

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council

AGM Minutes – Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 6.30pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall.

1. **Apologies and Attendance:** in attendance P Hood (Chair), S Kennedy (Treasurer), K Nelson (Vice chair), S Hay (Vice chair), J Morton, J Fairburn, J Virtue, Cllr J Anderson, M Given, C Binnie. Apologies: PC K Macleod, PC S Jacobs, Cllr A Orr.
2. **Minutes from Previous AGM:** Agreed by all and signed by P Hood
3. **Matters Arising from previous AGM:** None
4. **Chair's Report:** P Hood noted the following:
 - Reports have been received from S Kennedy (Treasurer) and J Sutton (Community Development Worker).
 - S Kennedy, K Nelson and P Hood have spent a lot of the year working on the community windfarm funding with the plan to move the money to Foundation Scotland. This will ensure money is safeguarded with the correct legalities. The CC is still waiting on money from Community Windpower and is in discussions with them around all of this. P Hood noted that K Nelson has been working hard to set up a community funding panel (community members) that will be responsible for final decisions for funding.
 - There is a Berwickshire coastal change adaption plan on going with a survey and asked that everyone in the community fill in the survey. Cllr J Anderson stated this is a worthwhile survey as funding is coming from the Scottish Government for our coastal areas so results from the survey will be used.
 - Last year, after the AGM there was an update on the community action plan and this should be done again this year.
 - Scottish Borders Council has a place-making support framework involving planning, working from the bottom up and strategy. P Hood feels we are doing some of this already, for example with the feasibility study for Village Hall/Playpark but this could become more formalised by the CC.
 - P Hood finished by thanking everyone for coming along and being a full CC member in the last year and that the CC would not get anywhere if people did not give up their time. She thanked the co-opted members who also provide a great deal. She noted a few members were leaving and gave a special thank you to S Hay, K Nelson and J Morton. She thanked H Brewerton for her secretary support and thanked C Binnie for being a new member of the CC this year.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** S Kennedy summarised his report with the following:
 - The CC has two bank accounts, one for running and one for dispersing benefits.
 - The running account looks very healthy but includes the Wellness Grant which is due to be spent in full shortly.
 - The benefits account also looks very healthy and he welcomes funding applications. The CC has received £96k in benefits this year. He noted that they are still awaiting about 1 year's worth of funding from Aikengall which the CC is in discussion with them for. This year, £49k of benefits have been paid out to the school, various children's groups, Wednesday club, Gardener's show, support to the village hall, the feasibility study and the community shop. Funding has been given to 2 green grants. Funding has also been given out to the community caretaker scheme and the community development worker. There are several projects to be funded in the coming year but new applications are welcome.
 - As stated previously the CC is looking to set up the funding with Foundation Scotland as it cannot be expected for a volunteer to handle all these funds alone.
P Hood noted that the CC cannot fund itself to do work in the community and needs volunteers to come forward with ideas and apply for funding.

6. Vice Chair's Report:

S Hay - SBC and caretaker responsibilities. He is constantly fighting about potholes and lights issues in the area with SBC and will continue to do so. All Caretaker 2023 projects are complete apart from one which will roll over to next year. There is still £600 in the caretaker account, however, insurance has increased to £430.

K Nelson - gave a recap of the funding discussed previously, to make it clear that the CC went to Foundation Scotland with the support of the community to hold the benefits money to ensure due diligence and legalities are covered with all funding applications, and to safeguard the processes, especially for large funding applications. The final decisions for any funding application will still be made by the local community through a Funding panel. All benefit providers have agreed to this apart from Community Windpower, so these will be used for smaller funding applications and managed by the CC. She updated the meeting on the Wellness activities project that ended this month and thanked the Village Hall for their support with the continuation of the community café which means that the café will continue for the next 6 months and she is working with Health and Mind along with the community to work on which activities they can continue to do.

7. Election of Office Bearers: P Hood handed the meeting over to Cllr J Anderson who thanked P Hood for being Chair and stated that Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council was one of the most professional Community Councils in the SBC area.

He asked each member for their status for continuing in the CC:

- Chris Binnie - Standing
- P Hood – Standing
- S Hay - stepping down as a full member but staying as a co-opted member
- Suzanne Fletcher – would like to move from being a co-opted member to a full member
- K Nelson - stepping down as a full member but staying as a co-opted member
- MG – Standing
- S Kennedy - Standing
- J Morton - Standing
- Jean Fairburn Standing
- J Virtue – Standing

J Morton proposed S Fletcher as a full member and J Fairburn seconded.

Nomination for chair

- P Hood nominated S Fletcher for Chair and S Kennedy seconded.

Cllr J Anderson handed the meeting to S Fletcher as Chair.

Nominations for office bearers

- P Hood proposed S Kennedy for Treasurer and J Virtue seconded.
- No one was elected for secretary and S Fletcher stated H Brewerton will continue this role for the time being.
- K Nelson proposed P Hood as Vice chair and M Given seconded.

S Fletcher thanked everyone for their trust in her to be Chair of the CC.

8. Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct

Everyone in attendance signed the code of conduct. P Hood noted that the code of conduct and constitution need to be reviewed and updated this year.

There being no further AGM business, the meeting was adjourned. The next AGM of the Community Council will be held in March 2025.