

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
	Chair expressed her thanks to Councillor Marshall for his work as the Returning Officer for the election just concluded. She also welcomed our new member CC Gemma Lubbock.	
	Period of Tenure. Following the Inaugural Meeting, Chair Crew asked whether the period of tenure for the newly elected CC should remain at 4 years, as currently reflected in the constitution, or whether members wished to reduce this to 2 or 3 years.	
	Following a discussion, it was agreed that the period of tenure should be amended to 3 years. Sec to implement an amendment to the constitution.	Sec
1.	Apologies for Absence. Councillor C Ramage.	
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 18 Feb 26. The minutes of the meeting were proposed by CC Hutchings, 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 4a). The current understanding was that a pause should be instigated in the approval of the many relevant planning application, and this was considered satisfactory. We continue to support the need for a Unified Statement. Chair to action	Chair
b.	Item 4b. Cllr Marshall had conducted a site visit with SBC Roads Dept officers and CCs to consider the issues of no-parking markings in the road, drop kerb and other related issues. He considered the visit to have been successful and a number of actions were already in hand or awaiting approval. To be monitored.	
c.	Resilience Group First Aid Refresher Training (Item 4d). CC Ferguson was seeking new volunteers for the group and would arrange training as required. Existing volunteers would be offered refresher training if required.	Ferguson

- d. **Monument Lights (Item 17d).** CC Ferguson reported that the work was due to be carried out in April.
 - e. **Placemaking Project (Item 11).** Chair reported that the paper had been finalised and submitted to SBC for approval. She expressed her appreciation for the great assistance of Sarah Culverwell, without whom the paper would never have been finalised.
 - f. **Potholes and Trees (Item 15c).** CCs reported that repairs had been done, but the current inclement weather would inevitably result in rapid deterioration. Cllr Marshal expressed his sympathy and explained that the SBC was short of adequate equipment for fully efficient repair work, and was always trying to catch up.

The question of ownership of various overhanging trees was under investigation and the work had yet to be scheduled.
5. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are in the attached Annex A.

She had checked with FS: the Pinesburn grant was on-going, with Chair having signed the MOU. She had been made aware of a forthcoming application from Appletreehall for improvements to their village hall and a possible request to fund refurbishment of their telephone box.
6. **Correspondence.** Chair said she had circulated a number of items of correspondence received since the last meeting.
7. **Planning Applications.**
- a. Sec reported the following application had been **refused**:
25/01543/FUL. Hassendean Stn. Erection of new dwelling house. There were expressions of consternation over this refusal, the reason for which appeared to be policy-based. Cllr Richards explained that it had almost certainly been decided by SBC officers, not elected councillors. He felt sure the decision would be appealed.
 - b. Sec reported the following 3 applications had all been **approved**:
25/00864/FUL. Hassendean Stn. Alterations/extension to existing dwelling house.
25/01881/LBC. 9 Towerburn, Bedrule. Replacement windows.
24/01400/S37. Installation of an overhead 11kv power cable on 273 wooden poles. *[Afternote: Sec found that this work was to upgrade existing wiring to improve power distribution in the Denholm area.]*
 - c. The following application was **under consideration**:
26/00313/FUL. Althole Cottage, Kirkton. Alterations/extension to existing dwelling house.
8. **Insurance Claim.** Sec outlined the situation regarding a potential insurance claim against the CC arising from the Christmas tree lights event on 7 Dec 25, which had resulted in damage to a resident's car. He was in consultation with the insurance company and would monitor the situation.
9. **Center Parcs (CP).** Chair and Sec had attended a tree-planting event at the CP site earlier in the day. It was confirmed that the proposed Byelaw restricting access within the CP site had been approved by SG.

Sec

10. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** See Item 4e above.
11. **Quoiting Haugh.** CC Ferguson indicated that this item was being handled by the Feuars. Mr Robert Caitlin (present) enquired whether this land might be impacted by the CP drainage project. It was agreed this was unlikely to be the case.
12. **SBC Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall indicated the new SGS budget was now available and he urged the CC to apply for project grants.
13. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair gave a brief update. Muirhall was now awaiting an appeal, and she highlighted the MOD issue regarding Eskdalemuir.
14. **AOB.**

a. **Bottle-Bank.** Chair highlighted the mess at the fisherman's car park bottle bank, which was overflowing with broken glass. Cllr Marshall sympathised but highlighted the problems being experienced with the contractor SBC-wide. He suggested the CC write to the body concerned to urge prompt action.

Sec

b. **Fertiliser Spreading.** It was reported that a local farmer had started spreading fertiliser containing human waste in the area. Mr Caitlin explained that this was legal provided strict processing regulations were applied, and he believed that these would have been followed in this case.

c. **Code of Conduct.** Treasurer highlighted the need for all CCs to agree to the SBC Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. It was agreed that this would be done at each AGM. Sec was to secure a signature from CC Lubbock following the meeting.

Sec

d. **Next Meeting.** CC Ferguson indicated that the next meeting in April would be held in the large hall as the small hall had been booked.

e. **Leaf Clearing.** CC Lubbock asked if the accumulated leaves could be cleared from the small car park opposite the Fox & Hounds. CC Ferguson undertook to ensure the Feuars attended to it.

Ferguson

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be held on **15 April 2026** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall (Large Hall). The meeting closed at 8:15 pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

Sec

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

24 Mar 26

Annex:

A. Treasurer's Report.

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings (Vice Chair)
Ms G Lubbock
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
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)