DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCT 2025

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	**Apologies for Absence**. Cllr C Ramage, CCs S Clew, L Ferguson, and D Hutchings.	
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 Sep 25**. The minutes of the meeting were proposed by CC Passmore, seconded by CC Ploughman. **Approved**.	
4.	**Matters Arising**. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting:	
	a. **New In-Post Mail Unit at the Denholm Post Office (Item 15a).** Chair had raised the matter with SBC Planning, who had indicated the responsibility for the planning application lay with the owners of the unit, not the local post office. They had been given until November to apply.	
	Chair had written to the police regarding the disruption to traffic and road safety caused by the installation.	
	b. **Village Hall Chairs (Item 6a)**. Treasurer confirmed she had provided the necessary funds to the Village Hall.	
	c. **Hawick Music Club (Item 6b)**. Treasurer indicated the application had been declined as the club was in Hawick and had not applied to Hawick CC for funding.	
	d. **Borders Youth Theatre (Item 6c).** See Item 6 below.	
	e. **Reception to mark retirement of the Lord Lieutenant (Item 8a).** Chair had attended.	
5	**Police Report.** Chair had yet to receive the MMWR for September.	
6.	**Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are in the attached annex.	
	a. **Border Youth Theatre.** FS were content for the CC to approve the request for £3,843. **Agreed**.	
	b. **Bedrule Village Hall.** The hall was seeking funds for new chairs, and the formal application was awaited.	
	c. **New Account.** Treasurer was in the process of opening a new account to handle the moneys from Pinesburn windfarm.	

7. **D&DCC By-Election**. The matter was discussed at some length. In view of the forthcoming break in CC meetings in December, the need to hold a full election by May 2026, and the forthcoming Scottish Parliament election in April, it was argued that it would be undesirable to hold a by-election in the interim. It was therefore agreed to dispense with the by-election and to bring forward the full election to March 2026. However, Sec was to email each of the absent CCs to seek their agreement. **Sec**

   *[**Afternote**: CCs Clew, Ferguson and Hutchings have all agreed with the proposal to dispense with the by-election and to bring forward the full election to March 2026. **This is therefore agreed unanimously**.]*

8. **Correspondence**. Chair said she had circulated a few items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

   a. SBC had announced a delay in the review of the Live Borders programme until a meeting of the Council on Thursday 20 Nov 25.

   b. Chair had received an email from SBC asking why D&DCC had not yet established a generic email address. Sec to investigate the purpose and utility of such an address and report to the next meeting. **Sec**

   c. "Talking about Heritage". A workshop was scheduled for 21 Oct at 12:30 at the Border Club, Hawick – poster available.

9. **Planning Applications**.

   a. **Center Parcs**. Another Teams meeting was to be held shortly to inform the communities affected by proposed changes to local Byelaws. Chair had informed CP that CCs Clew and Roberts would join the meeting – awaiting an invitation. **Clew** **Sec**

   b. Sec reported on the following applications:

      1) **25/01020/FUL** Rose Cottage, Canongate, Denholm. Approved.

      2) **25/01114/AGN** Townhead of Cavers. Extension to agricultural building. Prior approval was not required.

      3) **25/01250/FUL** Antiques Shop, 1 Westside Denholm. External redecoration, walls to be painted white. This application was still awaiting consideration. **Sec**

   c. **Conservation Area.** Chair raised concern about a number of instances of houses within the Denholm conservation area having replaced windows or installed solar panels apparently without making any planning application. She sought clarification of the rules pertaining in the conservation area. Cllr Richards agreed to investigate and report to the next meeting. **Richards**

10. **Teviot & Liddesdale Rural Community Alliance**. A meeting was being held on the same evening as this CC meeting, so no CC was available to attend.

11. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** Chair reported that the D&DCC Placemaking Plan had been distributed for consultation. Responses were awaited.

12. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman had received an email from SP indicating they were now not prepared to take the project forward as it was deemed economically unviable. The reasons given included a "lack of adequate power capacity at the VH", the loss of the Fisherman's Carpark

element, and the "need for planning permission" on The Green. All present expressed their utter disappointment at this news, but agreed there was nothing that the CC could now do about it

SP also intimated that SBC were proposing a wider EV Charger scheme, but Cllrs Marshall and Richards were not aware of this. Both agreed to investigate. **Marshall Richards**

All present expressed their sincere gratitude to CC Ploughman for his strenuous efforts over the past 3 years and they shared his frustration.

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall reported there remained £1 in the fund, but that all councillors were pressing for renewed funding in the forthcoming SBC budget in May.

14. **Wind Farms Update**.

a. **Pinesburn**. The MOU had been signed. It was unclear when the CC could expect to receive funds.

b. **Millmoor**. Chair said that this project envisaged use of land owned by the Church of England, and the developer was an Irish company. It was muted how much notice these bodies would pay to the views of the Scottish communities involved.

The proposal was now under consideration at the ECU of the SG. It was noted that in their updated application, the developers had not reflected any comments from affected CCs. It was imperative that this fact be brought to the attention of Rachel Hamilton MSP and to John Lamont MSP. Sec to check on distribution. **Sec**

15. **AOB.**

a. **Loaning Playpark**. Chair said that the playpark was nearly complete and it was hoped to be opened on Mon 20 Oct. A small ceremony was proposed to mark the event, and to highlight the efforts made to save the playpark from closure. Sec to inform Hawick Paper. **Sec**

b. **Hawick Fire Station**. A decision was due in early December.

c. **Bedrule Phone Box**. BT had indicated that they intended to remove the phone box, but the community were keen to buy it and retain it. Treasurer agreed to investigate. **Treasurer**

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **19 November 2025** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:15pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts 20 Oct 25
Sec D&DCC

Membership of D&DCC:
Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mr S Clew
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Mr D Ploughman (Vice Chair)
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)

Information:
Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)
Mrs C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)
Mr N Richards (Councillor, SBC)
Ms C Malster (Comm Eng Off, SBC)
PC A Patterson (Police Scotland)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)
Mrs J Currie (Denholm Facebook)