

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18th June 2025

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Cllrs S Marshall, N Richards and C Ramage; CC W Roberts, D Hutchings.	
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	Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. Treasurer had requested that all CCs declare their adherence to the code at this meeting, so that this could be recorded with the submission of the annual accounts.	All
4.	CHAIRS REPORT. Chair read out the end of year report - (attached)	
5	Annual Accounts 2024-25 Treasurer presented the annual accounts. With thank to Christine Rodger for auditing.	
6	CONSTITUTION CHANGES There are no proposed changed to the constitution	
7.	ELECTION Chair formally dissolved the council	
8	NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS Gwen Crew: Chair. (Pt: D Ploughman 2nd: S Passmore) Dale Ploughman: Vice Chair (P:S Passmore 2nd L Fergusson: William Roberts: Secretary (P: S Passmore 2nd L Fergusson Shirley Passmore elected Treasurer (P: L Fergusson 2nd D Ploughman)	
8a.	Chair and Vice Chair both communicated this would be their last year in these roles. Appeal for new members to join the community council	
9	SBC Code of conduct. All members of the CC Agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct.	

10 **CO OPTED MEMBERS**

Chair

Need to communicate with SBC to amend co-opted members policy

S Clew

23 June 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)
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)

Denholm Community Council 2025 Report by Gwen Crew

As we come to the end of another financial year, I am always amazed at how quickly the time has passed. Unfortunately, our CC numbers have diminished again this year, with members leaving for personal reasons, but hopefully these vacancies will be filled again in due course.

However existing members continue to work for their community with the support of SBC officials and our 3 elected local councillors. We will continue trying to improve and support on those things that impact our communities now or in the future.

Recently we supported a local incentive to highlight help that could be accessed to try to reduce fuel costs and a successful afternoon was hosted by 'Sustainable Selkirk'. Despite the awful weather, it was visited by many locals who obtained helpful advice. Hopefully this can be repeated at a later date.

Since last year we have also been working towards forming a local 'placemaking plan'. Now in its final draft stages, it will hopefully form the basis for any future local development plans. Various local opinions and ideas were gathered from consultation meetings, surveys and personal interviews with residents and local businesses. Many other local CC's have been compiling their own plans according to their own residents' views.

We welcome the proposals and the opportunities coming from the proposed Center Parcs development and value the consultations they have already given to local residents and the CC. Another chance for comments will come when their planning application is made.

We continue to be consultees on various windfarm projects in the area and although they may not appear to impact directly with us, we jointly continue to support those local CC's who are. We are concerned about the continual planning applications for new windfarms in our area, and the subsequent additional infrastructure now also proposed with large solar arrays and further battery storage units. We urge the local authority and consequently the Scottish Government to listen to the views of those living and working in those affected areas and not allow the area to become an industrialised landscape.

This view is also reiterated on plans for the massive new Grid infrastructure proposed to take energy over the Border. Ideas and new proposals to lessen this impact on communities should be a priority. I believe we have a duty for future generations to try and preserve our countryside in the best way we can, and it is important that the local communities are informed about all these developments and have a proper voice on their impacts.

Meantime, various projects have been financed through the Langhope Rig Community Fund and my thanks go to our Treasurer, Mrs Shirley Passmore, who organises the funding applications. Funding will also be available this year from Pinesburn Community Fund.

The village newsletter continues on a bi monthly basis, and my thanks go to editor Vicky Oswald.

Funding has also been allocated to various projects in Denholm Dean. This is a fantastic community asset and will continue to require funding & volunteers to continue ongoing work for some time. However the team already in place have done a fantastic job, and our thanks must go out to them all.

We continue to maintain defibrillators in our area, with ongoing costs met through the Community Fund. A huge 'thank you' must go to Mr George Lothian, who checks and reports on all defibs we are responsible for.

Denholm Church clock was also modernised & upgraded to the benefit of the village with help from the Fund.

The Denholm Youth Club, Denholm Folk Festival, and Red Squirrel group also got funding for projects.

In our new term we will be promoting the availability of the community fund and applications for new projects will always be considered.

My thanks also go to the many people who support events in the village with their time or financial assistance. Many things wouldn't happen without their help. For several years now we have been able to organise a village picnic in the summer and invite Santa to come round at Christmas to leave a small gift for the children.

The village planters are also maintained by funding and volunteers. Flowers are planted at our 3 War Memorials, and our village entrance planter. A new one is presently being completed at Jedward Terrace and will also be planted up in due course.

The Community Council are actively working with other groups in the village to try and get EV points installed in the village for local and visitor use. This has not been without some difficulty; however, we will continue to try and work towards finalising this project. Our thanks go to CC Dale Ploughman with this ongoing project.

As a community it is important that all our local committees and organisations work together and we all have the same aims to make this a great place for all our residents, young and old. We urgently need new (and younger!) volunteers to step up as age catches up with us all.

We need our CC to be active or Grants or Community Benefit will not continue. We need a voice with ongoing developments or planning as it may be something that isn't welcome. A development trust to manage future income would be useful, but needs commitment to set up. Youth organisations constantly need volunteers as does the Village Hall and the Feuars Council. I hope residents will look around and ask themselves what they can do to make things better for everyone. More people mean less work for those already committed to doing things.

I would like to show my appreciation to our 3 SBC Councillors, Clair, Stuart and Neil who are always able to deal with any problems that arise; or know someone else who can help. Lastly my special thanks go to Will and Shirley who endeavour to keep me right, and to all the other CC members who commit their time and efforts for the benefit of our communities.

Gwen Crew

18/06/2025