

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
Community Councillor C Nicol	
Community Councillor S Passmore	Treasurer
Community Councillor D Ploughman	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

In attendance:

Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
4 members of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC M Richardson, Councillor S Marshall.	
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 20 Mar 24. The minutes were proposed by CC Nicol and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
4.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:	
a.	Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4a). Costings were being finalised.	Ferguson
b.	Denholm Church Clock (Item 4d). The clock had been repaired and the time shown was now correct. Funding of future maintenance costs by Foundation Scotland was still being pursued.	Treasurer
c.	Litter Pick (Item 17b). Chair proposed Saturday 11 May 24 for the litter picking event, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.	
d.	Monument Lights (Item 17f). Cllr Marshall had reported that the Feuars were responsible for resolving the problem; however, the Feuars had not been in a position to action.	
e.	Village Planter (Item 17g). Chair asked if SBC could be approached to rebuild the planter at the western entrance to Denholm. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue.	Ramage
f.	Street Light (Item 17h). Cllr Ramage apologised for the lack of progress and agreed to pursue.	Ramage
5.	Police Report. Chair had circulated the MMWR for January to members. The alarmingly high rate of Anti-Social Behaviour recorded was again highlighted.	
6.	Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update. Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity in the three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. The Foundation Scotland 2023 allocation of funds had now been received. There were no outstanding invoices.	

Applications for funding for the Dean walk signs and the Village Hall defibrillator were in progress. Cllr Ramage would be submitting an application for funds for the planned Denholm Youth Club.

7. **Correspondence.** Chair had distributed received correspondence. No comments were raised.

8. **Planning Applications.**

a. **24/002987/LBC and 24/00298/FUL.** Westgate Hall, Internal/External alterations and off-street parking. Supporting comments had been received from members; Sec to respond to SBC accordingly.

Sec

b. **24/00299/FUL** – New dwellinghouse, Newhouses Farm. No objections were raised. Sec had responded to SBC.

9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.**

Cllr Ramage indicated the next meeting would be on 18 Jun 24 at the Lesser Town Hall Hawick (venue to be confirmed). She indicated a review of the procedures was on-going, but stressed the desire to make this more “community led” and the need for volunteers to participate.

a. **Pot A.** Cllr Ramage said the funds available for the year 2024-25 stood at £21,235.

b. **Pot B.** Cllr Ramage indicated that funding of salaries was now permitted. CC Ferguson was the D&DCC representative. Chair repeated that former CC member Joe Somerville was happy to continue on the panel; Ms Sarah Culverwell of SBC (present) said non-CC members could participate provided they agreed to abide by the CC Code of Conduct.

10. **D&DCC Membership.** Chair said she had just received advice from SBC regarding the position of inviting additional Co-opted members to the CC, but this did not answer the question raised. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue the matter.

Ramage

11. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that the Denholm Questionnaire had now been printed and copies were available at the Post Office. It had also been posted on the village FB page, and it would be announced in the next Newsletter. Residents were encouraged to participate.

The placemaking group comprised CC Hutchings, Mr Gordie Campbell, Mr John Miller and Rev Rachel Wilson, and was due to meet in the Church Hall on 24 Apr.

Hutchings

12. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman was still waiting to hear from the Feuars that they had submitted their documentation (on the land they administer on behalf of the Village), to Land Register Scotland, and had informed Scottish Power that they had done so. The recent demise of the Feuars Council was a contributory cause of the delay.

There remained uncertainty over the ownership of the small car park by The Green; Cllr Ramage agreed to enquire again with SBC to clarify the position.

Ramage

13. **Small Grants Scheme.** Funds were now available, and applications welcome.

14. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair summarised the current, very complex situation, including proposals for the future connectivity of the many proposed windfarms.

Sec

A meeting of the multi-CC group pursuing the situation in the region was due on Saturday 20 Apr 24 at Southdean Hall; Sec would be representing the D&DCC.

15. **AOB.**

- a. **Future of the Feuars Council.** An open meeting to discuss the situation had been held on 15 Apr 24, very well attended by residents. It transpired that 2 further Feuars council members had resigned, leaving just one member, making the council inviable. The necessary 30 signatures having been obtained at that meeting, a "Special General Meeting" (SGM) was to be held as soon as possible, in an attempt to reconstitute the Feuars Council and find a way forward. The D&DCC would support this effort.

It was hoped that the planned tree felling in the Dean would go ahead, and it was understood that the Hawick Common Riding Committee had been told that the Denholm Rideout could go ahead in June.

- b. **Potholes.** All members complained about the number and state of potholes throughout the area. In particular: in Douglas Drive, by the Post Office, at the entrance to the Village Hall carpark, at Cavers Church, and the length of Honeyburn Lane. Cllr Ramage offered to pursue.

Ramage

- c. **Main Street Footway.** Cllr Ramage had had sight of a list of scheduled repairs, and this included "Main St footway, Denholm". Sec questioned what format this repair would take and what the impact would be on car parking. Cllr Ramage agreed to seek clarification.

Ramage

- d. **Ashloaning Playpark.** Cllr Ramage indicated that £60K had been earmarked for repairs/upgrade to this playpark during 2025/26.

- e. **River Pollution.** Mr Gordie Campbell highlighted the recent press coverage of sewage dumping into the Teviot in Hawick, and the impact this could have on the Denholm community downstream. He asked if warning signs could be implemented to warn the public of the danger this could pose. Again, Cllr Ramage offered to pursue.

Ramage

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **15 May 2024** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Chair closed the meeting at 8.00 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

ALL

W A B Roberts
Sec
D&DCC

18 Apr 24

Membership of D&DCC:

Mrs G Crew (Chair)
Mrs L Ferguson
Mr D Hutchings
Mrs C Nicol
Mrs S Passmore (Treasurer)
Mr D Ploughman (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Richardson
Mr W Roberts (Secretary)

Information:

Mr S Marshall (Councillor, SBC)
Mrs C Ramage (Councillor, SBC)
Mr N Richards (Councillor, SBC)
Democratic Services Team, SBC
PC A Patterson (Police Scotland)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)
Mrs J Currie (Denholm Facebook)