

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 14th August 2024
at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall**

Minutes

1. **Apologies and Attendance:** Attendance: Rev. S Fletcher (Chair), P Hood (Vice Chair), S Kennedy (Treasurer), H Brewerton (minutes), M Given, S Hay. Apologies: J Morton, J Fairburn, K Nelson, Cllr J Anderson, C Binnie.
2. **Conflicts of Interest and Additions to Agenda: Added to the Agenda;** Funding for Village Hall Activities (Ex Wellness Funding). Breakfast Club Funding Application.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** All agreed and signed by Rev. S Fletcher. P Hood noted she has not been able to contact the residents at Townhead - ongoing
4. **Police Report:** None received for this month. S Hay stated that 3 people have been caught speeding in the village over the last few weeks.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1. Mercat Cross: A brief update has been sent by MOP. Discussions took place around the planning application and when work would likely take place as they will not be able to work over the winter months. **Action: P Hood to liaise with MOP to write the planning application for it.** S Kennedy mentioned that there is a process to adopt the monument for the community. However, a community group would need to be set up to do this as it cannot be done by the Community Council (CC) – ongoing.
 - 5.2. Foundation Scotland Funding Panel Update: Rev. S Fletcher stated that the Funding Panel has been selected. Rev. S Fletcher and P Hood are the group's CC representatives. Others in the group are: N Thomson, I Fairbairn, C Tempest, L McCann, C Sives and S Hope and training will start next week. It was noted that Foundation Scotland have asked for any ongoing commitments that need to be put into the contracts and how we move forward with this. i.e. Caretake role. **Action: Caretaker funding to be discussed in September's CC meeting.** P Hood explained that the 1st meeting on 20th August will be to introduce the concept of the fund and the priorities of the fund. P Hood will suggest to the panel that Green Drone Hill will be the most flexible to use. Rev. S Fletcher noted there will be a launch information evening for any applicants on 9th September at 7pm in the Bowling Club, and encourages everyone to come along. A MOP asked how the community will know who to go to for what type of funding. Rev. S Fletcher stated that this will be something the panel will discuss and plan an awareness campaign. A discussion took place around making applications easier and more accessible for people to apply and where they go to for what type of application. It was noted that smaller funding applications for local events, transport etc can be agreed by the CC from Drone Hill Microgrants. Other projects (under £10k, or over £10K with a full business plan) can be applied directly to the CC through Aitkengall Community Windpower.
 - 5.3. Green Drone Hill Memorandum Update: Rev. S Fletcher has agreed with Foundation Scotland to increase the maximum amount for CC to pass as discussed in June's CC meeting.
 - 5.4. Community Catalyst Funding: Rev. S Fletcher suggested this funding would be good to apply for towards the 2025 Walking Festival celebrating the 300th anniversary of James Hutton finding Siccar Point. P Hood noted that she has not heard anything from the Geological Society about a trial smaller walking festival this year which is now fast approaching.
 - 5.5. Green Gateway Awards: Rev. S Fletcher noted that the CC might like to aspire towards moving this forward in partnership with the Caretaker Project. A discussion took place.
 - 5.6. Local Paths Maintenance Grant: S Kennedy noted this should be applied for near the end of the year. **Action: N Simpson and S Hay to give S Kennedy figures to do this in October.**
 - 5.7. Crystal Rig IV funding arrangements: As explained at June's meeting, the discussions on how to split the funding for this are still ongoing and the contract is still to be agreed. **Action: S Kennedy to go to the meeting next meeting on 19th August (P Hood cannot attend).**
 - 5.8. Wellness Fund: Rev. S Fletcher noted that details had been put together to aid in discussion about possibly extending the funds for the various groups involved with the Wellness grants. She expressed thanks to the Village Hall for pulling the values together for the CC to review. The groups involved are; Badminton Club, Bridge Club, Craft n'Chat Club, Exercise Class, Pickleball Club and Walking Netball. Discussions took place around how to fund this and if attendees to these clubs should contribute something. It was agreed that the full amount would be funded this year, a total of £5693, with the

understanding that attendees should contribute a donation towards future years, (suggested at £1 per visit). The funding for these clubs' activities will then be reviewed annually in June. Discussions took place around how to pay. It was agreed to pay the Village Hall the full amount with the condition that groups are advertised and will welcome new members. **Action: S Kennedy to pay this to the Village Hall.** S Hay noted that there will be a funding application next month for the Walking Football Club for field maintenance.

6. Funding applications

6.1. Various Green Funding Applications

6.1.1. Review of Green Funding Values: Discussions took place as to what the values of funding were and should be. We have £25K ringfenced for green funding. S Hay suggested there should be a percentage up to of £1k per household per year, with the CC's at the discretion as to how often this can be given out. All agreed.

6.1.2. Burnside Heat Pump. **Action: S Kennedy to arrange the £1000 awarded to this application.**

6.2. School trip to Alnwick: forwarded to next month's meeting.

6.3. Cove Harbour Barometer – update: S Hay stated that the barometer had been collected on Monday and cost £180 to repair. A new box is now being made and he is unaware of that cost at present. The hope is that the barometer will be back in place by September. M Given asked if it is going to be moved from its previous location. Discussions took place. P Hood also noted that K Nelson has made progress around the benches at Cove and an agreement was almost in place to make space for them – ongoing.

6.4. Celebration Week funding application – update: Rev. S Fletcher shared how very successful all the celebrations were, that it had all been within budget and thanked everyone for their time and support. **Action: Rev. S Fletcher to update S Kennedy on final costings.** Discussions took place about how all the activities were well attended and how much everyone enjoyed them all. The only negative feedback around the week was that most of the events were during the day and some locals were working and would have liked to have been involved.

6.5. Marquee and display boards – update: Rev S Fletcher shared how amazing the marquee looked. S Hay stated that 6 people have been trained on how to put it up and down as it is quite complex. He noted it is worth every penny as it is a good strong marquee with only a few minor repairs needed. The display boards, paid in part by a CC grant as well as other groups, had all the Flower Show history on them. It was noted that the pictures in the Hall will stay up a little longer if anyone wishes to see them and then they will be archived with SBC. It was suggested that copies be taken with a list of all the people in each photograph on the back. Rev. S Fletcher shared a big thank you to everyone involved in making the celebrations a huge success and to K Nelson for all her hard work with the integrated groups that worked so hard to make the celebrations a success. P Hood noted that CADS will be auditioning at the Church Hall at 4pm on 25th August.

6.6 Breakfast Club: This application is for staff costs for the breakfast club. All agreed to award £1500. **Action: S Kennedy to award funding from Kinegar.**

7. Planning applications

7.1. Application 24/00648/C67 Installation of cabling/ Drift Chalet, Cove Harbour: No objections.

7.2. Application 24/00726/FUL erection of dwelling house, Fenrig : No objections.

7.3. Crystal Rig Solar ECU00004759 and Crystal Rig Repower: It was noted the Solar is in the process of being applied for via the Energy Consents Unit. Discussions took place around the repower of Crystal Rig I where the wind turbines will be replaced with much larger turbines. Discussions took place around the increase in traffic. S Kennedy noted they would need to keep tabs on the community benefit funding they receive from Crystal Rig I in case this changes during or after the repower which will be queried at the CLG meeting this Monday.

7.4. Application 24/00856/FUL alterations and extension of Dwelling house, Cambuslea: No objections.

7.5. Drysdale Freight Ltd Tower Farm Extension: No objections.

8. Correspondence

8.1. P Hood noted that the Lauderdale medical practice in Dunbar has now followed the other practices in Dunbar by proposing not to accept new patients from this area. Discussions took place. It was noted that this could cause issues with expanding families who are currently registered there but will not be

able to register their children there. P Hood suggested sending the same letter as was sent to the other practices. **Action: P Hood to send a letter.**

8.2. P Hood noted there was a review of Non-financial support to Community Councils (CC) from Scottish Borders Council (SBC). **Action P Hood to fill in the survey.**

8.3. SBC communications with CC's have their first meeting in Kelso and the hope is there will be one closer to our location in the future.

8.4. The harvesting of Penmanshiel Woods has started with the widening of the roads.

8.5. There are 2 solar farm consultations for the area and the dates are: Bowshiel Solar Farm - 27th August at Cockburnspath, 3pm to 8pm and Springfield Solar Farm on 28th August at Oldhamstocks Village Hall, 3pm to 8pm. Further queries about community ownership should be pursued if these are approved.

8.6. There is a Foundation Scotland Microgrants Hot Topics talk online on 29th August. **Action: P Hood to attend.**

8.7. There will be an Employability survey from Borders Community Action team coming out in a few weeks to identify gaps in employability in the area. **Action: Rev S Fletcher to share this on Facebook.**

8.8. Rev. S Fletcher noted the CC have received a thank you for the Cove Copse fencing with information on the work carried out as well as from the Wednesday Club for the grant for their year end trip.

8.9. Bear Scotland are planning essential work around the Innerwick junction on the A1 from 2nd to 25th September for 24 nights. Diversions will be publicised via the Cockburnspath roundabout and the Spott roundabout.

9. SBCCN/BAP feedback - none

10. SBC Councillor feedback

10.1. Post office – ongoing

10.2. A1 closures: A meeting will be held soon with Bear Scotland – ongoing.

10.3. Cllr J Anderson is campaigning against the winter fuel payment cuts. Discussions took place about how the CC can help the more vulnerable in the area over winter. It was noted that the CC can give out small grants to people in need.

10.4. Crofts Road Rats update: S Hay noted that there are still rats in the area even though the council have been out. S Hay has asked SBC to cut the banking again.

10.5. Drysdale's lighting: not taken any further by CC

11. Community Councillor feedback

11.1. Rev S Fletcher: There has been a pilot scheme held in the East Lammermuir area of an On Demand Bus Service. This pilot has now finished and discussions are being held by East Lammermuir Community Council (ELCC) about its continuation. It has been a successful pilot. Discussions took place around extending this service to Cockburnspath and it was agreed that this would be a good idea. **Action: Rev S Fletcher to discuss this further with ELCC about funding this up to a quarter of the next stage to extend the route and gauge if it is used from this area.**

11.2. P Hood: Road to Dunglass will be shut on 9th October with diversions onto the A1 to Bilsdean junction.

11.3. J Virtue: asked for the grass to be cut at Callendar place. S Hay in discussion with SBC reps to see what can be done about the state of the road and has a meeting next week.

11.4. S Hay: has asked SBC about more bins but SBC were not interested.

11.5. M Given: asked if the cycle rack was fitted. S Hay noted it had not been done yet.

11.6. S Kennedy: Noted that the pads for the defibrillator at the Church Hall will be out of date next month and will be submitting an application for funding to replace them. An alarm does not work on a defibrillator at the side of an MOP's house which he is looking into.

11.7. The website annual subscription is due. **Action: S Kennedy to look at how to pay for this. Action: S Kennedy to produce a final figure on funds going to Foundation Scotland.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.