

DFHC (SC042692)

Business Meeting - 26/6/2025

Present - L Ferguson (Chair), D Rollo (V Chair), L Baines (Secretary), W Roberts (Treasurer), J Currie, J Wilson, L Telford, D Crew, I Cranston

Item 1 - Resignations

After attending the Community Council meeting (18/6/25), L Baines stated he was resigning from the Council due to the way the EV charger issue has been handled. He felt unsupported by DFHC Chair and Treasurer at that meeting (both current members of DCC) and felt a Conflict of Interest should have been declared.

DFHC had agreed unanimously (see Business notes 25/5/25) to delay any decision on EV chargers for 4 weeks to enable research into alternatives to Scottish Powers (SP) offer, however he felt targeted in the meeting as the individual responsible for the delay despite the timescale not being up, which he felt should have been clearly stated and supported by Chair & Treasurer, this led to a difficult exchange with those present.

He stated this was a culmination of wider issues - the land transfers have still not been completed despite an agreement from over a year ago and instruction to the lawyers to do so following the SGM (26/2/2025)

He cited difficulties and resistance from the Dean Sub Committee re the Terms of Reference (ToR) document and could not understand why they did not want Council members attending or their issue with a standing invite for all Trustees and again felt targeted by them whenever he tried to engage. He felt frustrated by a lack of support with this from the Chair even though the Council had agreed with LB.

He feels these have all contributed to increasing animosity of interaction and village failure to deal with challenge well and may be the true reason for the wider reluctance of the village to engage with this organisation.

LF (Chair) offered her resignation following the CC meeting, stating that individuals have a right to express opinion and acknowledged she should have declared a Conflict of Interest.

WR (Treas) disagreed re Conflict of Interest stating that, at the time of the CC meeting, he had not heard anything after 2 weeks regarding LB research, his opinion had not altered and that the SP deal was acceptable and should proceed.

LF noted that the Dean Sub Committee don't discuss ToR at every meeting and that she cannot challenge how they chose to record their meetings.

IC challenged the resistance by the Sub committee to all Trustees being able to attend their meetings in the ToR, noting it was a document that would pertain to future sub committees, and is not just for this one.

LT felt any Council member should be able to attend their meeting, which was agreed (again) by those present.

LF stated that the ToR and the sub committees 10 year management plan will be presented in due course. The current council would like all members of the sub committee to be present.

LB felt interaction between sub committee and main council is poor.

WR felt the resistance was due to his (LB) challenging approach.

LB agreed this could be an issue and was open to that but suggested he was not alone in this issue.

IC noted it was a dangerous cultural issue within the group if there is an inability to challenge or speak a truth to a position of "power" which LF agreed with.

DR (Vice Chair) felt all present are too valuable to resign, which was backed up by JW.

JW expressed concern that the land issues for the houses were still unresolved and that this should be the councils main focus, he felt the EV charger issue had presented itself at the wrong time for the group however did not want the village or the village hall to lose out.

LF suggested setting a timescale for completion of the land transfer and 4 weeks was agreed.

DC suggested Conflict of Interest re IC and land issue, and stated he had previously objected to business meetings in the pub and felt there should be a public one next.

IC acknowledged Conflict of Interest re land and noted that regardless of that, the position remains that the land issue is not yet resolved which is what this council was elected to do, further mandated by the village at the SGM.

DR felt there is a need for both business and public meetings and suggested the next should be public and reminded the group that the public will question why things are not completed, especially around the land issue.

LF returned to CC minutes and noted that she did not agree with certain points which she would take to GC (DCC Chair) for amendment prior to them being made public.

She returned to the issue of EV chargers noting the hard work and effort put in by DP (DCC).

LB stated that there was a delay in him getting the date to speak with SP due to a miscommunication and shared that he had undertaken initial research on alternatives, including grant money, he urged that the Council should talk directly with SP to question the "deal" they have offered.

JW stated again he felt the land issue was getting lost due to charger issue and he questioned the benefits of using the Fisherman's car park for them in the first instance. It's isolated position on the village boundary mean it's out of sight and could leave vehicles and users vulnerable to threat. He cited recent research into the physical safety of especially female drivers accessing EV points and pointed out it is the landowners who are responsible for this.

DR agreed with the points made and that the Fisherman's car park is unsuitable, he also noted it will reduce parking for non EV vehicles in a village that has very few in the first place, he will however abstain from any vote on the issue due to personal views on SP.

WR reminded the group that the only reason DFHC were involved was because of the Fisherman's car park area and that the main purpose was to provide a facility for the village.

JC acknowledged that it should benefit the village, but that Fisherman's car park was not the best place and agreed that safety was an issue.

LT also agreed that it was unsuitable for those reasons.

DC stated SP may pull out of the offer altogether and that the area was chosen initially because of the power supply there and has concerns about how it would leave the village hall chargers.

LF suggested that a portion of the Green could be offered so that 2 chargers could be installed in the car park (1 is planned at present), this would need to go to a village vote as well as discussed with SBC & SP.

DR agreed that offering part of the Green as an alternative to Fisherman's car park would be a solution

Vote - withdraw the Fisherman's Car Park as a space for EV chargers.

Agree - 5, Disagree - 1, Abstain - 2(incl Chair) LB had resigned so did not vote.

This will be fed back to DCC and SP.

Item 2 - Governance

LF met with F Benton who asked about our governance and plans. She was advised that registering the land was a priority for the council and once complete there would be transition to SCIO in the first instance before the possibility of becoming a Development Trust could be explored.

Item 3 - Events

The rideout will have made a profit helped by a donation of £850 from DCC, £500 of which went towards hire of the portaloos and £350 towards the skip. The Cross Keys were also asked for a donation towards the cost of the gifts for the Principals.

There were not as many vehicles as in some years and only a few people volunteered to clear up following the event, raising the question about how to improve on this for subsequent events.

The Guthrie run was well attended and DFHC Challenge Shield was won by Brian Blackwood (TB Oliver). £70 was donated to the council by the organisers for use of the Green and gratefully received. They have asked to use the Green again for this event next year (21/6/26) which was agreed however they will be advised that they will need to be responsible for the clear up following the event as well as manage parking around the Green using cones. This will apply to any other group or organisation using this facility.

Car boot dates - Sat 5/7/25, Sat 2/8/25, Sat 6/9/25 and final one Sat 4/10/25.

The June event had a poor turnout created by weather and other events locally(Common Riding).

Item 4 - AOB

IC raised a concern regarding changes to DFHC accounts as they appear on OSCR, no one present was able to explain how/why this had happened, the documents produced will be forwarded to LF who will take it up with OSCR.

Item 1 - Resignations

LB has resigned from DFHC, however indicated he would be willing to return at some point in the future and that he would be willing to help at events on occasion.
LF will remain until the AGM in October.

4 week timeline for completion of the land transfer agreed.

Next meeting will be open to the public, date provisionally set for Monday 28th July, 7pm in Lesser Village Hall.