

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm in  
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

**Minutes**

- 1 Apologies and Attendance:** in attendance; Rev Suzie Fletcher (via Zoom), P Hood (Vice Chair), S Kennedy (Treasurer), M Given, J Fairburn, K Nelson, J Morton, J Virtue, C Binne (via Zoom). Apologies; Cllr J Anderson, H Brewerton.
- 2 Conflicts of Interest and Additions to Agenda:**
  - Additions to Agenda: Trustee for Allotments; Funding application from Wednesday Club.
  - Conflicts of Interest: S Fletcher for the application for Gala funding; C Binnie for the application from Cockburnspath Playground Association (CPA) for the playground upgrade, as he is a member of the CPA.
- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes were agreed. J Fairburn proposed the minutes and J Morton seconded. **Action: S Fletcher to sign**
- 4 Police Report;** None received
- 5 Matters Arising:**
  - NHS letter ref change in surgery boundaries: Two practises, Whitesands and Cromwell Harbour at Dunbar Medical Practice, have now excluded the Cockburnspath and Cove area for any NEW patients. The CC will write to Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Lothian, NHS Borders and the GP practises that will be affected (Dunbar, Eyemouth and Duns) to highlight the fact that there is no public transport to the nearest practises in Berwickshire and that there may not be capacity for any new members either. This will be sent by 19<sup>th</sup> April. **Action P Hood to draft a letter to NHS Lothian and NHS Borders and pass it to S Fletcher. S Fletcher to draft a letter to the Health and Social Care Partnership and then send letters out.**
  - Integrated Group update: K Nelson stated the focus at the meeting was on community celebrations from the 4<sup>th</sup> of August starting with the gala and finishing with the 100th anniversary of the flower show on August 10<sup>th</sup>. There are lots of activities planned for a good week. More information will be in the Newsletter.  
East Lammermuir Developers meeting: S Fletcher, P Hood and S Kennedy attended. Presentations were given from all developers. Their interactive web page is informative. The website link was sent out on Facebook and is on the East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC) website too. SBC is now taking notice of it being on our doorstep. East Lothian Winds of Change (ELWOC), a local group is an information group that meets regularly if you are interested in joining them. Any questions please ask S Fletcher, S Kennedy, P Hood or H Brewerton who will help direct you to more information. The main concern is the cumulative impact on the community. P Hood mentioned this is happening in other areas in the Borders too. There have been emails from a few CCs in the SBC area sent to us with concerns about these. P Hood has passed these to ELCC. S Fletcher will now attend ELCC meetings and stay up to date. Link to website with details of applications and interactive map; <https://eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk>
  - CAP Update in progress – forwarded to May
  - Trustee for the Allotments – forwarded to May
- 6 Funding applications**
  - Garden Show Coach: the final application was submitted and reviewed by the treasurer and the chair of the CC and the £475 has been agreed and paid to them.
  - Various Green Funding Applications: A household in Cove has upgraded their home with renewables, solar panels, and an air source heat pump. K Nelson explained that the rules originally put together by the Green sub-group (now disbanded) was that only one

application for £1000 could be applied for each year for one type of upgrade. If any household wished to apply for an additional grant, then they would be placed at the back of the queue. However, there is no queue. The Cove household has applied for their green grant for one of the upgrades and would like to know if the CC would consider giving them an additional green grant for their other upgrade. It was unanimously agreed that on this occasion the CC would allow this second grant as it would be in the next financial year.

**Action: K Nelson to let the household know.**

- Gala Day Equipment Hire: £1700 for adventure activities in total which includes the equipment, hire of the hall and entertainment team. It was agreed unanimously.
- Wednesday Cub: Application for £250 for a Spring Meal outing to Winterfield Golf Club in Dunbar, on 8th May and a small gift to 60 to 90 year-old members. It was unanimously agreed.

**7 Foundation Scotland Playpark Proposals:** Malcolm Jack and Naomi Lucjan from Foundation Scotland joined the meeting. It was discussed if C Binnie as a member of the Cockburnspath Playground Association (CPA) should stay in the meeting or not. It was decided that C Binnie would leave the meeting for this discussion. C Binnie left the meeting. M Jack started by discussing the Kinegar Fund which is set up and available. A statement was sent to the CC members, stating the amount now in that fund, and an assessment report. M Jack asked for the view of the CC members on awarding the application from the CPA. M Jack noted the Foundation Scotland assessment advised awarding the full amount requested or more which was £5000. A discussion took place about the feasibility study and concerns over how that would impact the playground and therefore the application. It was noted that the feasibility study outcome should not impact on the playground application and conditions are stated by Foundation Scotland for the main playground upgrade that would cover this if there were any unforeseen changes. M Jack stated that the agreement to award the application from the CC would be an agreement in principle and that money would only be awarded if all the conditions were met on the location and design of the project. It was unanimously agreed to award the CPA funds from the Kinegar Fund. An in-depth discussion took place regarding the amount that should be awarded. It was unanimously agreed to award the CPA £25,000. M Jack requested the minutes be sent to him to initiate the process formally.

## **8 Planning applications**

- Hoprig Road: The applicant has applied for replacement windows in a conservation area. PVC frames have been made to fit and look like the current wooden frames. CC's response will be concerning comments from MOPs.
- Licence Application regarding Dunglass: The Applicant has asked the CC to forward our comments to them as they have a hearing to attend.

**9 Correspondence:** S Fletcher covered the main correspondence received by the CC's generic email address. These were in summary, Crystal Rig meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April, **Action: P Hood to attend**; Sharing ideas and action plans with other CCs in the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) area – see under SBCCN; Post Office closure – work ongoing; SBC independent research project regarding council's events strategy – deadline was 8<sup>th</sup> April - shared on Facebook; Meeting minutes from Viridor where the current Valencia issues were discussed; NHS Surgeries changes – see Agenda item; SEPA recycling rates in Scotland update; SBC community grants 2024/25 CC annual support grants update; SEPA Potential Vulnerable Areas consultation, flood risk management - P Hood suggested it is essential for the community to fill this in by the end of April. **Action: P Hood to forward the email and K Nelson to put it on the Cove community whats app group.** An event at Ayton Castle, Coffee, and EV cars on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Shared on Facebook. **Action: P Hood to put a poster in the shop**; Energy planning application at Hoprig Road – see Agenda Item.

**10 SBCCN/BAP feedback;**

- Email from Allanton and Whitsome CC about sharing our Community Action Plan (CAP). A discussion about the action plan and how it can be shared knowledge with other CCs. It was unanimously agreed that this information could be shared. **Action: P Hood to email them to explain our process and share our CAP.**
- Invitation to Sea the Change for a future meeting: **Action: S Fletcher to contact them to arrange in the future.**

**11 SBC Councillor Feedback:** No feedback this month other than the post office's ongoing issue in correspondence

**12 Community Councillor feedback:**

- P Hood mentioned that Cove Harbour was looking for money to repair the Harbour wall. This was discussed and it was determined more information was needed. **Action: S Fletcher to contact them to find out how the CC can help.**
- P Hood asked about the Trustee for the allotments: forwarded to next month
- K Nelson mentioned the community fund. CC are keen to set up the community fund and would prefer to keep it simple in that the backlog would be passed over to Foundation Scotland to create the fund (with agreement from wind farms involved). This would let the fund and funding panel be established so that it is not wholly the CC making the decisions. Foundation Scotland would do the reporting and promoting through their website. The new agreement would mean that instead of the money going direct to Foundation Scotland from the wind farms, it would come to the CC first who would then pass it on to Foundation Scotland. It would also mean that the CC will still have the flexibility to award small funding applications. If the CC agrees, this will need a new agreement set up by Foundation Scotland. **Action: K Nelson to take this forward with Foundation Scotland.**
- K Nelson noted the newsletter deadline for content is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and it will be out the first week in May. A discussion took place about the content of the Newsletter.
- S Fletcher brought up the continued need for secretarial services. S Kennedy explained that the CC had used some leftover money from the "running the CC Account" for H Brewerton to work freelance on the secretarial work which has now run out on 31<sup>st</sup> March. So, for this month onwards, we need to agree on a new funding source. There had been hope for a volunteer to take over the secretarial role, but to date, this has not happened. A discussion took place about how this role could be managed as we are a volunteer organisation. As Hazel is self-employed, we are proposing to continue engaging her for secretarial services for Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council with set duties; minutes, agenda, and correspondence, with any additional time spent developing an online filing system accessible to all CC members. It was proposed and agreed that we apply funding for the rate of £150/month. Previous local positions have been funded as follows: 3 years from RES for the Community caretaker; 4 years from Kinegar for Community Development. There was a discussion as to whether this would come from Fisherman 3 or Ferneylea, and it was agreed to extend Hazel's services for six months. **Actions: S Fletcher to inform H Brewerton and S Kennedy to set up funding.**

**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> May 2024 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.**