

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 21 JAN 2026

Present:

Community Councillor G Crew	Chair
Community Councillor S Clew	
Community Councillor L Ferguson	
Community Councillor D Hutchings	
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
Ms Sarah Culverwell	SBC
One member of the public	

Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
3.	Active Travel Plan. Chair welcomed Mr Joe Chadderton and his colleague who gave a short introduction to their task from SBC to assess the feasibility of a number of options for an Active Travel route from Hawick to Denholm. They had been engaged to survey the land area and possible routes and make recommendations to SBC by the end of March. They would also be consulting with Hawick and Burnfoot CCs. They would provide a draft map by email as soon as this was available. All welcomed this initiative and thanked the gentlemen for their efforts.	
1.	Apologies for Absence. Nil.	
2.	Declaration of Interests. Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.	All
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting held 19 Nov 25. The minutes of the meeting were proposed by CC Ploughman, seconded by CC Passmore. Approved.	
5.	Matters Arising. Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting: a. Bedrule Phone Box (Item 4c). Treasurer reported that the purchase of the phone box was now complete at a cost of £1.00. The box was therefore now the property of D&DCC and the Bedrule community. Treasurer would be putting appropriate notices in the box to make residents aware.	Treasurer
	b. Community Council Convention on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure in the Scottish Borders (Item 8). Chair and Sec had attended the meeting in Jedburgh on Saturday 17 Jan 25. Sec outlined the discussion and the recommendations of the organisers. 41 Borders CCs were represented together with some SBC councillors, political party members, and members of the public. Also present were representatives of both the Highlands and the NE Scotland CC Conventions, joint authors of a "Unified Statement" arguing for the way forward for future energy Infrastructure planning across Scotland. Borders CCs were encouraged to sign up to a "Unified Statement" to be presented to SG to influence the future approach to planning applications across Scotland. Sec was to circulate a summary of the discussion	

and the details of the proposed Unified Statement for the members to consider (attached at Annex A and B).

c. **InPost Mail Unit (Item 9a).** The planning application 25/01639/FUL had been rejected by SBC. However, the current situation was unclear whether the company would appeal the decision, or whether the unit would be removed or relocated. Chair stipulated it would be for the company to identify an acceptable new location. Cllr Marshall suggested that the CC should enquire of the SBC enforcement officer what action would be taken.

In the related matter of illegal parking in the area, Mr Andrew Hadden had sought the support of the CC in his efforts to enforce traffic and parking regulations in the area of the junction near the Post Office and in particular at his front door.

CC Ferguson raised the related issue of a possible dropped kerb for disabled pedestrians, and the poor state of the yellow lines at the road junction.

Cllr Marshall stated he intended to arrange a site visit with the appropriate SBC officers to assess the situation and would report with the outcome.

Mr Peter Tyler (present) proprietor of Denholm Antiques & Interiors expressed his appreciation of the discussion and looked forward to the SBC site visit, which he would welcome in his shop.

There followed a discussion regarding the future of the footpath alongside the Green. It was agreed this should be discussed again at the next meeting.

6. **Police Report.** Chair had distributed the December MMWR. CC Ferguson expressed disappointment with the item in the report regarding vandalism to the railings in the Dean. Cllr Marshall suggested contacting Cl Stuart Fletcher for an update.

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

a. **Denholm Village Website.** Treasurer had received a request for a contribution towards the running of the village website. Following discussion, a £100 contribution was agreed. **Agreed**

8. **D&DCC Election.** Cllr Marshall had agreed to act as the Returning Officer, and had received advice regarding the schedule for an election in the coming weeks/months, bearing in mind that the SG election was scheduled for May. The first option was to start the process in one week, ie starting 28 Jan 26. The alternative was to delay until June.

Following discussion it was decided to ask Cllr Marshall to investigate the possibility of delaying the start of the process by 2 weeks to 18 Feb. Cllr Marshall agreed to investigate as soon as possible.

[Afternote: Cllr Marshall had established that a delay to 11 Feb 26 was acceptable, and that the CC were permitted to continue to function right up to the moment of the election. Sec had established that all CC members were content with a delay to 11 Feb.]

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

Sec
All

Sec

Marshall

Sec

Ferguson

Treasurer

Marshall

10. **Planning Applications.**

- Sec reported the following 4 applications had all been **approved**:
25/01839/FUL. Coach House, Clarilaw, alterations and extension.
25/01420/AGN. New agricultural building near Pond House, Cavers.
25/01523/FUL. 1 Hassendean Farm Cotts, alterations, extension.
25/00768/FUL. Standhill Farm. Visitor Centre.
- 25/01639/FUL.** InPost Mail Unit, Denholm Post Office. Rejected – see Item 5c above.
- 25/01881/LBC.** 9 Towerburn, Bedrule. Replacement windows. No objections raised.
- 25/01882/FUL.** Land SW of West Lodge, Minto. New dwelling house, No objections raised.

11. **Center Parcs.** Cllr Ramage pointed out that, while the Center Parcs plan had been approved at SBC, the separate issue of the requested Bye-Law to restrict the Right to Roam within the planned camp area had yet to be approved by the SG.

12. **Teviot & Liddesdale Rural Community Alliance.** Nothing to report.

13. **Petition: New Powers for Community Councils.** Chair reminded members that they could respond to the petition personally, rather than jointly as a CC. CC Clew had written a personal view regarding the way forward.

All

14. **Denholm & District Placemaking Project.** Chair welcomed Sarah Culverwell to the meeting, and indicated that the D&DCC Placemaking Plan was in its final stage of development. Chair pointed out that, in view of the initiative launched at the CC Convention (see Item 5b) she thought there may now be a need for further changes. However, she urged all members to review the plan in its current draft and to submit comments no later than Monday 26 Jan 26. *[Afternote: Sec had circulated the plan for review.]*

All

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at this point.

15. **EV Charging Points.** The meeting was aware of the recent installation of 2 charging units in the car park of the Auld Cross Keys Hotel and commended the proprietors for their initiative. CC Ferguson said that the Village Hall had been presented with a bill for £300 (+VAT) from Bannerman Burke in Hawick, to cover the cost of reviewing legal papers in connection with the earlier EV charger plan; she asked if the CC could share this cost with the VH.

Treasurer

[Afternote: Ms Culverwell advised that, as the legal bill would be a retrospective payment, this would not be permitted under SBC regulations.]

16. **Small Grants Scheme.** Nothing to report.

17. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair displayed a flyer regarding the SP plan to install a major new substation south of Lauder and other major energy-related infrastructures. The flyer sought support from wider communities, contactable at: www.savelauderdale.com/contact. A number of windfarm applications are still under consideration.

All

18. **AOB.**

- a. **Christmas Tree Lights Event – Resulting Damage.** Chair reported that, following the very successful Christmas tree lighting event on the Green, a major wind gust had toppled the large gazebo, which had then landed on a resident's car and caused considerable damage. The owner was seeking repair costs to be met by the event organisers. The issue was on-going.
- b. **Borders Youth Theatre Project.** Chair reported that the project, a play staged by the group and Denholm school pupils which was partly funded by D&DCC, had now commenced.
- c. **Resilience Group**
 - (1) **First Aid Refresher Training.** Treasurer indicated that refresher training was now due for members of the Resilience Group.
 - (2) **New Grit Spreader.** CC Ferguson reported that a new grit spreader had been provided by SBC and was now stored in the VH Resilience Group store shed.
- d. **Monument Lights.** CC Ferguson reported progress with the plan to upgrade the monument lights to more efficient LED lights, which would operate on a timer for dark hours only, from October to March. The cost was £2,493.60. Treasurer would be discussing with FS for a grant to cover the cost.
- e. **Local Transport.** Cllr Ramage highlighted public concerns she had received over the inadequacy of public transport in the area and the new ruling that buses would no longer accept cash payments.
- f. **Wilton Lodge Park Run.** CC Clew reported that the Park Run arrangements were now well developed and that the run would open to the public in the spring, date yet to be announced. SBC had been generous in supporting the project financially.

Resilience Group

Treasurer

Date of Next Meeting. D&DCC would next meet on **18 February 2026** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9:00 pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.

W A B Roberts
Sec D&DCC

25 Dec 26

Annexes:

- A. Summary of the CC Convention 17 Jan 26.
- B. Unified Statement by Highland and NE Scotland CCs.
- C. Treasurer's Report.

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)
PC A Patterson (Community PC)
Ms J Wilkinson (Clerk to SBC)
Mr J Marshall (The Hawick Paper)