

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting,  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall**

**Minutes**

- 1 **Apologies and Attendance:** Apologies received from SBC Councillor A Orr; C Hamilton; M Given; C Morrison;  
In attendance were P Hood (Chair); K Nelson (Minutes) S Kennedy (Treasurer); N Simpson; S Fletcher; J Virtue; J Fairbairn; J Morton; S Hay ; J Sutton (CDW); SBC Councillor J Anderson and four members of the public (mop).
- 2 **Police Reports** – received too late to be brought to this meeting. M Given will share in due course. [Action MG](#)
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Copies from September agreed and signed off.
- 4 **Matters Arising**
  - 4.1 **Aikengall Update** – PH spoke to this item. Contract reviewed and updated and next meetings with Aikengall to be scheduled. [Action PH](#)
  - 4.2 **Crystal Rig 4** - Site visit completed. SK / PH spoke this item giving description of the area.
  - 4.3 **Cemetery Condition** – JV/ SF spoke to this item. Serious concerns about the condition of the grounds reported to SBC. Councillor JA in attendance will lend his support to seek action from the grounds teams.
  - 4.4 **Secretary Support** – SK spoke to this item. No volunteer yet found and the availability for stand-in minute taker ending the CC agreed to engage secretarial support for the next few months with invoices payable from the CC annual grant funds.  
The task will be for Agenda, Minutes and Mailbox monitoring – No other tasks including no Social Media monitoring.  
[Action SK / KN put in place from November.](#)
- 5 **CDW report/ Wellness** – Reports circulated to CC members included highlights of the many projects initiated and supported by JS and the CC. CDW contract ends Oct 2023 after nearly four years support to our community from JS.  
Thank you messages from CC on behalf of our community and special thank you from the Allotment Association for support in winning funding and awards. See note 5.3  
Although reports circulated for review and not discussed the points below were agreed as worth noting.
  - 5.1 **Integrated Groups** – Meeting 11/10 Notes to be circulated on ideas and next steps to keep momentum with the aim of key groups continuing to work together.
  - 5.2 **Newsletter** - Prioritisation of certain tasks means the next newsletter (aiming for end of Nov early Dec) will be organised by the CC. Call out to any members of the public that may have graphic / typograph experience that may be willing to lend a helping hand.  
[Action KN](#)
  - 5.3 **Allotments Award** – Cultivating Communities award via SBC Greener Gateway Awards.  
The Allotment Association are over the moon at winning three awards including two Gold awards for their achievements. Allotment Chair and co-opted CC member NS and JS collected the awards on behalf of the Cockburnspath Allotment Association. NS happy to share further information with any interested parties.
- 6 **Mercat Cross** - Cllr Anderson continues to support clarification on ownership and will raise an official 'Question to the Council' in due course. [Action JA](#)
- 7 **Caretaker Update** – c/f from Sept meeting  
Caretaker Sub Group feedback (timesheet shared) is that 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. Much discussion took place on the current split of support and projects undertaken as well as projects already declined due to existing commitments. There was also much discussion on options on possible solutions – for example, extra funding /more volunteers / specific grass cutting support (43% of current Caretaker workload) / participation request to SBC.

Subgroup seek a replacement for JS and the suggestion is this might be an independent mop rather than a CC member SH NS Action – PH / JA support Subgroup with participation request to SBC Action NS/ SH continue to consider options  
Action all – seek potential new member for sub group

## 8 Funding Applications –

### 8.1 Defibrillators – SK spoke to this application

Cockburnspath defibs at VH and BC are now out of support. Replacement and repositioning to outside access points is in plan at a cost of approx. £2045. Application unanimously agreed and Treasurer nominated Aikengall as grant provider.

### 8.2 VH Support – Application for architectural feasibility study (Cockburnspath Village Hall and Cockburnspath Community Shop)

Application and Supporting Statement in relation to application distributed ahead of time and VH Trustees in attendance to talk to this application. Declaration of interest from SK as CC and VH Treasurer.

There was much discussion on the knock on effect of this major project to other projects underway, particularly immediate is the Playpark plans. The VH group are aware that the timescale and briefing of other groups impacted is very important.

Snippet from supporting statement detailed below to give some background to any mop unaware of the groups and aims involved.

[At the last Integrated Groups Meeting, it was agreed by all community bodies represented that Village Hall Trustees should take the lead in commissioning a feasibility study into how

- the shop could be encompassed into the hall, within the hall's existing footprint, or by extension;
- how storage, kitchen etc in the hall could be improved and general internal design advice obtained to ensure best outcomes for the whole community and its needs.
- how the external environment could be best used to benefit the community
- how to improve energy sustainability and reduce the cost of heating (currently oil fired boiler).

As a result of this remit, the Village Hall team (Future Planning Group made up of 3 Trustees – N Thomson, J Hood and M Tulloch) have spoken to 2 Architects recommended by the Integrated Group, discussed the needs of the community and how best to future proof the hall and it's environs for all community uses.

The Future Planning Group has agreed to appoint a firm of architects with a great deal of experience in community buildings, Cameron Strachan Yuill (or CSY as it is now known) to carry out the feasibility study.]

Estimated study cost is £4212 and to be complete by end of 2023. Application unanimously agreed and Treasurer nominated Aikengall as grant provider.

**8.3 Eyemouth and Berwick Amateur Swimming Club** – member of the club present to support the club application for approximately £450 to contribute to the purchase of new equipment.

There was much discussion on distance, area, other funders and on how the ASC might promote their activities to our community. The club member is keen to support this. Application unanimously agreed and Treasurer nominated Aikengall as grant provider.

Action SK to share contact details

**8.4 Craft and Chat Group** – Event to be held in the VH every other week and first week was very well attended with commitment from many people to support this with their expertise going forward. Hall hire is currently met by the Wellness grant. This funding is to purchase equipment to the value of approximately £250.

Application unanimously agreed and Treasurer nominated Fernylea (tbc as Drone Hill micro grant may also be considered) as grant provider as this is an un-constituted group.

**9 Correspondence** – all circulated. Many items were brought to CC attention.

**SBCCN/BAP update and recent emails**

**Resilient Communities** – PH spoke to this item highlighting Meeting in Galashiels 1/11 Action – NS to attend meeting and feedback.

Much discussion on previous resilient community's efforts including options of a connection point for the VH for a generator hook up. No actions taken.

**Playpark Group** – KN spoke to this item. Playpark project making good progress and suppliers presentations arranged for all the community to attend. Main items to note from discussion:

Proposed CC Sub Committee and Playpark Public Liability Insurance.

With the current commitment and demographic of CC members the suggestion is that a new Children's and Families Sub Committee be formed. This is catered for in the current CC constitution. The new subcommittee may be made up of two full CC members and four co-opted to lighten the load on what will predominantly be people with childcare commitments. The new committee would have its own agenda and feed the minutes into the main CC at monthly meetings.

Chair of the Playpark group will share suggestion with other families in the community and CC will attempt to clarify the with SBC insurance if as a subcommittee projects such as the Playpark might be included under our CC insurance umbrella.

Action – KN follow up existing enquiry re CC insurance

There followed much CC discussion on insurance and possible commitments of SBC to support with insurance as well as suggestions on seeking feedback from Reston community where there are two Playparks – one SBC and one private. No actions taken.

**10 Planning** - no new local planning applications.

**10.1 Air source Heat Pump** – conservation area

MOP feedback on potential noise / visual impact and alternative positioning considerations. Action – SK

**10.2 Garage Block** – Townhead farm

No feedback from the community on this application.

**10.3 Extension to 8 Pathhead Cottages**

No feedback from the community on this application.

**10.4 Branxton Sub Station**

Following on from last month's discussions the CC concerns on impact were highlight to SBC Councillor in attendance. Although the works are in East Lothian there is an impact

to our community – mainly increased heavy duty traffic.

Much discussion around traffic and the A1 Cockburnspath roundabout. 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.

- 11 **SBC Councillor updates** – JA Although no specific items to report Councillor Anderson lends the CC and our community his support with the various items discussed – for example, cemetery maintenance and completion of a ‘participation request’ seeking grounds work support.

12 **Community Councillor updates**

**JV** – Cemetery condition See item 4.3

**SF**– After **School Club** - Award of £5k received to support the set-up programme. As the SCIO and Bank account have not been finalised the Club Chair asks that the CC hold the funds in the meantime. All agreed. **Action SK**

**MG** – Unable to attend meeting and messaged CC to note Police Report received late in the day and will be shared in due course.

**SF**– spoke to the Integrated Groups meeting and preparations for Christmas activities. Integrated Groups meeting notes to be shared by JS in due course.

Reminder of some Wellness activities (Flyer circulated) and highlighted the Bereavement Group meeting 1/11.

Church Chairs – Parents Group wish to purchase Church Chairs to be kept in the school for meetings. The purchase is online and immediate with an estimated cost of £100. Th CC agreed in principle to the purchase being made and on this occasion a follow up application to be submitted.

SK Continues to support Facebook posts as the CC seek a secretary. Note secretarial support mentioned in 4.4 does not include social media.

**NS** – highlighted the appetite for a Defib course open to our community. **Action SK to follow up**

**JM** - **Will** continue to update and monitor Action tracker to support Minutes and CC updates.

**KN** – Bank forms with SK for submission.

Walking Festival –following up on the suggestion this might be hosted in our community in for 2026 KN contact Angus Miller (Geo Walks and Edin Geological Society) AM happy to lend his support and made a few suggestions on ways to prepare. AM offered to visit our community and this will be arranged for the new year.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.**