

DFHC(SC042692) Public Meeting Lesser Village Hall 18/6/26

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

Apologies: D Rollo (Vice Chair), J Currie

Public: 2

Item 1: Chair welcomed those present. The minutes of the last Business meeting were approved (W Roberts) and seconded (L Telford)

Item 2: Matters Arising - Beehive in the Dean - the villager has been advised of the conditions set by this Council for the beehive re contact details/fencing/2 year pilot. Folk Festival - Chair has not yet spoken to the organisers re parking charge (£10/vehicle for the weekend), but will action and take forward.

Item 3: Treasurers Report -

Bank balances at 17/6/26

Current Business Account - £5,991.38*

Petty Cash - £12.50

Total - £6003.88. A

Total includes Dean Project Restricted Fund - £1,766.85. **B**

Unrestricted funds available - £4237.03. A-B

Dean Project Funds

Savings account balance - £5029.12. **C**

Total funds available to Dean project - **£6,795.97. B+C**

Total DFHC (SC042692)) funds available A+ C - £11,033.00

Notes: *Awaiting receipt of toilet contribution from Fox & Hounds

Rideout 26

Income: £2,105.00

Due from Fox & Hounds: £174.85

Costs: £1,804.00

Balance: £475.00

The Council have applied to the Community Council for Windfarm money to help cover the costs above and this will be forwarded in due course.

Item 4: Governance - Chair met with F Stuart who suggested small amendments to some clauses. The document has still to be amended. Mrs Stuart has supplied paperwork as Appendices to the Governance document which will be circulated to Council members. She has also offered to compile an information pack stating briefly the Purposes/ expected behaviour /conflict of interest policy/Agenda template. These have all been taken from OSCR and Scottish Government templates.

The Council recognise there is still a lot of work to do prior to becoming a SCIO. All documents will be made available to all residents of the village and will be submitted to Borders Community Action group before being sent to OSCR.

There will be significant costs attached to transferring the land to the new SCIO - discussion around measuring the relevant areas to take forward (Green, Wee Green, Fisherman's carpark, Quoiting Haugh) W Roberts will follow up.

Discussion around the remaining areas to be returned to the affected households - D Crew declared an interest and so did not take part in the following discussion- Council felt this was best to be tackled all at the same time in order to reduce any associated costs. Public felt strongly that no household should be disadvantaged if they cannot update their deeds at the present time which the Council agreed with. The households will be given a template letter detailing the area of ground to be returned, stating DFHC will make no claim on the area so that they can individually update their deeds in their own time. The household previously affected at Plot 1 will be included in this. This follows the mandate set in the SGM.

Item 5: Rideout 2026- there was criticism from the public on the village Facebook page regarding the number of portaloos that were available (the number has not changed for the last 6/7 years and has always been sufficient) and about coordination of the timings (Rideout Committee apologised for not making the Council aware of the changes). The Council would have preferred these criticisms were brought to this meeting for discussion rather than on Facebook. The Council had serious concerns regarding conduct of the public at the event - groups of youngsters all in the same loo, individuals throwing glass bottles, kicking balls at the monument, blatant ignoring of parking restrictions, abuse directed at helpers, and criticism around police presence (police were present), cars left on the Green overnight, trashed gazebos (5) left on the Green, and the general mess and disruption in the village. The appeal for help only raised 1 volunteer, thanks to that individual for their support, Hawick mini rugby who were fundraising also helped with some of the cleanup at the end of the event, however all of these issues raise the question of managing the event going forward. Chair will invite the Rideout Committee to discuss options and the suggestion of holding the Rideout on a Tuesday rather than Saturday was made. It was also suggested asking the Village if they want the Rideout at all (via poll on Facebook)

Item 6: Monument - D Rollo (Vice Chair) will make a start in repairing the railings. The lights will. Foundation Scotland have approved funds (ringfenced) for the upgrade of the lights around the monument. Chair will ask for a start date from the contractor.

Item 7: Boundary maintenance - the individuals currently using the allotments have been asked to maintain the hedges around the plot. Hedging will be replaced by fencing around plot 2 when the area is returned to the affected household (they will meet the costs) and as previously stated all affected households will be given their ground, including plot 1.

Item 8. AOB - Treasurer will make a donation of £50.00 to the Village hall for use of electricity/toilets during carboot sales last year (2025). Chair to get bank details for the hall.

The school has asked permission to use coloured paint on the Green for a fun run- agreed. The Hizzy run have asked to use the Green in August for their event - agreed.

Next meeting - Business meeting 13/8/26 6.30pm Fox & Hounds.