

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023

#### Present:

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

#### In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
Councillor N Richards	SBC
5 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence.** CCs S Passmore (Treasurer), M Richardson; Cllrs C Ramage, and PC Allan Patterson.
2. **Declaration of Interests.** Chair called for any declaration of interest, either in general or when related to a specific item under discussion. CC Ferguson declared an interest in Item 8c, CC Hutchings declared an interest in Item 8b. **All**
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 20 Sep 23.** The minutes were proposed by Sec and seconded by CC Nicol. Approved.
4. **Matters Arising.** Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:
  - a. **Signage (Item 4b).** SBC had inspected the “No Footway” notice at the junction of Riverside Drive and Minto Road and had realigned the warning triangle.
  - b. **Telephone Box (Item 4c).** On-going **Hutchings**
  - c. **Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4d).** CC Ferguson stated that she hoped to secure funds for a new defib to be mounted outside the Village Hall (VH), thus accessible to the public. **Ferguson**
  - d. **Lighting (Item 4f).** The Village Hall outside light was now working.
  - e. **SBC Planning Notification Policy (Item 9a).** Cllr Richards indicated he believed the current policy requiring the CC to “discover” new planning applications was appropriate. Sec argued that the system was not acceptable and again urged Cllr Richards to take the matter up with the SBC Planning Department. **Richards**
  - f. **Bus Service Co-ordination (Item 14e).** Sec had received a response from SBC to the effect that a full review of bus services across the Borders was under way, and the CC’s comments would be considered in the review.
  - g. **Footbridge Closures in Hawick (Item 14f).** Sec had received a response from SBC acknowledging the comments raised.

5. **Police Report.** PC Allan Paterson had sent his report (attached) as he was unable to attend. Sec read out his report and there were no comments from the members.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Foundation Scotland Update.** In the absence of the Treasurer, Chair presented her report. Details of recent activity in the three accounts are summarised in the attached annex. There were no outstanding invoices.
7. **Correspondence.** Chair described the following:
  - a. **Main Street Footway.** Chair and Sec had attended an on-site meeting that morning with SBC staff, Cllrs and members of The Feuars, to consider options for improving the state of the footway along Main Street beside The Green.

Pertinent to the discussion was the impending SG review proposing to ban all on-pavement parking throughout Scotland other than in exceptional circumstances. (This was also the subject of an SBC public consultation due to close on 5 Nov 23.)

Arguments heard included the need to ensure adequate parking for the clients of businesses located on Main Street, traffic calming requirements, the need to facilitate traffic movement including multiple HGVs, and pedestrian safety.

A number of options were considered, including narrowing the current footway, installing an alternative footway on the other side of the wall within The Green, and the acceptance of limited on-footway parking albeit with restrictions on where and when. SBC Officers offered to seek advice from other SBC departments on pricing and feasibility of various options.

Members of the public were encouraged to respond to the SG consultation to express their views on the matter Link:  
<https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/assets-and-infrastructure/footway-parking-2023/>
  - b. **Youth Strategy.** Chair described a proposal for a "Youth Strategy" including an SBC survey of opinions, and training courses available for young people. Anyone wishing to engage should contact Chair for details.
8. **Planning Applications.**
  - a. **SBC Notification Policy.** See Item 4e above.
  - b. **Cavers House/Castle.** Sec informed the meeting that SBC had approved the application for restoration/redevelopment of Cavers House, despite the multiple objections raised. Sec thanked Cllr Richards for voicing his objections at the Planning Committee meeting.
  - c. **Application for Development at Canongate.** Once again, members were bemused as to why the application for 19 houses had been approved so long after the initial application had been lodged – some 15 years ago. Cllr Richards indicated that Cllrs had not been consulted as the approval had been in keeping with earlier decisions.

Members again expressed their grave concerns that the approved development was likely to result in the capacity of local infrastructure,

such as the school, drainage and the single-lane Cemetery Road, being exceeded.

9. **Teviotdale & Liddesdale Area Partnership.** CC Ploughman had been unable to attend the recent meeting and no update was available.
10. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that Rev Rachel Wilson had now agreed to chair the Placemaking Committee, which was due to meet again on 1 Nov 23. He was encouraged by recent developments and was optimistic that progress would be made on the project.
11. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman indicated that he was due to meet with SP representatives following the Feuars meeting on 20 Oct 23, and Chair and CC Ferguson agreed to attend also. CC Ferguson stated that the Village Hall had now completed the transfer of ownership of the shed and parking bays near the VH, and she would make the deeds available for that meeting.

**Ploughman**  
**Ferguson**
12. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall reported that there remained £13K available in the scheme for the current FY, and sought suggestions for projects to be funded. He had initiated an application for a new road name sign for “Dean Road” and £500 had been allocated.

CC Ferguson asked if funds could be provided to support the resurrection of the Denholm Youth Club. Cllr Marshall indicated they could be available to meet equipment or facility costs, but not for staff or consumables. CC Ferguson would pursue.

**Ferguson**
13. **Wind Farms Update.**

**Pines Burn.** Chair had expressed the D&DCCs’ full support for Mr Philip Kerr’s proposed objections to the manner of EK’s handling of the project and to their proposals for varying the initial position on community benefits.

The failure this week of the delivery of a second turbine blade through the Selkirk A7/A699 junction had resulted in an accident and in significant, prolonged disruption to local traffic. This incident had once again demonstrated the inadequacy of the Pines Burn traffic plan.

Sec had subsequently visited Hawick Police Station, and was told that, although they were aware of the traffic plan schedule as published on the relevant website, the station was not informed of precisely when these deliveries were taking place. Local police were not aware of when the failed delivery would be resumed. Cllr Marshall said he was due to attend a meeting with relevant parties and he would be highlighting this lack of communication.

**Marshall**
14. **AOB.**
  - a. **Christmas Arrangements.** Santa would need to be consulted to arrange a date for his visit to the village. Sec to enquire.

**Sec**
  - b. **Resilience Co-ordination meeting.** CC Ferguson sought members to attend the meeting at SBC HQ at 6:30 pm on Wed 1 Nov 23. Members to consider and respond to her direct.

**All**
  - c. **Village Hall Notice Board.** CC Ferguson described developments re the VH notice board and asked that delivery of the new board be delayed.

**Marshall**
  - d. **Rubbish Collection.** CC Ferguson sought help to arrange collection of some rubbish which had lain by the resilience store by the VH. Cllr Marshall offered to arrange.

**Marshall**

- e. **Constitution.** Mr John Millar (present) highlighted a perceived discrepancy in the D&DCC constitution regarding the recruitment of co-opted members. He also advocated efforts to recruit new, younger co-opted members to the CC and described how this might be achieved.
- f. **Denholm Flower Show.** Mr Gordie Campbell (present) described efforts being undertaken to heighten local interest in the annual Flower Show, including the addition of a Harvest Event on The Green.

**Date of Next Meeting.** D&DCC would next meet on **15 November 2023** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Chair offered her apologies as she would be away. Vice-Chair D Ploughman would chair the meeting.

**ALL**

Chair closed the meeting at 8.42 pm with thanks to all who had participated.

W A B Roberts  
Sec  
D&DCC

20 Oct 23

**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)