

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17 SEP 2025

Present:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Community Councillor G Crew | Chair |
| Community Councillor S Clew | |
| Community Councillor L Ferguson | |
| Community Councillor S Passmore | Treasurer |
| Community Councillor D Ploughman | |
| Community Councillor W Roberts | Secretary |

In attendance:

Two members of the public.

| Item | Subject/Discussion | Action |
|------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence. Cllrs S Marshall, C Ramage, CC 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. | Minutes of the Last Meeting held 20 Aug 25. The minutes of the meeting were proposed by CC Fergusson and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved. | |
| 4. | Matters Arising. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Hawick Fire Station Status (Item 5b). Chair had written to the Chief of SFRS and to John Lamont MP stressing our opposition to the proposed cut in readiness. Chief of SFRS had responded clarifying their position in regard to various ongoing planning applications, but without offering any news of a change to their plans. A decision on readiness status would be made in December.b. New In-Post Mail Unit at the Denholm Post Office (Item 15a). Sec had yet to provide a draft for Chair to write to the police regarding the disruption to traffic and road safety caused by the installation. Sec to action. There was no news re the retrospective planning application.c. Fly-Tipping on A698 at Ashy Bank (Item 15b). Sec was pleased to report the items had now been cleared.d. Denholm Pavements (Item 15d). No update on Cllr Marshall's site visit.e. Road Signs (Item 15d). No update available.f. Loaning Playpark (Item 15 e). CC Passmore reported that work on the playpark had started.g. John Leyden Commemoration (Item 15h). Chair reported that the event had been very successful; the school had attended the event with 3 children reciting Leyden poetry. | Sec Chair |
| 5 | Police Report. Chair had circulated the MMWR for August. No comments. | |

6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.

a. **Village Hall Chairs.** CC Fergusson presented an application for funds to purchase new, folding chairs for the VH, intended to improve comfort for visitors and to easy storage. The first batch of 56 chairs would cost £3,390.20. This was **agreed** from the funds held by FS on behalf of the CC. A second batch of 56 chairs would be sought in due course.

Treasurer

b. **Hawick Music Club.** Treasurer had received a request for £1,000 from Hawick Music Club to support their upcoming programme. Treasurer was to ask the Club for details regarding any earlier application.

Treasurer

c. **Borders Youth Theatre.** Treasurer had received an enquiry regarding an application from the group for funding to support a series of local workshops in Denholm. Forms had been sent to the organiser for an application in due course.

7. **D&DCC By-Election.** Chair suggested that the membership issue was now less urgent in view of CC Passmore's early return to attendance. She proposed that the date for the by-election be delayed until Cllr Marshall's return from leave. **Agreed.**

8. **Correspondence.** Chair said she had circulated a few items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

a. Chair mentioned one invitation to an evening reception to mark the retirement from office of the Lord Lieutenant the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury at The Great Tapestry of Scotland Galashiels on Thursday 9 Oct 25.

b. Chair also highlighted an invitation from SBC to a "Community Conversation" session at Burnfoot Community Hub on 29 Oct at 6pm. This offered an opportunity for CC members to meet and speak to the Council Leader and Senior Officers of SBC.

9. **Planning Applications.**

a. Sec reported the following applications had recently been approved:

- 1) **25/00863/FUL** Woodside Cottage, Cavers – Alteration/extension to dwelling house.
- 2) **25/00864/FUL** Loading Bay, Hassendean - Alteration/extension to dwelling house.
- 3) **25/00831/FUL** Farmhouse, Denholm Mill – Replacement windows and doors.
- 4) **25/00532/PPP** Brieryyard, Hornshole – New dwelling house.

b. The following were currently under or due for consideration:

- 1) **25/01241/TCA** Townhead Steading Minto. - Felling one birch tree at rear of house.
- 2) **25/01114/AGN** Townhead of Cavers. Extension to agricultural building.

- 3) **25/01250/FUL** Antiques Shop, 1 Westside Denholm. External redecoration, walls to be painted white.

It was noted that this work was in fact already underway or possibly completed at the time of the meeting. In view of the property's location within the Denholm Conservation Area, it was agreed that this should be brought to the attention of the planning authority. Sec to action.

Sec

- c. **Center Parcs (CP).** A Teams meeting hosted by CP was scheduled for the following evening, to discuss the issue of proposed changes to Bye Laws regarding public rights of access to the planned CP area. CCs Clew and Roberts indicated they intended to attend.

A member of the public (present) whose land was immediately adjacent to the CP area, voiced his serious concern over the proposed Bye Law changes and the location of the proposed 2m high fence. He argued that this could severely impact his freedom to operate his farm safely, and could result in a significant increase in the number of walkers (including visitors to the CP) who chose to access his land outside the perimeter of the CP area. CCs agreed to reflect his concerns to the CP officials at the forthcoming Teams meeting, and to stress the need for a suitable buffer-zone between the perimeter fence and the legal boundary of the CP land.

(After-note. CCs Clew and Roberts did attend the meeting and they emphasised the need for an appropriate buffer-zone. The host undertook to review their plans for the perimeter fence and would hold further talks with the interested parties. CC Clew also raised the issue of the treatment of sewage and the intention to channel the outflow into the River Teviot. The host responded that CP had considerable experience in this matter at their other sites; that they always achieved a very high standard; that they had never contravened the relevant regulations; and that they were intent on maintaining this standard at the proposed Borders site – "The outflow would be of drinking quality".)

10. **Teviot & Liddesdale Rural Community Alliance.** A meeting was planned for mid-October.

11. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** Chair reported that the place plan had now been submitted. The future of the project was unknown at this stage.

12. **EV Charging Points.** Cllr Ramage had received a statement from SBC confirming that they had NOT adopted the small carpark opposite the Cream Puff, which was therefore the responsibility of the Feuars who had agreed to the installation of an EV charger. CC Fergusson was to notify solicitors of this situation, who would then notify SP accordingly.

Fergusson

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** No update.

14. **Wind Farms Update.**

- a. **Pinesburn.** The MOU had been finalised.
- b. **Teviot Hawick Office.** The office was now closed.
- c. **Invenergy UK.** A public information day regarding Midhill Wind Farm (11km south of Hawick) was scheduled for Tuesday 7 Oct at

Teviothead Hall, 12:00 noon to 3:00pm, and at Forman Memorial Hall at Robertson 4:00pm to 7:00 pm.

15. **AOB.**

- a. **Benches on The Green.** CC Fergusson reported that a resident of Minto Road had offered to fund the replacement of some benches on The Green which appeared to be deteriorating. It was pointed out that some were “commemorative” benches and it would be inappropriate to replace these.
- b. **Hawick Park Run.** CC Clew reported that, following some trial arrangements, the run was now to be named “The Wilton Lodge Park Run”, and would be supported with funds from SBC. Initially, there would be two “practice” runs with participation restricted to local people, and then open runs every Saturday starting at 10am.

16. **Date of Next Meeting.** D&DCC would next meet on **15 October 2025** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:25pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

21 Sep 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)