

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023 at 7pm in  
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

**Minutes**

- 1 **Apologies and Attendance:** Apologies received from SBC Councillor James Anderson; S Hay; C Morrison; N Simpson; J Fairbairn  
In attendance were P Hood (Chair); K Nelson (Minutes) S Kennedy (Treasurer); M Given; S Fletcher; J Virtue; J Sutton (CDW); four members of the public.
  - 1.1 **Police Reports** – no report received although it was highlighted that there was a social media mention of a shop burglary in the Chirnside area.  
**Liaison Officer** update, CNC Torness - MG spoke to this item. Thank you note sent to CNC Torness in appreciation of all the support given to our community by the liaison officer over the past years. MG has been unsuccessful in finding the contact details for the Police Scotland community officers allocated to support our area. Officers Jacons and MacLeod. Action MG continue to seek contact with the officers.
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Copies from August signed off.
- 3 **Matters Arising**
  - 3.1 **Aikengall Update** – PH spoke to this item. Meeting took place between Aikengall representatives and CC Chair, Treasurer and Minute taker. In response to the discussions Aikengall released half the funds due to the CC (£50k/£100k) and are holding the remainder while the CC review a proposed new contract from Community Windpower. The CC arranged a private meeting (14/09) to discuss the contract with Community Councillors before follow up meeting with Aikengall planned for end of September. The main proposed changes relate to having Be Green manage the £25k annual award for green initiatives and Community Windpower introducing options of clawback if the green initiative amount is not spent. Action All – review the proposed contract
  - 3.2 **Foundation Scotland** – KN spoke to this item. The aim is to have new agreements between Windfarms and FS to enable grant to be paid direct to FS for the Cockburnspath Community Fund. A draft agreement for review has not yet been distributed. Feedback from one of the benefactors indicates that there will be legal costs (to be paid by CC) incurred to enable new agreements to be put in place. A meeting to discuss the agreement options to be arranged. Action KN to arrange update call with FS  
PH also spoke the proposed Community Benefit funding panel and the potential members must be updated to progress. Action KN / PH prepare an update
  - 3.3 **Crystal Rig 4** - Site visit planned for 29<sup>th</sup> September. Action PH/SK to attend
  - 3.4 **Cemetery grass** – see section 11 Community Councillor Updates
- 4 **CDW report/ Wellness** – JS spoke to the report
  - 4.1 **Wellness Project** –  
**Budget** - Budget for activities to end of Feb 2024 (end of the grant term) are in place and approved by TSIDG (funder) Action JS to share with CC Treasurer in first instance  
**Community Café** - VH arranged support from Abundant Borders and local catering business to provide for a weekly café – starting 19 Sep and running for 21 weeks. Funding support from the Wellness grant and support from VH team and volunteers will get the café going and plans are in place to train and retain volunteers to continue past the 21 week end date. Action SK to arrange cheque- Done Action All – promote the café  
**Questionnaire** JS identified activities provided by various Borders charities that fulfil some of the requests indicated in the recent questionnaire. Some of the activities are parent and family orientated (like Parent Space) and have already had a positive

response from some participants in the local parents' social media groups. To move forward and book dates further liaison with parents group required to determine possible numbers for the sessions [Action JS](#)

**4.2 CAP** – Update on CAP is a priority before CDW contract concludes. Suggestion is to follow the format of the Jan 23 flyer update and seek assistance from member of the Community who developed the Digital Poll. [Action JS](#)

**4.3 Integrated Groups** – Key milestones for several community groups arrive in 2024. 100 years SWI, 100 years Flower Show, 100 years BC (tbc) and 20 years of new VH. This presents opportunities for everyone to work together for celebrations. The integrated groups earlier meetings will be followed up with an update session, updating on progress from architect visits and proposing way forward to continue meeting after CDW contract ends. [Action JS](#)

**4.4 Newsletter** - Feedback to CDW is that the newsletter has been very well received and it was agreed that it would be worthwhile to continue after October. Suggestion was that volunteer support would be ideal however there is some funding available for paid support. [Action JS final newsletter and CC All to discuss how best to take this forward fo](#)

**4.5 Cycle Repair Station** – Installation expected next week in front of the VH.

**4.6 Volunteer Programme** – the VP content remains available for any proposed rerun. The specific short films are in being edited and distribution imminent. [Action JS](#)

**4.7 Allotments Award** – The Allotment Association has been nominated for an award by JS. Cultivating Communities award via SBC Greener Gateway Awards.

**4.8 After School Club** - Award of £5k received to support the set up programme. After School Club Chair was in attendance and explained there are some challenges with timing for establishing a SCIO and opening a bank account in the SCIO name. Chair also ask for information on funding applications which is mentioned in section 7 Funding Applications.

**4.9 Online Parish Mapping** – Positive feedback on the mapping project which is free for the first year. To continue and make the most of the facility the CC seek a lead person to monitor, update and feedback on updates and changes. A CC member will support but is not presently able to lead the project. [Action All – seek volunteer to take on](#)

**4.10 Other** - South of Scotland Alliance - shared their tourism strategy and recent partnership meetings. Borders Greenway project shared plans to develop a path from Tweedbank to Eyemouth

**5 Mercat Cross** - Cllr Anderson continues to seek support and clarification on ownership and will update CC on progress [C/f](#)

**6 CC Recruitment** – PH spoke to this item.

Very much a repeat of comments from last month ... New members are required and ideas sought on how to encourage members of the public to become more involved in the meetings and activities. CC volunteer secretary still required. Further discussion on whether funding could be used to employ a secretary from the annual CC grant of £630 or utilise Kinegar funding for CDW admin support. As well as a secretary the CC seek new members. Cove representation should be two councillors and is currently one with one co opted. The question also returned to how to encourage members of the public to attend CC meetings to get a better share an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the CC. The newsletter myth buster is a start and first one published with notes on Community Benefits. [KN/ SK Look at options to pay secretary](#)

**7 Funding Applications** –

### 7.1 After School Club

A project team is in place to establish an After School Club including holiday time support. An application has not yet been submitted. The Chair wished to share details of the project progress and current challenges on getting SCIO established, opening bank account, confirming a venue, health and safety requirements, insurance and several other tasks required. The Chair is seeking advice and guidance on applying for Community Benefit funding to support the After School Club over the next 3 to 5 years. An SBC grant of £5k has been awarded and gaining longer term commitment to support the project is key. [Action – SK liaise with Chair](#)

### 7.2 VH Support

A VH Trustee attended to talk to two items – 1) Community Café launch and funding support from Wellness grant and 2) seeking Caretaker support for VH maintenance

1) discussed in Wellness section 4.1

2) VH sent an email ahead of the meeting to seek feedback on options for the Community Caretaker project to plan for the allocation of time for some basic maintenance support for the VH. Initial feedback is that the Caretaker already uses all hours allocated as per current funding and that in order to dedicate VH time then something else would have to give. Reason for the VH seeking support is well understood and as Caretaker and Caretaker support were not in attendance at this meeting it was agreed to take this forward outside of the meeting and discuss what options may be available. [Action – KN to approach SH NS](#)

## 8 Correspondence – all circulated. Many items were brought to CC attention.

**SBCCN/BAP update and recent emails** PH spoke to various items from including the Questionnaire circulated to support a review of the funding of Community Councils. Sea the Change initiative continues with litter picks in our immediate area (Cove 16 Sep). Sea – Sustainability/ Education/ Access.

Walking Festival proposal for 2026 to coincide with James Hutton Tricentenary. Project coordinators are sought to work with the Walking Festival organisers. Local walkers have already expressed an interest in supporting walkers and preparing events – however an overall coordinator is needed to formalise arrangements. Existing contact with Edinburgh Geological Society will be pursued to make the most of Geo and Siccar Point activities planned for 2026. [Action – PH contact Walking Festival contact KN to contact EG](#)

**Playpark Group** – JS asked for details of the minutes where options for Playpark insurance were documented – seeking to confirm Playpark insurance to be included with CC / SBC policy.

Response from CC was that the email correspondence from Snr Insurance Officer indicated Playpark insurance could not be included with CC cover unless the Parents Group are a sub group of the CC. Minutes [Action – JS](#)

**Caretaker Support** – A request from VH Trustees for Caretaker support discussed in Section 7.2

## 9 Planning - no new local planning applications.

CC councillors talked to nearby projects that will impact our community in the future:

**Berwick Bank Project** Activities planned close by in East Lothian with the Berwick Bank Project (Offshore Wind) and proposed works for the new substation nearby (Branxton) – some discussion took place around possible impact to our community even if this work is not included in SBC related planning permissions at present.

Berwick Bank is the biggest project of its kind in Europe and perhaps in the World to date with 307 turbines planned. Applications are still at the 'in principle' stage and there is much

discussion still to take place.

Everyone is encouraged to keep up to date with public announcements and meetings. CC councillors will continue where possible to be present at key discussions.

**Torness Decommissioning** - discussion around the future of Torness and plans for decommissioning. Timescales are thought to be de fuel in around five years and full decommissioning taking around 30 years.

**Crystal Rigg IV** - Site visit 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and CC Chair and Treasurer shall attend

10 **SBC Councillor updates** – Councillors not in attendance

11 **Community Councillor updates**

**JV** – Cemetery grass has improved. However, an issue with sunken graves has been reported to SBC for their attention. **Action JV to highlight to SBC**

**PH** – Notable points from Area Partnership included mention of the drive for tourism. See also section 8 Correspondence

Feedback from Caretaker is that Old Cambus Notice Board is back in place. There was some discussion on key holders for the various notice boards. JM will clarify Toll View. KN indicated Cove keys now with NS. Square by a member of the public and Old Cambus tba.

**SK** – Defib application will be distributed ahead of October meeting.

**MG** – Update on liaison officer mentioned in section 1.1

**SF** – spoke to the Place Planning and activities in East Lothian and East Lammermuir as this lies on our community border. SBC Place Planning encourage individual communities to get involved in a Local Development Pla and surveys and public meetings are already in progress this month.

Continues to support Facebook posts as the CC seek a secretary.

**KN** – Bank response on changeover of signatories is that the documents have not been received despite being handed into Haddington Branch. New forms to be completed asap. CC Insurance costs of £235 for 2022/23 and increase of £150. Many of the items insured relate to the Caretaker project and upkeep of the village although the lawn tractor insurance is managed separately.

KN agreed to be October minute taker.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.**