

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026 (AMENDED)

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
Two members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. Councillor C Ramage, and CC Lubbock.	
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 15 Apr 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Insurance Claim (Item 4b). Sec stated that the insurance company was still in dialogue with the claimant regarding the amount of compensation for the damage to his car.b. Bottle Bank (Item 4c). Sec had received a reply from SBC indicating that the collection company had agreed to re-institute the collection programme, and that Denholm would be added to the schedule.c. Code of Conduct (Item 4d). CC Ferguson signed the paper at the start of the meeting, indicating her compliance.d. Litter Pick (Item 11b). Chair reported that a small number of residents had joined the effort, and she expressed her thanks to those concerned.	
5.	AGM. The D&DCC AGM was scheduled for 17 June and Sec would distribute the public notice within the coming week.	SEC
6.	Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update. Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are in the attached Annex A. <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Treasurer had yet to hear from SBC regarding the submission of the annual accounts. Cllr Marshall offered to chase.b. She had checked with FS and she awaited details of the year's allocation of funds from the Pines Burn wind farm.	Marshall

- c. The school had requested a contribution towards the funding of new playground equipment. This was agreed and £5,000 had been ring-fenced.
- d. The school had also requested £100 to fund transport for children to Hawick to visit with the Cornet. This had been agreed and paid.
- e. CC Ferguson was to forward the invoice for the new Village Hall chairs to the Treasurer. **Ferguson**
7. **Correspondence.** Chair had received a number of items of correspondence:
- a. Chair reported she had received by email the latest Police MMWR but this was then lost due to internet problems. Cllr Marshall indicated that there had been nothing affecting Denholm in the report.
- b. Sec expressed concern that his emailing of the D&DCC minutes and agendas may not be reaching the right police desk. Cllr Marshall agreed to forward an appropriate email address. **Marshall**
9. **Denholm Cemetery – Grass Cutting.** Two members of the public in attendance, Ms Elaine Crawford and Ms Janis Calder, brought to the attention of the CC the damage caused to various graves and gravestones in the cemetery as a result of grass cutting work by SBC staff. They produced photographs of the situation, and reported that many residents were rightly very annoyed by the apparent lack of respect shown.
- All CCs agreed with the sentiments expressed, and Cllr Marshall would be arranging a site-visit with SBC Parks Department staff, and he would invite village residents to attend. CC Clew also indicated his intention to enquire with SBC about the level of training and supervision provided to the staff assigned to the work. **Marshall**
Clew
8. **Planning Applications.**
- a. **26/00541/PNWIN.** The Manse, Denholm. Replacement windows. The use of PVC windows within the village conservation area was questioned. Chair would discuss with SBC Planning. **Chair**
- b. **26/00528/FUL.** Land E of Newhouses Farm. New dwelling house. No objections
- c. **26/00200/FUL.** Land E of Fatlips Castle. Widening of access track bell mouth. It was assumed this work was necessary due to the tree harvesting planned in the forest around the castle. Concerns were expressed over the implied likely increase in HGV traffic on the Denholm–Ancrum road. However, there were no objections to the application.
- d. It was reported that the planned building of a new dwelling house at Hassendean Station had been approved, and this welcomed by the CCs.
10. **SBC Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall reported that funds had now been allocated and he encouraged the CC to identify projects that could be supported by the scheme. **All**
- CC Ferguson raised the possibility of funding replacement doors on the community shed in the Village Hall carpark area. Cllr Marshall suggested this might be work that could be assigned to the Criminal Justice Team, and he would investigate. **Marshall**

Wind Farms Update. Chair and Sec had attended a second CC Convention on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure in the Scottish Borders on Saturday 18 Apr at Lauder Town Hall. There were some objections raised at that meeting to the proposed “pause” being called for in the unified statement by various Community Councils. However, the pause was not intended to halt energy projects already approved, but to seek a more co-ordinated approach to forthcoming applications across the Scottish Borders. D&DCC had agreed to support the planned unified statement.

11. **AOB.**

- a. **Community Picnic.** Chair asked if there was support for another summer public event on The Green. Agreed – details to be decided.
- b. **Denholm Public Toilets.** Chair reported that the toilets were now open but were in a very poor condition. Cllr Marshall offered to press SBC for some remedial work as soon as possible.
- c. **Live Borders.** Cllr Marshall reported that, in the new SBC budget, £4.2million had been allocated to the refurbishment and improvement of the Teviotdale Leisure Centre. This news was greatly welcomed by all CCs.

Chair

Marshall

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at this point.

- d. **Appletreehall Phone Box.** Treasurer reported that efforts by villagers to purchase phone box had come to nothing. It was agreed that the CC would offer to make the purchase on behalf of the villagers, but it needed to be established who owned the land on which it stood.
- e. **Denholm Ride-Out.** CC Ferguson (Chair of Denholm Feuars) requested funds to meet the cost of providing toilets and a rubbish skip for the Ride-Out on 30 May 26. Toilets would be £1,224 and the skip £350. These funds were agreed.
- f. **Wilton Lodge Park Park-Run.** CC Clew reported that the park runs were now open every Saturday morning. They were proving very successful and attracting a large number of visitors to the area, some from overseas.

Treasurer

Treasurer

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be the AGM, to be held on **17 June 2026** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall (Large Hall). The meeting closed at 8:10 pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

28 May 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)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)
Lothian Borders Police (CPO)