

## DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUN 2024

#### 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 M Richardson	
Community Councillor W Roberts	Secretary

#### In attendance:

Councillor S Marshall	SBC
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Item	Subject/Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> CC C Nicol, Councillors N Richards, C Ramage. Chair expressed congratulations to Cllr Ramage on her recent election as Honorary Provost of Hawick.	
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.	All
3.	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting held 15 May 24.</b> The minutes were proposed by CC Richardson and seconded by CC Ferguson. Approved.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising.</b> Sec addressed the outstanding action points from the last meeting:	
a.	<b>Village Hall Defibrillator (Item 4a).</b> Installation was still awaited.	Ferguson
b.	<b>Litter Pick (Item 4c).</b> Sec apologised for not yet having produced the certificate of thanks for Mrs Trish Witton, and try again to find a model.	Sec
c.	<b>Village Planter (Item 4d).</b> Chair reported that the planters on The Green had been repaired. The plastic planters, which had been damaged by strimmers have been replaced. Cllr Marshall offered to remind SBC to take more care when mowing and strimming.	Marshall
d.	<b>Street Light (Item 4e).</b> Cllr Marshall asked that details of any street light columns be forwarded to him, and he would address the matter with SBC.	All Marshall
e.	<b>Ashybank House Planning Application (Item 9a).</b> Sec reported he had entered a “no objections” response to SBC.  Questions arose about the recent arrival of several vans in front of the yard adjacent to Ashybank House. It was thought that, as the property had previously been a commercial establishment (Jackson Tool Hire) no	

objection to the new venture would be viable. However, Cllr Richards (as a member of the Planning Committee) would be asked to investigate and report to the next meeting.

**Richards**

- f. **Police Reports (Item 15a).** Chair had enquired whether it would be permissible to distribute the MMWR publicly, but had received no response.
- g. **Speed Sign (Item 15b).** Following investigation, it had been decided to leave the new speed sign as located.
- h. **Grass Cutting (Item 15c).** Although too late for the local school sports events, SBC had arranged for The Green to be mown correctly in time for the Denholm Rideout on 1 Jun, and this was greatly appreciated.
- i. **Denholm Cemetery (Item 15 e).** Grass had been mown as requested.

Cllr Marshall reported the very recent theft of SBC equipment from their Mansfield Road depot, including 2 very new ride-on mowers. Efforts were in hand to replace the equipment, but the theft would inevitably disrupt grass mowing operations across the Region.

- 5. **Police Report.** Chair had circulated the MMWR for May to members, who once again expressed their concern at the high rate of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 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 church clock was now under repair, funded by FS, and should be completed in a week or two.

It was confirmed that £20 was due to Hawick Paper for the notice advertising the AGM. Sec to seek an invoice.

**Sec**

Treasurer reported that additional funds from FS would be required for fencing in The Dean resulting from the on-going tree felling work. The cost would be shared with the Feuars.

Treasurer indicated that Mr Bruce Lothian was now maintaining the paths, funded by SBC grant. Ms Lisa Telford of the Feuars was kindly assisting.

- 7. **Correspondence.** Chair had distributed received correspondence.
- 8. **Planning Applications.**

- a. **24/00679/FUL** Townhead Farmhouse, Minto - internal alterations. No objections were raised. Sec to respond to SBC accordingly.

**Sec**

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

- a. **Pot A.** CC Ferguson had attended the recent meeting and reported that two applications for funds under Pot A had been approved, namely Hawick Senior Citizens and The Brownies, each for £1,000.

- The possibility of a grant to support future Denholm Rideout events as a local festival was discussed. Cllr Marshall believed it would qualify and urged the CC to apply. CC Ferguson would pursue. **Ferguson**
- b. **Pot B.** There were no applications pending under Pot B. However, The Youth Club had just been granted 70% of their application.
10. **Denholm Placemaking Project.** CC Hutchings reported that the consultants approached for help with formulating the Denholm project were expected to engage at the end of the month.
- The responses to the questionnaires had been slow and he had extended the period for submissions. He was advised to approach Ms Jane Currie to post information re the questionnaires on the village website. **Hutchings**
- CC Hutchings was frustrated that, following the demise of the old Feuars Council, he and Mr Gordie Campbell were the only two members of the sub-committee remaining. He urgently needed more volunteers to join his group and lend their support.
- He also expressed his appreciation of the efforts of Sarah Culverwell of SBC in support of the work to date – she had been extremely helpful.
11. **EV Charging Points.** CC Ploughman reported that he had had an on-site meeting with a number of SP staff on Monday 17 Jun, and this had been very satisfactory. A number of issues had arisen, but SP were now planning to proceed with three sites within the village as follows:
- a. They would start with the Village Hall Carpark, installing 2 x 60KW units.
- b. Secondly, the Fisherman’s Carpark - 2 x 60KW units, to be installed in place of the recycling bins, which would be moved to under the trees. The feed cable would need to be underground. There remained a need to finally prove the Feuars’ ownership of the land; meanwhile, a clause would be included in the lease making the Feuars Council responsible in the event of a dispute.
- c. Thirdly, the small carpark opposite the Cream Puff cafe installing a single 60KW unit, fed by an overhead 7m cable to safeguard the tree roots.
- A question arose regarding the need for planning permission for all these sites, and this issue would need to be clarified. CC Ploughman to action. **Ploughman**
- SP had asked for advice on the colour of the various units; it was agreed that they should all be white. **Ploughman**
- A Denholm “logo” had been requested for labelling the charging units. Sec to provide to CC Ploughman. **Sec**
12. **Small Grants Scheme.** Cllr Marshall indicated there remained plenty of money available in the scheme. Chair would submit an application for funds for the planters at each end of the village. **Chair**
- Funds for the repainting of the Minto phone box have been approved.

13. **Wind Farms Update.** Chair highlighted the number of changes to original planning applications currently being proposed. Muirhall Energy would be holding an informal information event open to all residents and stakeholders, at their North Bridge Street, Hawick, office on Wed 26 Jun; three sessions available: 10am – 12 noon, 2pm – 4pm and 6pm - 8pm.

CC Clew described the potential impact on windfarm developments of the impending SG decision regarding the hoped-for new National Park in the south of Scotland.

154 **AOB.**

- a. **Phone Boxes.** Arrangements have been made to repaint the Denholm phone box.
- b. **Potholes.** CC Passmore asked if the pothole at the entrance to the VH/School carpark had been reported, but it appeared not. Cllr Marshall offered to investigate and seek repairs.
- c. **New Build Completion Certificates.** CC Clew expressed concern that the two new houses built in Minto opposite the Golf Club entrance had been sold by the developer without the issue of the required completion certificates. Cllr Marshall suggested that the situation should be passed to Cllr Richards, who would be asked to investigate with the Planning Committee.
- d. **Public Toilets.** Chair reported that the public toilets had recently been vandalised, leaving a tap continuously running. Cllr Marshall offered to chase SBC for repairs.

**Marshall**

**Richards**

**Marshall**

**Date of Next Meeting.** D&DCC would next meet on **15 August 2024** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Chair thanked all for attending..

**ALL**

W A B Roberts  
Sec D&DCC

22 Jun 24

**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)  
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)

