

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026 (Amended)

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
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

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
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Chair opened the meeting by paying tribute to the late Vickie Oswald who had recently passed away. She expressed the appreciation of the Council and the community for the outstanding contribution Vickie had made to the community and, in particular, to the Denholm Newsletter. The meeting observed a moment of silence and reflection.

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 17 Jun 26.** The minutes were proposed by CC Hutchings, seconded by CC Passmore. **Approved.**
4. **Matters Arising.** Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting:
 - a. **Village Hall Chairs Invoice (Item 4a).** Treasurer had yet to receive the invoice from CC Ferguson, who explained that the delay was due to the need to be rid of the existing plastic chairs before the new chairs could be stored. **Ferguson**
 - b. **Denholm Cemetery (Item 4b).** Chair reported that many weeds remained and damage to various graves had still not been rectified, with fresh complaints from residents. Cllr Marshall reported that following the site visit, he was in receipt of an email from Fiona Cameron of SBC, explaining the way ahead. She had reiterated the 20 day grass cutting cycle of cemeteries, and indicated that the Denholm cemetery was scheduled for further remedial work "after Christmas". Cllr Marshall urged the CC to respond and ask that the work be brought forward to Sep/Oct. **Chair**
 - c. **Denholm Public Toilets (Item 4d).** Chair reported that no work had been undertaken to improve the state of the toilets, but she had received a kind offer from Wendy Oliver to contribute towards the cost of refurbishment. Cllr Marshall suggested a site visit with SBC officers, and to assess the issue and a cost estimate. He also suggested the work might be open to Small Grants Scheme funding. The meeting also discussed the possibility of making the toilets a "pay-to-use" facility to support maintenance costs. **Marshall**

- d. **Planning Applications (Item 8a).** The question regarding the inconsistent application of rules governing window replacements within the village conservation area was raised again, but Cllr Richards was unable to clarify the position. Sec asked him if he could detail the rules as they currently stood at the next meeting. He agreed. **Richards**
5. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated and there were no issues to discuss.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details are attached. **Treasurer**
- a. Treasurer had again pressed FS for Pines Burn Wind Farm grant application forms but had not received any response. This was holding up applications and Treasurer would continue to seek advice.
- b. The meeting expressed their appreciation of the work by George Lothian in checking the various defibrillators in the area.
- c. With regards to the Paths Maintenance Grant, Treasurer indicated that Steven Craig would be doing grass cutting in the paths shortly.
7. **Correspondence.** Chair reported email notification of road works at the entrance for Centre Parcs on the A7. Cllr Marshall reported his frustration over the number of traffic light-controlled works on several roads in the area. SBC had informed him that they had little control over such works and were even unaware of many. Cllr Marshall had written expressing his feelings to SBC.
8. **Planning Applications.** Sec reported the following: **Sec**
- a. **26/00200/FUL.** Land east of Fatlips Castle. Widening of access track bell mouth. Under consideration.
- b. **26/00923/LBC.** 9 Towerburn. Boiler flue, copper pipe. **Approved**
- c. **26/01154/PN.** Townhead of Cavers. New access track. SBC would be asked to assess the safety factors considering the proximity of the track entrance to the existing entrances to Townhead and Midgard. **Richards**
- d. **26/00805/AGN.** Doctors' Strip, Cavers. New agricultural building. Sec reported this was still under consideration and asked why there had been no progress. Cllr Richards agreed to investigate and report back. **Richards**
- e. **26/01193/FUL.** (Revision 25/01543/FUL) New dwelling house at Hassendean Station. **No objections.** **Sec**
9. **Denholm Village Newsletter.** Chair explained that due to the death of Vickie Oswald, the newsletter had not been published recently. We needed to find someone willing to take on the collection of inputs for the very valuable paper. All members were urged to seek a volunteer. **All**
10. **SBC Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall indicated that £10,000 was available in the fund and he urged the community to identify suitable projects. **All**
- CC Ferguson reported that the Flower Show Committee had done some work on their half of the Community Shed in the Village Hall carpark, but work was needed to repair the doors on the other half; to be discussed further at the next meeting. **Sec**

11. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair mentioned the proposed Battery Storage Site and Solar Farm at Stirches was causing considerable anxiety in the community. Cllr Marshall urged people to take the matter up directly with the ECU as SBC had little influence on such developments.

12. **AOB.**

a. **Dropped Kerbs/Road Markings.** Chair reported that various road markings at the had not yet been refurbished, as had been agreed at a recent site visit. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase with SBC Roads.

Marshall

b. **Playpark.** The gates to the play area on The Green were in need of some maintenance. Cllr Marshall offered to take this forward,

Marshall

c. **Bottle Bank.** There were a number of reports of fly-tipping at the bottle bank and there followed a discussion on the advisability of signs saying "No Fly-Tipping". In the end it was decided not to erect signs. Cllr Marshall agreed to report.

Marshall

d. **Pavement at The Loaning.** Treasurer reported that the pavement at the corner of The Loaning was breaking up badly. Cllr Marshall would report this to SBC.

Marshall

e. **Main Street Footpath.** Chair reported recent incidents of people complaining about the state of the footpath beside The Green. It was some years since the matter had been debated, with no development. Sec stressed the need to preserve the amount of carparking available as the loss of such would be very damaging to local businesses. There followed a discussion on how to progress the matter: CC Clew suggested an alternative to avoid car parking on the pavement could be an in/out parking system at the end of the village green parallel to the pavement. Not impeding the play park, but could need the petanq resiting. CC Clew appreciated it is a big project and requires a lot more input. However also thought that different approaches are needed as the parking in Denholm issues will not solve themselves. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

Sec

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be held on **16 September** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:15 pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

25 Aug 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)