

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

**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:**

|                        |     |
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| Councillor S Marshall  | SBC |
| Councillor C Ramage    | SBC |
| Councillor N Richards  | SBC |
| 1 Member of the public |     |

| Item | Subject/Discussion  | Action  |
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| 1.   | <b>Apologies for Absence.</b> Community Councillor M Richardson.  |   |
| 2.   | <b>Declaration of Interests.</b> Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion.   | <b>All</b>  |
| 3.   | <b>Minutes of the Last Meeting held 20 Nov 24.</b> Sec apologised for his omission from the minutes of a note regarding the Minto Speed Limit signs, which should have been recorded as Item 10. He reported that SBC intended to move the signs as requested, and would NOT be changing the street lighting as a result.<br><br>With this amendment noted, the minutes were proposed by CC Passmore and seconded by CC Ferguson. Approved.   |   |
| 4.   | <b>Matters Arising.</b> Sec addressed the action points from the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>New Speed Sign (Item 4f).</b> CC Ferguson reported that the tree partially hiding the speed limit sign had not yet been trimmed, but this would be done in the near future.</li> <li>b. <b>Correspondence – Mayor of Denholm, Ontario (Item 7).</b> Chair reported that she had been corresponding with the mayor regarding his offer to sponsor trees in the Dene. The mayor’s donation for the trees was awaited; Sec would inform all when this had been received.</li> <li>c. <b>“Anti-Poverty Strategy” Consultation.</b> Chair reported that a public meeting was scheduled for either 20 or 28 Feb 25 (to be confirmed) and would be held in the Village Hall.</li> <li>d. <b>Bottle Bank (Item 16b).</b> It was reported that the missing bottle bank had not yet been replaced. Cllr Marshall agreed to chase with SBC.</li> <li>e. <b>Footpath from School to The Wynd (Item 16c).</b> The hedges had now been trimmed back.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Ferguson</b></p> <p><b>Sec</b></p> <p><b>Marshall</b></p> |
| 5.   | <b>Police Report.</b> Chair had circulated the MMWR for Nov/Dec. No comments.   |   |

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| 6.  | <p><b>Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.</b> Treasurer presented her report. Details of recent activity are summarised in the attached annex.</p> <p>Treasurer reported that she had ordered new pads for the Church defib, but these were now delayed. She also described confusion over the required replacement dates for defib equipment, as expiry dates were shown in different formats. All such equipment should be checked again – Chair to notify Mr George Lothian. Chair would add the thanks of the CC for his valued work.</p> <p>Treasurer sought approval to reimburse herself for purchasing pads – <b>approved.</b></p> <p>Following a discussion on the significant on-going cost of replacing defib equipment, it was agreed that Treasurer should seek agreement from FS for these costs to be met from the Community Fund.</p> | <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> |
| 7.  | <p><b>Correspondence.</b></p> <p>a. Chair read out a letter from Mr Kenny Speirs, in which he indicated that, in view of the steady decline in numbers attending, it had been decided to discontinue The Land, The Light and The Locals festival over the new year period. He thanked the D&amp;DCC for its consistent support of the festival, and he stressed that the Denholm Folk Festival (held in early November) would continue. The remaining funds of the LLL would be transferred to the DFF.</p> <p>b. Chair had expressed the thanks of the CC and the community as a whole to Johnston Oils and to Mr Lawrence O'Hara in particular for their generous support of the Christmas Box project.</p>  |   |
| 8.  | <p><b>Planning Applications.</b></p> <p>a. <b>24/01452/SCO – Center Parcs.</b> Sec highlighted to the CC the scoping documents (comprising some 74 pages) now available on the SBC planning website. Members were encouraged to look through these.</p> <p>b. <b>24/01170/FUL – Teviothaugh Steading Coffee Shop.</b> Sec pointed out that SBC Roads Dept had objected on the grounds of inadequate access and the likelihood of significant additional traffic on the minor road. Other members expressed their concern over the suitability of the proposed coffee shop and its location which is reportedly on a floodplain.</p> <p>c. <b>24/01487/AGN – Venville, Hassendeanburn:</b> erection of an additional Agricultural Building. No objections were voiced.</p>  | <p><b>All</b></p>   |
| 9.  | <p><b>Teviotdale &amp; Liddesdale Area Partnership.</b> Cllr Ramage indicated that the next meeting would be held via TEAMS on 25 Feb 25. CC Ferguson indicated she intended to join the meeting.</p>  | <p><b>Ferguson</b></p>  |
| 10. | <p><b>Center Parcs (CP) Proposal.</b> Chair indicated she had received an apology from the CP team that they had been unable to meet with D&amp;DCC, but a meeting with all the affected CCs was now planned for Tuesday 11 Feb 25 at 7.00 pm at the Hawick Rugby Club. Cllrs and CC members all expressed their appreciation of the declared intent of the CP team to engage with and listen to communities impacted by their plans.</p>  |   |
| 11. | <p><b>Denholm Placemaking Project.</b> CC Hutchings reported that over 100 survey forms had now been returned and that the earlier missing forms had now been found at the post office Mr Campbell reported that the school children had also provided useful input. The survey was now closed. The placemaking team would be meeting again on Thursday 23 Jan 25.</p>   | <p><b>Hutchings</b></p>   |

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| 13. | <b>EV Charging Points.</b> CC Ploughman reported that SP had sent their assessment of the Fisherman's Car Park situation, and were now awaiting comments from the Feuars. CC Ferguson said the Feuars were awaiting clearance from their lawyers, and the Village Hall would abide by their decision.   | <b>Ferguson</b>   |
| 14. | <b>Small Grants Scheme.</b> Cllr Marshall said the 2024-25 budget was now dry, and the 2025-26 budget was in process. All three Cllrs would be pressing for the continued allocation of funds to the Scheme.  |   |
| 15. | <b>Wind Farms Update.</b> Chair summarised the complex nature of the windfarm issues across the Borders.<br><br>The Muirhall position had slowed, but FS had signed an agreement on behalf of the several CCs involved. She had accepted an invitation to a meeting regarding the cross-Borders pylon proposals, and Sec would follow suit.<br><br>Cllr Ramage suggested that a composite map was needed showing the locations of all installed, planned and rejected wind turbine, pylon and battery storage sites throughout the Borders, similar to one produced for the Highlands.<br><br>Once again, there was considerable comment regarding the overall impact of these projects on local communities.   |   |
| 16  | <b>AOB.</b><br><br>a. <b>Christmas.</b> Chair thanked everyone who helped with the events around Christmas, including the tree-lighting gathering, and Santa's tour of the village. The latter was disappointing in that fewer children were out to welcome Santa, transit times were thus shorter, and it had been difficult to stick to the published schedule. It was proposed that next year, the Santa tour should be earlier in the week before the end of the school term – <b>agreed.</b><br><br>b. <b>Loaning Playpark.</b> CC Passmore reported the hedging around the playpark had been trimmed and the fencing repaired. She expressed the CC's thanks for the work done in and around the playpark.<br><br>c. <b>Leyden Memorial Lighting.</b> Cllr Marshall confirmed that SBC had refused to take responsibility for repairing the lighting. CC Ferguson said the Feuars had been gifted The Green but not the memorial and did not have the funds to meet the cost of maintaining it. It was proposed that an application be made to fund the work from Pot B of the T&LAP.<br><br>d. <b>Sunnyside Pavements.</b> Chair asked Cllr Marshall if he would inspect the pavements around The Green, as there were several areas in need of repair.<br><br>e. <b>Public Toilets.</b> Chair asked whether the public toilets on Dene Road would be opened for the spring; Cllr Marshall affirmed that they would be open. | <b>Chair, Sec</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>Ferguson</b><br><br><b>Marshall</b> |
|     | <b>Date of Next Meeting.</b> D&DCC would next meet on <b>19 February 2025</b> at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8:20pm, and Chair thanked all for attending.   | <b>ALL</b>  |

**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)  
Mrs M Richardson  
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)