

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7pm in
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

Minutes

- 1 **Apologies and Attendance:** Apologies were received from S Hay; C Morrison; Cllr Hamilton; Cllr Orr; Cllr Anderson; K Tulloch; N Simpson
In attendance were P Hood (Chair); K Nelson (Minutes) S Kennedy (Treasurer); S Fletcher; J Morton; M Given; J Virtue; J Sutton (CDW); one member of the public.
- 2 **Police Reports** – no police report this month.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – hard copy not available on the night to be signed off.
However, online copy agreed by CC members in attendance. Physical copy to be signed by PH by 30/6 [Action PH](#)
- 4 **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 **Aikengall Update** – PH and KN spoke to this item. There is still no response, not even an acknowledgement of the latest report, from any of the Community Windpower team and no feedback on the arrears of community of benefits now at £75000. Therefore, to avoid any danger of being in acquiescence (reluctant acceptance of something without protest) with the situation of non-payment, the CC unanimously agreed to send a recorded delivery letter to Diane Wood, (the Community Windpower director who signed our community benefit agreement in 2020) making clear the current situation is not acceptable. [Action PH](#)
 - 4.2 **Foundation Scotland** – KN spoke to this item and reiterated where we are at with FS:
The Community Council wish to transfer responsibilities for managing the community benefit funds emanating from various windfarm for our community to Foundation Scotland. Foundation Scotland are to setup and manage a combined Fund named 'Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund'. This move will ensure professional due diligence, scrutiny, support and management of funds and enhancing impact reporting. To enable this, the CC are now ready to arrange a bilateral agreement allowing for FS to receive and be responsible for all community benefit funds and associated communications.
Next step is to arrange three-way discussions – CC / FS and Windfarm benefactors
[Action KN \(Action in progress Meetings 27th and 28th June in calendar\)](#)
- 5 **CDW report/ Wellness** – JS spoke to this report
 - 5.1 **Integrated groups meeting** – the second meeting has taken place to support the main groups in our community to work together. The overlap of potential projects from the VH, Shop, Playpark Group, Sports teams is clear and the future of the Community Shop is the lynchpin. The Shop committee are due to meet in the next week and will have a conversation on the best way forward, including where the shop may be best situated in the long term. It was emphasised that as a community enterprise any decisions on the shop future will be put to their members.
The Playpark group are keen to advance their project. However, one option may be to move the shop to within the VH and extend the VH into the current Playpark area. With the overlaps of ideas and project options it was suggested at the Integrated Groups meeting that a feasibility study be commissioned to consider impact of different options on shop location. The Shop AGM is September and the subject of engaging in a feasibility study may be voted on then. JS will continue to support the groups as our Community Development Worker. [Action JS](#)

- 5.2 Wellness Grant** – The funding received from TSDG for a Community Wellness programme is planned to be spent by March 2024. There is a balance of just under £20000 to be spent by March 2024. The programme has been running for some time and with the closure of the cosy café (due to lack of volunteers) the fund is predominantly supporting physical activities taking place in the VH. To make the most of the remaining funds and the time remaining JS has published a questionnaire via Facebook to assess how the community would like to see the programme develop over the next six months. The survey will run through June and July. It was noted that being available only on Facebook this limits the community members taking part. Therefore, JS agreed to create questionnaire forms that will be available in different locations, like the Wednesday Post Office in VH. [Action JS](#)
- 5.3 After School Club** – Committee has been elected and their first meeting is planned for 15/6. A deadline of six months is in place to get the Club set up. A meeting between the ASC committee and the VH is already arranged and the committee seek support from the CC to help meet their deadline.
- 5.4 Newsletter** - July/August Newsletter planned and there are many items suggested for inclusion in the publication. [Action JS](#)
- 5.5 Cycle Repair Station** - A cycle repair station is on offer to the community at zero cost. JS has shared an email of the project with the CC for consideration. The likely best location is near the VH. This project would need some volunteers to make it happen and JS is happy to support.
- 5.6 Community Composting Scheme** – JS met with NS for an update on progress and the scheme is proving very popular. The team would appreciate volunteer support for the day-to-day activities.
- 5.7 SUW Maintenance** - With complaints from members of the public and pressure from the Caretaker team NS met with Rangers from SBC. The SUW has now been strimmed however the Ranger team and the Caretaker team agree that with limited SBC funds available community volunteers are needed to improve the pathways. JS will continue to liaise with Caretaker team. [Action JS](#)
- 6 Mercat Cross** – PH spoke to this item in Cllr Andersons absence. Cllr Anderson is seeking support and clarification on ownership and will keep the CC up to date [Action Cllr Anderson](#)
- 7 Walking Festival** – PH spoke to this item. Two members of the public with a great local walking experience have agreed to lead and plan walks. However, at this point they do not wish to be involved in the project set up. Lengthy discussions including mentions on Forth to Farne and the Berwickshire Coastal Path ended with the proposal that a realistic aim would be to organise something for 2026. This coincides with the James Hutton tricentenary and perhaps options to team up with Edin Geological [Action JS to contact Edin G Soc.](#)
- 8 Community Liaison Group (CLG) – Crystal Rig 4**
Next CLG meeting 15/6 and SK will put forward the CC preference for funding to be allocated 60/40. 60% SBC and 40% East Lothian. Members of the various communities impacted are still in discussions on Companies on the different proposals and have raised concerns with their MSP. [Action – SK \(Action complete\)](#)
- 9 Funding Applications** – No applications were received for CC consideration. However, the CC discussed contact from **Duns Players and Defib Maintenance**. Duns Players emailed to say that they had received additional funds from other benefactors and in light of this did the CC want some of the grant returned. The CC agreed unanimously that the Duns Players should keep the grant and use any surplus to support other activities. The **Jim Clark Musical** programme will include a memorial note for our Vice Chair, Rosemary

Laird, very sadly missed.

SK spoke to the options for **Defib maintenance support**, working with the First Responders Group going forward. No decisions have yet been made although the CC were unanimously in favour of an agreement in principle to support the FR with an annual grant in return for the maintenance. [Action – SK to liaise and report back in due course](#)

- 10 **Correspondence** – all circulated. Many items were brought to CC attention. PH spoke to various items from **SBCCN/BAP update** and key recent emails. As many of the subjects are key to our community (transport, housing and funding included) PH will work with JS on how these may be incorporated into the next Newsletter or supplement. PH emphasised that CC members must read the emails and pass on information to our community. [Action All and Newsletter JS and PH](#)

- Community Map was discussed and although it may be an asset for the community, there was some anomalies on how this will be used and would there be a charge for maintenance after the initial free year. [Action JS to clarify.](#)
- West Lothian CC conducting research on behalf of all of Scotland on the future of CC's, their powers, creating blueprints, options of Youth CC (16 years plus). PH attended the online call and encouraged the CC to get involved.
- Berwickshire Book Festival 15 – 19 June
- Competition to design a Berwickshire Flag with a prize of £250
- Explore the Borders Magazine – bi monthly and seek support for content and any volunteer support
- Boundaries Changing – Constituency is to be Ettrick Roxburgh and Berwickshire with a population of around 55,000
- Draft Housing Strategy from SBC – email with information and feedback sought
- Transport Survey online details will be added to Newsletter.
- South Scotland Enterprise funding available. Sessions in Eyemouth and on Zoom. PH has passed to Allotments Assoc, VH and Shop.
- Small Schemes Funding – reiterated that the scheme is reopened. No specific suggestions. CC are to speak to members of the community and seek proposals. [Action – all.](#)
- Torness Liaison Volunteer – JF has agreed to take up this role. [Action JF](#)
- Viridor Liaison Volunteer – JF has agreed to take up this role. KN to check that NS is not already in this role. [Action JF and KN](#)

11 Planning

11.1 Wigwam application for Hobbit huts – SK talked to this and PH noted an interest.

The planning application has been amended to position the hobbit huts on the areas where permission is already in place to build Wigwams. The CC have not been invited to respond on this application however if they had been the consensus was that no members of the community has feedback any concerns.

- 12 **SBC Councillor updates** – Councillors not in attendance.

13 Community Councillor updates

JM – the concern re rats at Tollview has been addressed after Housing Association arranged for an exterminator to visit.

PH Caledonian Trust – KT reported the issue of potential 'fly tipping' to Caledonian and the officer indicated he would visit the site after his holiday. [Action KN – clarify if visit took place](#)

MG – Contact by MG with the Unpaid Work/Criminal Justice team re Southern Upland Way (SUW) has overlapped with NS meeting the contact. MG will liaise with NS before progressing. [Action MG](#)

JV – Streetlights issue has been resolved.

Cemetery grass has recently been cut but NOT collected. As there is a large amount of grass this conceals the uneven ground and holes in the ground. Similar issue with overgrown grass at the Callander Place steps. This has been reported to SBC. **Action KN to inform Cllr Anderson and MG to liaise with SH/SBC on possible action**

PH – the CC still requires a secretary and encouraged the CC members to be proactive in recruitment

SK – Await bank response on changeover of signatories on Community Benefits Account (remove KN and replace with SK).

KN - Bookkeeper meeting set for end of June and handover with SK also by end of June.

Agenda and Minute Taker : KT has completed her stint covering secretary duties and while the position is still vacant the CC hope to rotate these duties between members.

KN as minute taker for this meeting asked if anyone would like to volunteer to do the minutes in Aug. With no takers this initiated a discussion on is there an option to seek a paid person to support – approx. 5 hours per month. This led to discussion on the CC annual grant of £630 and if paying someone is feasible now that hall hire is paid by SBC separately. Further discussion required on whether or not paid support is possible with the current grant. **Action SK and KN**

MoP – commented on the speed of agricultural vehicles passing through the village. Also, further to the discussion on CC annual grant (see above), the question arose on the cost of hall hire and the question was asked on VH rates for community groups. Current hourly rate for CC hire is £8 per hour. Short discussion on how the hall hire is one of the key incomes that keeps the VH afloat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.