

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20 AUG 2025

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor C Ramage	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
Mr Philip Kerr	Chair Southdean CC
One member of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence. CC 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.	D&DCC Membership – Way Forward. Chair had sought guidance from SBC in view of the recent loss of members, and the full use of our co-opted member allowance. She was advised that we could hold a By-Election to seek new members; current members could opt to remain without the need for re-election, or to stand down. The resulting CC would be viable until Oct 2026, when a fresh full election will be required. All agreed to go ahead with the By-Election with at least 28 days' notice – details to be arranged and publicised. Cllr Marshall offered to oversee the election process. Chair also proposed that the CC consider switching back to a 2-year cycle between elections in future, which may encourage new volunteers to stand. Sec pointed out that the decision to go to a 4-year cycle had been internal, and we had the right to switch back if this was preferred via an AGM or EGM.	Chair Sec Marshall Chair Sec
4.	Minutes of the AGM and Regular Meeting held 18 Jun 25. The minutes of the AGM were proposed by CC Ploughman and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved. The minutes of the regular meeting were proposed by CC Fergusson and seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting: a. “Welcome to Denholm” Brick Planter (Item 5d). Chair noted that the new planter had been installed at the entrance to the village, and she described it as “excellent”. She expressed the CCs’ thanks for the work. b. Hawick Fire Station Status (Item 13b). CC Ploughman had attended the consultation meeting in Hawick Town Hall that afternoon and Chair, Sec and Cllr Marshall had attended the one in the evening.	

There was much discussion over the presentation by the SFRS representatives and the conduct of the meetings. All were agreed that the proposed reduction in the readiness state of appliances at Hawick was completely unacceptable and failed to take account of the rural nature of our area, and the likelihood of a fire in a remote location being at far greater risk of causing more damage or even loss of life, as a result of the proposed changes. Chair to write to SFRS Chief and to Mr John Lamont MP to emphasise the concern of the D&DCC and their residents.

Chair

6. **Police Report.** Chair had not yet received the MMWR for July. It was noted that the Police had been under considerable pressure in recent weeks and the lack of a report was understandable. However, there were reports of considerable rural theft in the Region in recent weeks and all should be watchful.

7. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.

Treasurer

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

- a. She mentioned one invitation from "Energising Galashiels Trust" to attend a meeting to harmonise responses to the Center Parcs planning application. However, it was felt that D&DCC were generally supportive of the proposals, and it was unlikely we would join the group.
- b. Chair also noted the impending switch to BT Digital Voice telephone system and the subsequent loss of some alarm systems. Guidance will be available for anyone needing help or advice in due course.

9. **Planning Applications.**

- a. **25/00888/FUL Center Parcs.** The application had been submitted in July and was now in consultation. Chair had received a large number of hard copy documents illustrating the company's proposals and available to the public, also available online. Cllr Marshall commented on the exemplary degree of transparency being shown by the developer, and the extent of consultation being offered to the community. All agreed.
- b. **Various.** Sec briefly reported the status of a number of recent planning applications. A number had been approved, and D&DCC were offering no objections to three more. Details were available on the SBC Planning website.

In view of Cllr Marshall having to leave early, at this point Chair addressed items in AOB.

15. **AOB.**

- a. **New In-Post mail unit at the Denholm Post Office.**

SBC had advised that the installation had been made without any prior planning application, and they would be offering the company the chance of a retrospective application. Although there had been considerable opposition to the new installation voiced within the Conservation Area, it was pointed out that some residents were in favour. Chair read out a letter from Mr Andrew Haddon highlighting

the problems that had ensued, and several members expressed their concern over the potential road safety hazards that had become apparent.

It was agreed that Chair should press SBC for the enforcement of the Conservation Area regulations, and to engage with Police Scotland regarding the very clear, immediately apparent breaches of Highway Code rules and the resulting potential road safety hazards.

Chair

- b. **Fly-Tipping on A698 at Ashy Bank.** All had noted the dumping of a fridge and later a truck tyre on the verge. Cllr Marshall said that he had reported the matter to SBC who had agreed to remove the rubbish. Chair expressed the CC's thanks.

- c. **Potholes of D15/3.** Sec reported these had just been filled and expressed thanks to SBC for attending to them.

- d. **Denholm Pavements.** Chair expressed her concern over the state of the pavements round The Green and the small car park opposite the Fox & Hounds. Cllr Marshall had arranged a site visit for the pavements around The Green, due shortly. Cllr Ramage agreed to clarify whether SBC had adopted the car park ground.

**Marshall
Ramage**

Road Signs. Concern was also expressed about the state of several road signs in the village and surrounding area which were now so dirty as to be unreadable. Cllr Marshall agreed to report this to SBC Roads.

Marshall

- e. **Loaning Playpark.** Work was now scheduled to start on 1 Sep and continue for 4 weeks, with the area being made safe during the work.

The member of the public attending expressed her frustration at local residents' parking their vehicles near the junction and causing obstructions near the playpark; these clearly presented a hazard to children playing in the area, and this danger would inevitably be made worse during the work on the playpark. Cllr Marshall offered to bring the matter to the local police and ask them to advise those causing the problem to park more considerately.

Marshall

10. **Teviot & Liddesdale Rural Community Alliance.** Chair welcomed Mr Philip Kerr who had agreed to chair the Alliance. He explained this had replaced the **Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership**. He said the new organisation (comprising representatives from seven CCs) seemed to be well supported, but its work was dependent upon finalising the various communities' Placemaking Plans.

11. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** Chair said that the latest additions and amendments had been incorporated in the plan, but it still awaited a final "grammar/spell-check" before being posted online for a 28-day public consultation. The plan currently comprised 73 pages of text and, as such, it was thought unlikely to undergo much scrutiny by the public. It was suggested that a significantly abbreviated version be made available online for a wider response. Chair thanked Sarah Culverwell for her considerable help in moving the project forward thus far.

12. **EV Charging Points.** CC Fergusson indicated that the Village Hall Committee were fully in favour of the plan. The Feuars had proposed that the Fisherman's Car Park installation be dropped, and this had been agreed by SP. CC Ploughman indicated that SP were still awaiting documented agreement to the installation at the small car park opposite the Fox & Hounds. CC Fergusson (Chair of the Feuars Council) pointed out that this land was

	thought to have been adopted by SBC and so agreement would have to come from them. Once Cllr Ramage had clarified the status of the car park (see Item 15d above) CC Ploughman should approach SBC for authority to proceed.	Fergusson Ploughman
13.	Small Grants Scheme. The new village entrance planter had been funded.	
14.	Wind Farms Update.	
	a. Pinesburn MOU. Before D&DCC agreed to the MOU, and as we did not currently have any significant projects in the offing, Chair said we needed to decide whether the available share of funds be taken in one lot or to ask FS to invest this for interest gain until drawn down. It was argued that the interest being offered would be minimal, and therefore it made sense to take the single payment now when it was available. Agreed unanimously. Treasurer indicated she would open a second bank account to hold these funds.	Treasurer
	b. Mr Philip Kerr gave an update on all the ongoing windfarm applications and their current status.	
15.	AOB (Continued).	
	f. SBC Certificate of Recognition. Chair had been presented with a certificate in recognition of the D&DCC's contribution to the community over many years. Sec offered to frame it, and it was agreed to hang it in the Village Hall.	Sec Fergusson
	g. Grant for Strimming. Chair would contact Mr Tony Marshall to arrange for the work to be carried out.	Chair
	h. John Leyden Commemoration. Chair said that 8 Sep 25 was the 250 th anniversary of the birth of John Leyden, and proposed that the school be approached for some children to read some of his work at the memorial, and flowers to be laid. Agreed.	Chair
	i. Treasurer. Chair thanked the Treasurer for her speedy return to her duties and wished her a continuing recovery from her recent illness.	
	j. Feuars/OSCR. CC Fergusson reported she had been contacted by OSCR regarding an investigation into a reported error in proceedings, and she had drafted a response to which she sought Cllr Ramage's approval. To be resolved after the meeting.	Fergusson Ramage
	k. Center Parcs. Chair indicated that Lilliesleaf CC would be holding a public meeting to discuss the impact of the CP proposal at their Currie Memorial Hall on 25 Aug at 7pm. CCs were invited to join them.	
	l. Fire Station and Live Borders Futures. Cllr Ramage reminded all that petitions and suggestion boxes were available addressing both these major issues and encouraged all residents to make their views known as much as possible.	ALL
	m. D&DCC By-Election. Chair asked, in view of the decision (at Item 3 above) to hold a By-Election, which of the current D&DCC members were prepared to remain in office, and who if any would be standing down? All those members present indicated they would remain in post until the next full election, due in Oct 2026. Chair would contact CC Hutchings for his intentions.	Chair Hutchings

16. **Date of Next Meeting.** D&DCC would next meet on **17 September 2025** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:50pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

21 Aug 25

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)