# **DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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

#### Present:

Community Councillor G Crew Community Councillor L Ferguson Community Councillor S Passmore Community Councillor D Ploughman Community Councillor W Roberts Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

#### In attendance:

Councillor C Ramage Ms Sarah Culverwell Mr T Sellar Mr C Ryde 2 Members of the public SBC SBC Feuars Dean Sub-Cmte Feuars Dean Sub-Cmte

ltem	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> . CCs S Clew, D Hutchings, M Richardson. Chair reported that CC Richardson had resigned from the CC with immediate effect, for personal reasons. Chair expressed her appreciation for CC Richardson's extensive contributions to the CC	
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.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 19 Feb 25. The minutes were proposed by CC Ploughman and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting:	
	a. <b>New Speed Sign (Item 4a)</b> . CC Ferguson reported that the offending tree had been trimmed, and the sign was now fully visible.	
	b <b>Leyden Memorial Lighting (Item 4f).</b> CC Ferguson reported that a survey of the lighting and the electrical supply to The Green had been arranged and she would hopefully report in the near future.	Ferguson
	c. <b>BT Digital Voice Event (Item 7b)</b> . Chair had attended the presentation on Wed 26 Feb 25 and indicated that more information would be forth-coming soon.	
	d. <b>Ruberslaw Road Street Lights (Item 16a)</b> . Although lamp standards had been erected, lighting had yet to be installed. Cllr Ramage offered to investigate and update the position at the next meeting.	Ramage
	e. <b>Ba' Game (Item 16b</b> ). Treasurer confirmed the contribution to the prize fund had been made.	
	f. <b>Denholm Cemetery (Item 16h).</b> Cllr Ramage offered to take the matter up with SBC.	Ramage
5.	<b>Police Report.</b> Chair had circulated the MMWR for February. No comments. Chair also reported that another burglary had occurred in Denholm in the past week and warned all residents to be vigilant.	

6.	<b>Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.</b> Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.	
	a. Treasurer sought agreement for the Minto defibrillator to be replaced, funded through FS, and this was agreed.	Treasurer
	b. It was suggested that any predetermined allocations of funds within the total Community Fund should be detailed within the report. Treasurer agreed.	Treasurer
7.	Correspondence.	
	a. <b>Scottish Borders Walking Festival</b> . SBC had emailed seeking interest in hosting the Walking Festival in one of the coming 3 years. Although the idea would be good for the community, it would represent a considerable undertaking and should take some thought. To be considered at the next meeting.	Sec
	b. <b>SBC Civic Reception</b> . Chair had received an invitation from Councillor Watson McAteer, Convener of SBC, to a Civic Reception in recognition of "50 Years of Community Councils" at 6pm on Thursday 22 May 25 at the Council Headquarters. Chair or a representative of the D&DCC would be attending.	All
8.	<b>Denholm Dean Sub-Committee – Ten Year Plan.</b> Mr Tom Sellar thanked the CC for the invitation to address the meeting, and he and his colleague Mr Chris Ryde gave a summary of their plans for the care and maintenance of the Dean woodland over the coming years. Their intention was to preserve the natural character of the woodland, while ensuring that it remained suitable and safe for visitors to enjoy. Work to restore the paths was on-going, funding for which had yet to be finalised.	
	They voiced their gratitude to the volunteers who had helped so much with the work to date, and that they hoped such support would continue in the future. They sought advice on how to gain feedback on the project from the community, and it was agreed that a drop-in session would be appropriate, publicised through the Denholm newsletter.	
	The Sub-Committee would liaise with the Place Planning Team to ensure proper inclusion of the Dean project in the final Plan.	
9.	<b>Planning Applications</b> . Sec had circulated the three planning applications, and no adverse comments had been received. Sec to respond accordingly.	Sec
10.	<b>Teviotdale &amp; Liddesdale Area Partnership</b> . Cllr Ramage indicated that SBC was considering how to organise community support in the future, and that the Area Partnership scheme was likely to be wound up at the end of this FY. A further meeting of the T&LAP was scheduled for 27 Mar 25, and this would probably be the last in its present form. Neighbourhood funding would continue, but it was likely that overall funding would be reduced due to the current economic situation.	
11.	<b>Center Parcs (CP) Proposal.</b> It was scheduled for the CP team to hold a public session at Denholm VH on 26 Mar 25 between 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Chair would chase to confirm details. All residents were encouraged to attend to learn more of the company's intentions.	Chair

12.	<b>Denholm &amp; District Placemaking Project.</b> CC Hutchings was unable to attend, but Ms Sarah Culverwell of SBC offered to lead the discussion on the draft plan circulated prior to the meeting.	
	A number of issues were raised in the discussion, but Chair and Sec both expressed concern over the degree of responsibility apparently being devolved to the Community Council, as described in the draft. Ms Culverwell acknowledged these concerns and assured the meeting that the plan would be reviewed to clarify responsibilities for implementing the plan going forward.	Hutchings
13.	<b>EV Charging Points.</b> CC Ploughman said SP were still awaiting advice from the Feuars' lawyers regarding ownership of the lands in question. CC Ferguson agreed to chase the information.	Ferguson
14.	<b>Small Grants Scheme.</b> Cllr Ramage said she hoped that the SGS budget would be forthcoming, but she was aware the funds available may be reduced.	
16	<b>Wind Farms Update</b> . Chair briefly summarised the complex situation with windfarms across the Borders. The Teviot windfarm application had been refused by SBC, but it would now go to the SG where it was expected to be approved eventually.	
	Cllr Ramage said she was pressing for a fully capable mapping tool to be made available, such that the complex and intertwined energy proposals across the Scottish Borders could be viewed together.	
	AOB.	
	a. <b>VE Day Celebration</b> . The event was scheduled for Sunday 4 May 25. Chair emphasised the need for the establishment of a sub-committee to organise the event and asked for volunteers	All
	b. <b>Local Crime</b> . Chair again reported the recent burglaries in the village and had been asked if a "Neighbourhood Watch" scheme could be re- established. This was not thought to be likely, but it was emphasised that CCTV systems were now readily available and affordable, and households were encouraged to install these for their security.	
	c. <b>Leyden 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> . A member of the public reminded the meeting of the forthcoming anniversary. Treasurer confirmed the date as 8 Sep 25, and it was proposed that a family event be staged on The Green to mark the date.	
	d. <b>"Welcome to Denholm" Brick Planter</b> . The brick planter supporting the Welcome sign at the eastern end of the village had never been installed at the time of the Eildon Housing build. Cllr Ramage offered to take the matter up again with SBC with the possibility of funding through the SGS.	Ramage
	e. <b>A698 Manhole Cover</b> . Treasurer reported that a manhole cover on the A698 near Jedward Terrace was unstable and presented a hazard. Cllr Ramage offered to report the issue to SBC Roads Dept.	Ramage
	f. <b>Potholes</b> . CC Ploughman reported potholes on roads in the Hassendean area, and Sec said he had reported several dangerous potholes on the U17/3 road at Cavers. He also reported a problem with the SBC online pothole reporting facility; this prevented one recording that a pothole could be dangerous to vehicles, even though it may not be life-threatening. The programme should be modified.	
	g. <b>Rapid Road Repair</b> . Mr Gordie Campbell (present) applauded the speed with which the SBC workforce had repaired the road in the vicinity	

of the war memorial. He also enquired whether a litter-pick was planned. Chair indicated it would be arranged for the Spring.	
h. <b>Loaning Playpark</b> . Ms Culverwell mentioned that a public consultation regarding the Playpark would be going "live" on 28 Mar 25, and she encouraged all residents to participate to support the proposals.	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> . D&DCC would next meet on <b>16 April 2025</b> 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 Mar 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)