

DFHC (SC042692)
Business Meeting 24/9/2026

Present - L Ferguson (Chair), D Rollo (Vice Chair), L Telford (Secretary), W Roberts (Treasurer), J Wilson, J Currie, D Crew, I Cranston
G Crew (Community Council Chair)

Chair welcomed those present, there were no apologies.

1. Minutes of previous meeting had been approved and posted online.
2. Matters arising - the land transfer for Rubersvale has been completed and the transfer of land at 4 Minto Gardens is currently underway. M McEwan is prepared to measure the land remaining (Green, Wee Green, Quoiting Haugh, Fisherman's car park) for registration with the Land Registry to fulfil the mandate set by the village. Chair advised she has submitted the revised Constitution to Borders Community Action for comment and feedback prior to submission to OSCR, she has also asked for a follow up meeting to discuss any proposed changes as a result of their feedback.

3. Treasures Report - Significant recent expenditure: £1,229 to MFM Ac (Rubersvale), and £998.40 from Dean Account.

Current account balance: £5,653.39
Restricted (Dean) balance: £448.05
Unrestricted funds available: £5,205.34
Dean Savings Ac balance: £5,035.47

4. Community Council - CC Chair notified the Council that issues regarding parking on the Main Street had been raised at their meeting and that a solution was being sought. One suggestion is to remove the walkway adjacent to the Green to create parking there with the creation of a walkway on the Green, which the Council agreed was the best solution however SBC have indicated that they would not meet the costs of creating a surface suitable for parking. Another suggestion would be to create parking on the Green with SBC prepared to improve the current (degraded) walkway including bollards to prevent parking there which the Council felt would negatively affect the use of the Green by residents and cited the impact directly on the safety of especially younger residents. A third suggestion would be to extend the carpark opposite the Fox & Hounds. The Council agreed unanimously that the village should be consulted for their preferred solution and DFHC Chair will contact C Rammage and SBC Roads department to meet to discuss suggestions/costs etc along with Community Council. CC Chair advised that SBC have agreed to update the public toilets, any shortfall in refurbishment may be met by wind farm monies, and she asked the Council to consider citing a sign for the toilets on the Green, this was agreed unanimously so the sign will be put up on the corner of the Green near the bus stop. CC Chair also advised that TB Oliver have offered to refurbish the bench at the top of the Quoiting Haugh, the Council pass on their thanks for this. Fly tipping at the bottle bank was also raised and the Council agreed that the fencing surrounding it should be removed following a suggestion from a resident, to make the area more visible and to discourage fly tipping. CC Chair left the meeting.

5. Monument/Railings/Lights - Chair advised she has contacted the electrician who will update the lights and is waiting for a reply. Vice Chair has repaired some of the railings and will deal with the 2 still to be done. Secretary indicated she is willing to paint them once the work is completed.
6. Maintenance boundaries plots 1, 2a & 2b - Chair received an email following publication of the last minutes. The author raised concerns that the transfers would be required to be legally done and that Plots 2a and 2b should not be available to current allotment users. The discussion that followed highlighted that this was never an option considered by this Council as the mandate was to return land to affected households, further examination of this area shows that it sits in its entirety within the Title of 3 Minto Gardens so no further action is required as the household have the land. He also raised concerns regarding Plot 1, stating he believed it should be utilised as a “long term lease” again the Council noted this was not the desire of the village and the area was actioned to be returned to the affected household.
7. AOB - Chair is in communication with Go Fibre regarding their citing of a pole at the top of the Quoiting Haugh, she has advised them they will have to remove it as permission was not sought and no Wayleave will be paid. J Simpson (Biffs Burgers) from Jedburgh has approached the Council about attending village events with their food trailer, the Council agreed they would be asked to attend Car Boot sales next year in return for a fee. Vice Chair will speak to a contact in Tesco for a donation of sausages/rolls/sparklers etc for the Sausage Sizzle. Xmas Tree will be sourced by the Council again this year as SBC no longer provide this. Chair noted that new lights were needed and would have to be PAT by SBC approved electrician prior to use. This is a requirement by SBC before attaching to their street lighting. Council discussed and agreed £10/vehicle for the Folk Festival weekend for those who park on the Green, Chair will let the organiser know. There was a proposal that Denholm Rideout be changed to a Tuesday in an attempt to avoid the issues that have arisen in the last few years with parking/behaviour of attendees etc, this was agreed unanimously by the Council so Chair will let the Rideout committee know as their preparations for next year are likely to be underway. The Council noted that all contentious land issues had been resolved and it was clear what areas of land the village wanted to take forward so in order to move on from the poor reputation that has dogged DFHC, it was suggested that rather than becoming a SCIO, this might be the point for dissolving DFHC, for the land to go to the Village Hall (as an existing SCIO) to promote unity and to streamline the various groups within the village, creating more “joined up” working as well as a larger pool of volunteers and creating more opportunity for a greater variety of events, Chair agreed to take this to the next Village Hall meeting. This will also be discussed with Borders Community Action.
8. AGM - it was agreed this would be pushed back to January 2027 to allow land transfers to be completed and for the registration of remaining areas (Green, Wee Green, Quoiting Haugh, Fisherman’s Car Park - Dean wood is already with Land Registry)
9. Next Meeting - to be arranged.