

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18 FEB 2026

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
One member of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Councillor C Ramage, CC L Ferguson In view of there being few opportunities before the forthcoming election, Chair expressed her appreciation to all Cllrs and CCs for their contributions over the last four years.	
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 19 Nov 25. The minutes of the meeting were proposed by CC Ploughman, seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting:	
a.	Community Council Convention on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure in the Scottish Borders (Item 5b). Chair sought agreement that D&DCC was content to join the proposed Borders-wide Unified Statement. This was generally agreed on the proviso it included a call for a general pause in all the windfarm proposals under consideration for the Borders until a unified, co-ordinated strategy was agreed and implemented. Chair to action.	Chair
b.	InPost Mail Unit (Item 5c). Sec reported that the post unit had now been removed. Cllr Marshall indicated he would be conducting an on-site visit with SBC officers to assess both the footpath alongside the Green, and the issue of badly worn yellow lines on Thursday 26 Feb at 9.00am; Chair said she would join them.	Marshall Chair
c.	Petition: New Powers for Community Councils (Item 13). CC Clew said that, whilst the desire to deepen local participation was welcome, he doubted that granting community councils additional formal powers was the right solution. Without answers on funding, accountability, duplication and representativeness, it was felt that the proposals would simply add complexity without real empowerment. There was general agreement with this view.	
d.	Resilience Group First Aid Refresher Training (Item 17c). To be addressed at the next meeting.	
e.	Monument Lights (Item 17d). Treasurer indicated that the grant would be forthcoming.	Treasurer

5. **Police Report.** Chair had distributed the December MMWR. All expressed their concern over the perpetual anti-social behaviour in and around Hawick, and the need to keep alert for similar issues in the Denholm area.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are in the attached Annex A. She had received a request from Mr Tom Sellar of the Feuars Dean sub-committee for funds for repairs to the steps and pathway in the Dean. Treasurer noted that the Pines Burn Community Benefit funds had still not been received.
7. **D&DCC Election.** Cllr Marshall reported that, due to a breakdown in communications at SBC, the announcements of the election and the uploading of the nominations forms had been delayed until the day of this meeting. It had been announced locally in the Denholm newsletter and on the village FB page, and would be in the 20 Feb Hawick Paper. Notices would be posted in Denholm Post Office, in Bedrule and Minto.

Chair

The timetable for the election was fixed and would not be deferred. The Nomination Period was from 11 Feb to 4 Mar, with a withdrawal period from 4 to 11 Mar 26. Nomination papers were available in hard copy from the Chair, and on-line on the SBC website, link:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/13931/nomination-form-denholm-and-district-community-council-closing-date-4-march->

All
8. **Correspondence.** Chair said she had circulated a number of items of correspondence received since the last meeting.
9. **Planning Applications.**
 - a. Sec reported the following 2 applications had all been **approved**:
 - 25/01881/LBC.** 9 Towerburn, Bedrule. Replacement windows.
 - 26/00962/FUL.** Birchwood, Caversknowes new dwelling house.
 - b. The following applications were under consideration:
 - 25/01882/FUL.** Land SW of West Lodge, Minto. New dwelling house, No objections raised.
 - 26/00102/FUL.** Hassendean Station - alteration/extension to dwelling house. No objections raised.
10. **Center Parcs.** An open Community Engagement meeting was scheduled for 18 Mar 26 at Hawick Town Hall at 2:00 to 7:00pm.
11. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** Chair reported that the final meeting had been held the previous week, when several final updates were incorporated. The plan was now to be submitted to SBC. CCs questioned whether the considerable effort involved in producing the plan had been worthwhile, and what might be implemented as a result.

Chair
12. **Quoiting Haugh.** Sec indicated that he had been asked to include the matter on the agenda. The Feuars had discussed the possibility of renovating the area and restoring it to a usable, public amenity. He would update the CC at the next meeting.

Sec

13. **SBC Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall indicated the SGS would be part of the SBC budget to be finalised the following day, and which would probably include an increase of 8.5% in Council Tax across the Borders.

Chair asked whether the proposed provision of a dropped kerb at the Post Office could be funded. Cllr Marshall said he would include the question in his site visit scheduled for 26 Feb.

Marshall

14. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair welcomed Mr Philip Kerr, Chair of Southdean CC, who gave a brief update on the latest situation regarding windfarms in the Borders.

158. **AOB.**

- a. **Bottle-Bank Fencing.** Chair reported that planks which formed part of the fencing around the bottle-bank at Fisherman's carpark were missing, apparently stolen. Police to be informed.
- b. **Hand Ba' Event.** The date had been announced and CCs were asked to agree a contribution of £25.00 to the prize. **Agreed.**
- c. **Potholes and Trees.** CC Ploughman reported that, on the road up to Minto, some potentially dangerous overhanging trees which need to be cut back. Also, several bad potholes on the road through Hassendean Burn to the Hassendean Bank/Minto crossroads were in need of urgent repair.

Treasurer

Sec also reported severe potholes on the roads around Cavers. Cllr Marshall asked that he be notified of precise locations, and he would take up with SBC.

Marshall

Date of Next Meeting. A meeting was provisionally scheduled on **18 March 2026** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. This would be confirmed in light of the result of the forthcoming election.

Sec

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

1 Mar 26

Annexes:

A. Treasurer's Report.

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)
PC A Patterson (Community PC)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)