

DFHC (SC042692)

Public Meeting, Village Hall 26/11/25

Present: L Ferguson (Chair), D Rollo (Vice Chair), W Roberts (Treasurer), J Currie, D Crew, I Cranston

Apologies: L Telford (Secretary), J Wilson

Public: 3

Community Council Chair

1. **Welcome** - Chair welcomed those present.
2. **Minutes of last meeting & Matters Arising:** Chair of the Dean sub committee noted that the report on the Dean was not published with the AGM minutes although it had been uploaded to the village website. This will be corrected and the report uploaded alongside the minutes. He also raised the following (via email) “ the minutes record- they went on to note that should the money be required by DFHC for whatever reason this would be discussed fully with the sub committee prior to anything happening. Do you remember who said that as I don’t? I would have spoken out at the time. There can be no question of the ring fenced amount being available for other purposes as it would be a breach of the transfer conditions”. Vice Chair recalled the question that prompted the response which the Chair acknowledged she gave but noted that the Terms of Reference were agreed earlier in 2025 and that any monies raised by the Dean sub committee are for their use only. The Treasurer supported this and reminded those present that, while there is not a separate current account for the Dean, Dean monies are ring fenced specifically to avoid misuse of those funds. There is also a separate Dean savings account, again solely for use by the Dean sub committee.
3. **Land Transfer** - the garden ground has been returned to 2 properties so far (Two Hoots and Larach Dene) but there is a delay with Rubersvale because of a complexity regarding the pavement area. A document found when the legal paperwork was transferred to MFMAC in June 2025 showed a Disposition in favour of Roxburgh District Council in 1946. MFMAC will be advised to locate this document in the hope that it will assist in the transfer and also locate a further Deed of Gift dated 1926 which gifted the **whole** of the garden ground at Rubersvale to the property owner at that time. MFMAC fees for the 3 transfers is £3000+ VAT. Treasurer asked about payment from the households and was reminded that they may make a voluntary goodwill donation between £500-1000 and they have their own legal costs to pay. Community Council Chair noted that historically there has been confusion over areas like pavements which has resulted in the village at times missing out on improvements so it would be helpful to have things clarified.
4. **Treasurers Report** – The DFHC current account balance stood at £9,355, within which £2,811 was ring-fenced for the Dean sub committee. However, an invoice for £60 had still to be paid for a Dean exhibition advert in the local paper. The Dean Savings account stood at £5,013. The DFHC unrestricted funds therefore stood at £6,484 with £137 in petty cash. Council raised a concern about the changes that had earlier been made to the DFHC accounts shown on the OSCR website; although since rectified, Council felt that the issue should be raised with OSCR to ensure it doesn’t happen again. This was backed up by the Vice Chair and Chair advised she has a direct contact with OSCR so will email to that effect as it may highlight an issue they need to address.
5. **Governance** - a document to change to a SCIO has been prepared by F Stewart and V Oswald in 2024 which Chair will circulate to the Council for comment and feedback. It has also been previously sent to F Benton. Chair will attempt to arrange a meeting in

January with F Benton to discuss and further action. OSCR webpage has been updated with the details of the 3 new Trustees.

6. **Xmas Tree lights & switch on-** G Ferguson is liaising with C McCrerie and J Jardine to organise sourcing and putting the tree on the Green, there will be an appeal on Facebook for help with putting the lights on the Xmas tree and in the trees around the Green. Community Council Chair advised that batteries are needed for the ones around the Green, Vice Chair suggested asking Northport (T Mulvee) for a donation of these. Chair advised that the PAT had been completed but that we are waiting for a letter of confirmation from SBC for use of the supply. Another set of lights will be needed this year as a set was damaged last year. It was agreed to ask Vicky, who brings her donkeys to the event, to switch on the lights, the song sheets have been organised, there will be mulled wine and mince pies available as well as the fire pits (from Sausage Sizzle) being in place. It will take place on **Sunday 7th December at 6pm**. This is all done in conjunction with the Community Council. It was decided to "wait & watch" the weather before deciding on whether or not to use the gazebo.
7. **Monument railings and lights** - G Campbell had completed a survey on restoring lighting to Leydens Monument. The lights will be changed to LED and a new timer installed. A quote for £2469 has been received and if Foundation Scotland request it, another quote would be sought. Chair will submit a funding application to Foundation Scotland through the Community Council. D Rollo has agreed to mend the broken rails and there will be a request at some point for volunteers to help paint them.
8. **AOB** - Chair noted and thanked the Dean Sub Committee for their work regarding their recent presentation on the Dean which was very well received by those who attended. The information will be uploaded to the village website at some point. She then read out the reply from OSCR following the concern that was raised about the land transfers:

"Thanks for your correspondence below dated 21/08/25 and relevant attachments. Please bring this email to the attention of all of the charity trustees.

After a comprehensive review of the relevant information you have provided in relation to the circumstances considered during the course of our inquiries, OSCR are satisfied with the response regarding the matters brought to attention in my email of 5th August 2025 and we will therefore not be taking any further compliance or investigation activity in relation to these matters. We consider the charity trustees' actions to be consistent with the general duties that they are subject to under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

I would like to thank yourself for your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions in relation to the above please do not hesitate to make contact by way of reply to this email"
9. Community Council Chair asked for DFHC plans for hosting car boot sales going forward and would they be held on Bank Holiday Mondays as well? She was advised they will be scheduled for the first Saturdays of the month as they were this year as there had been positive feedback from the sellers about this arrangement and that Bank Holiday Mondays would be discussed by the Council.
10. **Next Meeting** - agreed this will be a Business Meeting and will be held on Thursday 29th January 2026 at 6.30pm, venue to be confirmed.