

DFHC (SC042692)

Business Meeting 26/3/2026

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

Apologies: L Ferguson (Chair)

Item 1: Matters Arising - information from the Scottish Beekeepers Association indicated that there would be little threat to native bees by citing a hive in the Dean and that they would be prepared to supply a “hybrid” queen in an attempt to integrate and establish the hive. Concerns were expressed about setting a precedent whereby one villager may be seen to profit from a village amenity.

It was proposed that this should be a time limited pilot (2 years), that the hive should be fenced off for safety, that there should be signs erected to make the public aware there was a hive present, the villager would be responsible for the costs of these as well as for maintenance of the area.

Vote for - 4

Vote against - 2

Undecided - 1

This would be relayed to the Sub committee.

Item 2: Treasurers Report - we have just paid two invoices from Morton, Fraser, McRoberts totalling £4,078.01 for professional services in connection with the transfer of land at TwoHoots/Larach Dene and with the aborted transaction with Scottish Power for EV chargers. This has reduced DFHC current account balance to just £5,189.90 of which only £3,443.05 was unrestricted. Treasurer warned that we need to be extremely cautious about further expenditure, especially any legal fees, this highlights the need to focus on fundraising.

Car boot sales are due to start next week which creates a regular “income”, Denholm Rideout similarly generates a reasonable amount although there are associated costs with this which are offset against the amount generated. Donations are received from the Sausage Sizzle and it was proposed that the Folk Festival should be advised that there will be a charge this year for parking on the Green (£10/vehicle for the weekend), in order to bring it in line with car boot sales. It was suggested that the organiser of the Folk Festival would be invited to discuss the application of this proposal so that it could be included in the publicity material for the event.

Aside from fundraising it was also suggested that the Xmas Tree light switch on should include fewer carols and instead have more “child friendly” songs (eg Jingle Bells/ We wish you a Merry Christmas etc), which was agreed.

Item 3: Governance Document - a report from the Chair stated that she has made the changes as discussed at last months meeting. She has met with V Oswald who has agreed to proof read the document (with F Stewart) to check the clause numbers etc are correct. F Stewart will be asked to send a copy of the Code of Conduct document she created (referred to as an appendix in the Constitutional document) which Chair will then forward to this Council for approval and inclusion. Once this has been done she will arrange to meet with Borders Community Action to discuss. There will be an item in next months newsletter to inform the village that we will hold a poll to decide on a new charity name.

Item 4: Denholm Rideout - consensus to apply for wind farm money towards costs for the hire of toilets and skip. The need for volunteers to help with the clean up was highlighted and it was agreed that this could be included in the newsletter as well as using the village Facebook page. It was suggested that the adults involved with Hawick

Mini Rugby (who are permitted to collect donations for their organisation on the Green on the day) should be asked to help with the clean up as well.

Item 5: Quoiting Haugh - is designated a SSI (Special Scientific Interest) and it would appear that the new Centre Parcs development are looking to discharge from their sewage treatment plant into the river Teviot - Tweed Forum and SEPA and other environmental agencies will be involved - C Ryde (Dean Sub Committee) will be asked to be involved in this.

Item 6: Car Boot Sale - next Saturday (4/4/26) Council members will be available for parking, collecting monies, tea and coffee may be available but it was uncertain whether there would be rolls/ hotdogs on this occasion though it is anticipated these would be available at future events.

Item 7: AOB - Bottle Bank - the Community Council are aware of the missing fencing and wind farm monies may be sought to replace this, additionally there appears to be bin "missing" and SBC will be asked about this.

Land Issues - it was noted that it was almost 2 years since the village mandated this Council to deal with the parcels of land attached to houses so that the focus could be on the genuinely communal areas, to date only 2 areas have been resolved (Two Hoots and Larach Dene), Rubersvale is ongoing but needs to be a priority for completion. It is important that this is done so that the Green, Wee Green, Quoiting Haugh/Fishermans Carpark can be properly registered to ease the transition to a SCIO. The areas in Minto Gardens also need to be addressed and so as not incur further legal costs it was suggested that the Chair and I Cranston arrange to speak to the property owners to find a way forward with perhaps a mandate from the Trustees stating there is no claim on their ground so that the householders could update their deeds in their own time. This discussion also highlighted the need to decide on other areas such as the Wynd, the path by the school, the track near plot 1 as well as plot 1.

Next meeting - Thursday 30th April, 6.30pm.