DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	Vice chair
Community Councillor G Lubbock	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
Ms Sarah Culverwell	SBC
Member of the Public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	**Apologies for Absence.** CC S Clew, CC S Passmore.	
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 21 Oct 26**. The minutes were proposed by CC Hutchings, seconded by CC Lubbock. **Approved**.	
4.	**Matters Arising**. Chair addressed the action points from the last meeting:	
	a. **Village Hall Chairs Invoice (Item 4a).** On going.	**Ferguson**
	b. **Dropped Kerbs/Road Markings (Item 4d).** Cllr Marshall reported that a site visit had taken place and further work was planned, including refreshing road markings.	**Marshall**
	c. **Nuisance Tree**. The matter of a tree obstructing access to a property remained outstanding. Secretary had put the resident in touch with the SBC Tree Officer for advice. Further concerns were raised regarding another tree which was impacting drainage infrastructure; and this had been addressed.	
5.	**Police Report.** Cllr Marshall reported that discussions concerning antisocial behaviour had taken place with Burnfoot Community Council. Police reporting arrangements were being reviewed, with the intention of providing more locally relevant information to Community Councils.	**Marshall**
6.	**Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update**. In the absence of the Treasurer, no report was addressed at the meeting.	
7.	**Correspondence.**	
	a. **Hawick Fire Service.** A public meeting concerning proposed reductions in fire service provision had recently been held. A new petition calling for retained 24/7 fire cover was being promulgated.	
	b. **Canongate Housing Development** Chair was awaiting a response to her request for a further meeting. See Item 12 below.	**Marshall**

c. **South of Scotland Enterprise**. SOSE were having a drop-in day on 3 Dec 26, at the Borderlands Deep Tech Accelerator Hub (the old Borders College building opposite the High School).

8. **Planning Applications**. Sec commented on the applications currently showing in the SBC Monthly Lists:

a. **26/01154/PN**. Townhead of Cavers. New access track. Still under consideration.

b. **25/01423/FUL**. Armharc Horsley Hill. Erect garage, 1st Floor office, car port. Approved.

c. **26/01492/FUL**. Willowburn, Kirkton. Erect new shepherd's hut. Under consideration.

d. **26/01501/FUL**. Erection new stable block, Townhead of Cavers. Under consideration. No comments.

e. **26/01502/TPO**. Hassendean Burn. Felling of tree. Under consideration.

f. **26/01672/PPP**. Appletreehall, garden plot. New dwelling house. Under consideration. Has had prior permission in principle.

g. **26/01615/FUL**. Housing Development, Canongate, Denholm. Concerns were expressed that the letter from Denholm CC was not showing on the Planning Portal (See Item 12 below). **Sec**

h. **Tree felling at Spittal Tower.** Consultation received regarding felling permission proposals in the vicinity of Spittal Tower and West Leas. Comments to southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot by 7 Dec 26. **Chair**

9. **Denholm Village Newsletter**. Chair thanked Carol Carr for accepting the role of editor. Chair encouraged all residents to provide items of interest for publication.

10. **Public Toilets**. A detailed list of items required for the work and their costs was required in order to apply for a grant from windfarm funds. Cllr Marshall offered to investigate. **Marshall**

11. **Footpath by The Green**. The debate surrounding the issue of resurfacing the footpath and the associated parking issues continued. CC Ferguson indicated that the Feuars did not have funds currently available for a footpath on the Green. Discussions would need to continue with SBC.

12. **Canongate Housing Development**. There was considerable discussion regarding the proposed development, particularly the number of dwellings, vehicle parking provision, vehicle and pedestrian access arrangements, and the impact on local infrastructure and on existing residents.

It was proposed to have a small meeting with SBHA to address key points, to which SBHA have agreed to attend; the date tbc. CCs Roberts and Lubbock offered to attend.

Cllr Marshall was asked to request that the planning deadline be deferred until 27 Dec 26 or later, to allow for proper consultation with residents.

An existing detailed objection document was being circulated for people to sign. However, it was stressed that people should write their own letters of objection in order to highlight the extent of objections within the community;

it was felt that such an approach would have a greater impact than multiple signatures on a single circulated document.

It was requested that a hard copy of the development plans be placed in the village so that residents could access them, and that the documents be reformatted with texts in larger font, to ease their readability.

13. **SBC Small Grants Scheme**. Cllr Marshall confirmed that no money was left in the scheme. He would be attending forthcoming budget discussions and he encouraged everyone to complete the SBC budget survey, which can be found at: https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/finance/budget-survey-2026 **All**

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at this point.

14. **Wind Farms Update**. CCs continued to receive updates from Mr Philip Kerr.

15. **AOB.**

a. **Center Parcs**. The sign in the small car park by The Green intended to deter construction traffic from using Minto Road was proving a nuisance in its present position. Sec to request relocation. **Sec**

b. **Santa Visit.** Transport had been approved, with a proposed date of Wednesday 16 Dec at 6.30pm

c. **Lights for The Green.** Fundraising to date had raised £60 for batteries and for tree lights.

d. **Selection boxes.** – The boxes were likely to cost in the region of £300. A very generous donation had been promised to cover this.

e. **Christmas Cards.** A children's Christmas card competition had been arranged through Denholm School, with the winning entry featuring in the Denholm Newsletter. D&DCC would be funding. **Treasurer**

f. **Christmas Tree Light Switch-on.** The Feuars' tree light switch-on and carol singing was scheduled for Sunday 6 Dec 26 at 6pm, with the donkeys in attendance. Scott & Foggon had completed the necessary PAT testing. **Ferguson**

g. **Resilience Group.** CC Ferguson urged that more volunteers come forward to assist in any capacity where needed.

h. **Reclaim the Night.** Cllr Ramage informed that Reclaim the Night, Women's Aid Walk, on Tuesday 24 Nov 26 starting from Heart of Hawick at 6pm

i. **Community Welfare Trust**. Ms Culverwell informed the meeting of the following three events:

(1) **Scottish Borders Council Community Enhancement Trust Fund:** Link: Community Enhancement Trust | Scottish Borders Council

(2) **Scottish Borders Council Community Welfare Trust Fund**. Link: Community Welfare Trust | Scottish Borders Council

(3) **Tour De France - The Grand Départ Community Activation Fund**. Link: www.scotborders.gov.uk

Chair thanked all present for for attending and for their ongoing support and commitment, and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting would be held on **20 January 2027** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

23 Nov 26

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)