial Lighting (Item 16 c).</b> CC Ferguson reported that funding for a survey of the lighting had been approved temporarily, pending application for a grant from T&LAP. She would report progress at the next meeting.	Ferguson
g.	<b>Sunnyside Pavements (item 16d).</b> Cllr Marshall had inspected the pavements. SBC had raised a work order for the section near the school, but the section near the church would be reassessed when the new	

budget had been set. The hole near the bus-stop was due to be repaired the following day 20 Feb 25.

5. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for January. No comments.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex, which also shows the Langhope Rigg Community Fund accounts for the FY ending 31 Dec 24.
7. **Correspondence.**
  - a. **Loaning Play Park.** Chair had received a letter from SBC regarding the play park, outlining options for going forward, and this was distributed at the meeting. It was likely that work would start in the summer, with the play park being out of use for a few weeks.
  - b. **BT Digital Voice Event.** Email giving details of the event to be held at Jedburgh Town Hall on Wed 26 Feb 25 between 10:30 and 1:30pm. This would be explaining the benefits and impact of the forthcoming transition to the digital telephone network. For info, follow the link [here](#).
  - c. **SPEN Webinars.** Sec had joined an online presentation regarding (among other things) the proposed power line installation to carry power south to England. The presentation focussed on the economic advantages and little concrete was learned.
  - d. **Center Parcs.** Letter from Montague Evans, Edinburgh indicating that the CP planning application had been submitted.
  - e. **Litter Management Workshop.** To be held 3 Mar 25 at the Business Suite, SBC headquarters, 10am -12 noon, registration by 24 Feb. Chair would try to attend.
8. **Planning Applications.** Sec reported he had been unable to access the monthly/weekly lists on the SBC planning website, so had not been able to view current applications. Cllr Richards reported that access had now been restored. Sec to check for new applications. **Sec**
9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** Cllr Ramage had emailed that the next meeting of the group was scheduled for 25 Feb 25 at 6:30pm and would be blended (live and via Teams). **Ferguson**

CC Ferguson reported that, for the first quarter of 2025, Pots A and B had been merged. Six applications would be considered at the 25 Feb meeting. Any new applications would be considered for the next quarter.
10. **Center Parcs (CP) Proposal.** Chair and Sec had attended the CP presentation for affected CCs at Hawick RFC on 11 Feb 25. They reported that they had been very impressed by the approach of the company presenters and their intention to involve local communities at every stage of the development as much as possible. Other members of the CC had attended further discussions with the CP team at the HRFC.

The CP team would be holding another meeting at Denholm VH on 26 Mar 25 between 2:00 and 7:00 pm; all residents were encouraged to attend to learn more of the company's intentions.
11. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that over 100 survey forms had been returned and that the earlier missing forms had been

- found at the post office. The Community Enterprise team would be presenting community feedback and the draft Denholm & District Placemaking plan at a public meeting in the church hall on 6 Mar 25 at 6:00pm. All residents were encouraged to attend. **Hutchings**
12. **EV Charging Points.** The proposals were awaiting advice from the Feuars, which it was hoped would be forthcoming after the Feuars SGM on Wed 26 Feb 25 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. **Ferguson**
13. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall said the SBC budget for 2025/26 was due to be discussed the following day. He hoped that the SGS budget would be forthcoming, but he emphasised the stress the budget was under, in particular from the impact of the UK Gov announced increase in Employer's National Insurance Contributions.
14. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair briefly summarised the complex situation with windfarms across the Borders. There had been little progress recently with the several plans/proposals, and considerable concern remained about the proposed battery storage facility in the Stirches area. Funds had yet to be forthcoming from the Pines Burn Community Fund.
- 16 **AOB.**
- a. **Ruberslaw Road Street Lights.** Although lamp standards had been erected, no lighting had yet been installed. Cllr Marshall offered to investigate and update the position at the next meeting. **Marshall**
- b. **Ba' Game.** Chair proposed that the CC make its usual contribution of £25 to the prize fund for the Ba' Game scheduled for 10 Mar 25. **Agreed.** **Treasurer**
- c. **Sustainable Selkirk.** The team would be hosting an information event in Denholm Village Hall on Thursday 20 Feb 25 from 12 noon to 6:00pm.
- d. **Denholm Newsletter.** Vicky Oswald had suggested that there may be a fall in interest in the newsletter, and asked whether it was still required. Following a discussion, it was decided that it should continue on a two-monthly basis, but all residents were encouraged to contribute to the content of the newsletter. The meeting expressed their sincere thanks to Vicky for her work on the compilation and distribution of the paper.
- e. **Dean Project.** The meeting applauded the success of the Dean Project, and thanked Tom Sellar and the whole Feuars Dean Sub-committee for their excellent work. Chair reported that Tom had identified a number of other areas which could benefit from similar efforts. It was agreed that the idea should be included on the agenda for a future CC meeting, Chair to arrange. **Chair**
- f. **Feuars SGM.** The SGM was to be held in the VH on Wed 26 Feb 25 at 7:00pm, the purpose being to decide the future of the Feuars Council, its constitution and its mandate. Teas and coffees would be provided. All Denholm residents were encouraged to attend.
- g. **VE Day Celebration.** Treasurer proposed that a "Picnic on The Green" be held to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day (8 May 25). A Car Boot Sale was scheduled for Saturday 3 May, so it was proposed to hold the picnic event on Sunday 4 May, details to be finalised. SBC would be approached for funding support. The Village Hall committee were also planning to mark the occasion, details to be finalised. **Treasurer Ferguson**
- h. **Denholm Cemetery.** Mr Scott Tait (present) raised the issue of poor maintenance of the cemetery. He reported that it was clear that vehicles

had been driven over one corner of the track within the cemetery, such that one gravestone had been damaged and one grave was being badly degraded. Potholes had appeared in the approach lane and water was pooling. Cllr Richardson was asked to take up the matter with SBC.

**Richardson**

**Date of Next Meeting.** D&DCC would next meet on **19 March 2025** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:20pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

**ALL**

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

25 Feb 25

**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)