

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm**  
**in Cockburnspath Village Hall**

**Minutes**

**1 Apologies and Attendance:** P Hood (Chair), S Hope (Treasurer), M Given, J Fairbairn, A Blackwell, C Tempest, R Hicks, S Hay, 3 Members of the Public (MOP). Apologies: Cllr J Anderson, H Brewerton (Minutes), Rev S Fletcher.

**2 Conflicts of Interest and Additions to Agenda:** Additions to Agenda: CWP Donation request

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** “5.7 action S Hope to speak to the Bowling club” is not correct and the Gala is on 20<sup>th</sup> September not 21<sup>st</sup> September. P Hood asked if anyone knows who can do the 21 walks in the walking leaflet to check them before reprinting. These leaflets won’t be ready for the Gala day but should be available for the Siccar point celebrations. P Hood confirmed the Geological Society will be at the Gala day with a table of information.

**Previous wellness funded groups:** It was asked that S Hope updated all the activity groups as soon as possible what is happening as none of them know as yet, i.e. a meeting is required but funding is secured until the end of 2025

**4 Police Report for July:** Discussions took place around the shop lifting that has occurred in July at the Village shop.

**5 Matters Arising**

5.1 Visitor: Beth Landon; Energy Projects Partnership Manager, East Lammermuir: Beth introduced herself. She has been working for 5 months in East Lammermuir with the energy projects planned there, some of which spill in to Berwickshire and some into the Dunbar area. Points from the talk include:

- There are 14 projects in various different stages, planning, consented, construction, completed etc.
- Her role is to be a one-point contact, to support the community and help them have a voice at every stage, in the planning process, during construction and the impact of extra vehicles on the road etc. Most of her time has been getting to know the community and surrounding area so far.
- There is a proposal to have clearer signage from the Cockburnspath roundabout all the way up to Spott roundabout and the A1 which signals that this is an area of electrical projects where there will be significantly more HGVs on the road as well as signposts for the HGVs so they don’t use back routes.
- There is an email subscriptions list which anyone is welcome to subscribe to. It provides information about what is happening in the area such as planning applications, what has been consented and any road closures or construction vehicles on the road.
- Beth explained that she also works with the local Council to implement the Place Plan set out by the community, using community benefits and work, in kind during construction work that can make things better for the community. They have 4 big priorities, 2 of which are improving active travel and implementing biodiversity corridors.
- There is also a website where you can see all the developments that exist and are in planning.

Discussions took place around the number of vehicles expected around the Cockburnspath roundabout, rumours have been circulating that it will be 56 per hour. Beth Landon did not know the figures. It was noted that the stretch of A1 from the Cockburnspath roundabout and the Torness area was such a dangerous stretch of road already and the impact of all these HGVs is an extreme concern. B Landon stated that some of the projects will have park and ride options from Dunbar. More discussions took place. It was noted that B Landon’s role is a new role that doesn’t exist anywhere else and is a pilot. She is employed by Foundation Scotland and working with the partnership as a whole and funded by SSE renewables and SPEN. The website for the partnership is: <https://eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk/> B Landon will send P Hood information links. **Action:P**

**Hood to share the links with the community.** Discussions took place around benefits. B Landon noted that substations are to give a £530,000 one off payment and over head cables have an amount per metre but there is nothing for underground cables. More discussions took place. P Hood noted that there will be a new Community Action Plan/Place Plan for our area soon as the current one is now out of date. More concerns were raised around the A1 traffic concerns, specifically the turning right from Old Cambus and the diversions off the A1 that take place down the A1107 and the narrow bridge near Pease Dean, specifically when there is an incident on the A1. Beth Landon state that this was already a concern in East Lothian too and the local council are trying to work with Bear Scotland on how they manage that. She recommended this should be raised with Scottish Borders Council (SBC). It was noted that Cllr J Anderson has already made SBC aware of the energy developments in East Lammermuir and the knock-on effects it will mean for the roads in our area. Beth Landon said she would speak to her contact at Bear Scotland and put them in touch with the CC.

- 5.2 Threat of Nursery Closure – update: A Blackwell explained she is Chair of the Parent Council for Cockburnspath Primary. AS part of academic year, August 2025, SBC have composited years 1,2 and 3 and nursery into an Early Years classroom at Cockburnspath. Communication has continued to be very poor. Parents were not aware that the care commission has approved the compositing on the first day back at school. A Blackwell met with the Head who is positive and monitoring how it goes. A Blackwell reported widespread dissatisfaction among parents around the consultation on compositing, held in May/June. She submitted a formal complaint, which has since been referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Parents are also disappointed that they have heard nothing about a working group on mothballing that should have comprised elected councillors, officers and parents and is due to report to Council in October. On a separate issue, there is a current review of Additional Needs Support across the region which A Blackwell is monitoring. Parents elsewhere in the region have reported removal of existing provision without consultation or advance warning. Discussions took place on the potential for after school care and a feasibility study/part of the action plan to highlight the importance of the school to the community. More discussions took place around SBC commitments to reduce their estate by 10%; A Blackwell is making enquiries on how this affects education-specific estate.
- 5.3 Cockburnspath and Cove Place Planning - follow up to Community Action Plan: Discussions followed on from 5.2 into discussions around the CAP and if it should be a Place Plan which is more recognised by SBC. This would feed into SBC's local development plan and therefore has more clout with SBC. A Blackwell asked if there was some documentation/information about place planning that would be useful for members to read and understand the processes.
- 5.4 Treasurer update: S Hope has been in touch with SBC regarding the Paths Grant. Community Windpower/Aikengall have asked for a £1000 donation for a charity walk they are holding to support The Stroke Association. Discussions took place and it was decided it would not be considered under the terms of their contract and is not a community benefit. S Hope reminded everyone that the annual grant from SBC to run the council not only includes the cost of hall hire but printer/paper costs/mileage so everyone needs to start claiming for these things.
- 5.5 Discussion of areas of responsibility by Community Council (Facebook, WhatsApp, Website, newsletter, green grants, map etc): Discussions took place around what should be done and by whom. It was agreed S Hay would continue to monitor the Green Grants, M Given will monitor the Planning applications and the police report. Discussions took place around the other tasks. C Tempest, S Hope and R Hicks will set up a sub-group to discuss communications. Discussions took place around the newsletter and C tempest agreed to take this on board from a layout point of view. She will liaise with S Fletcher over the content. S Hope suggested we pay someone to do the website. Will Gardener was suggested. More discussions took place around all the tasks required and what is required to make sure the community know more about the CC and what is going on within the community. It was then discussed who should represent the geographical areas. Discussions took place around producing a new leaflet about who's who on the CC. Discussions took place on how to pull this together. A list of CC reps for each area was discussed and will be finalised at the next meeting.

- 5.6 Update on Gala plans: There will be a table top sale, provisionally in the hall rather than outside, if the hall receives its temporary market trader's licence for the event. More discussions took place on what is happening on the day which includes a formal opening of the new play park.
- 5.7 CWP Donation Request; discussed as above in 5.4.

## **6 Funding applications**

- 6.1 Various Green Funding Applications: Discussions took place around other grants including the Green Grant which is part of the Community Windpower grant. Application forms are on the website or can be obtained from the secretary. List of conditions for website: S Hay suggested we should discuss the list in detail before it is put on the website. He will check if it was sent to the secretary.

## **7 Planning**

- 7.1 Concrete Batching Plant Application 25/00378/FUL: P Hood noted that K Tulloch has written a response on the CC's behalf just his last week. K Tulloch noted that it was lucky as the planners were still awaiting feedback on the noise impact assessment from EHO, otherwise the application may have been closed to responses. She noted she had also followed up the rumour that the plant is to work 22/24 hrs per day even though the application states 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday, she felt this rumour should be highlighted to the planning officer at SBC and noted to them that the objection to this application would be an even stronger objection from the CC and the community if this is true. K Tulloch explained that with this type of environmental impact application the Community Council become a statutory consultee and is therefore is notified about that application and is asked to respond to it. If the CC or other statutory consultee objects to it then it has to go in front of a planning committee as we have now done. It was explained there is a 20 metre rule for neighbour notifications which is why no one had been directly notified. The CC had wrongly assumed that the neighbours would have been notified and because there had been no objections from them raised with the CC members we made the decision at the time not to give any response. It was noted that it was wrong for the CC to assume this and in future will be highlighting to the community and specifically neighbours that something is being planned in the area. It was highlighted that SBC take more notice if there is a high number of objections so there was some encouragement for the community to make individual objections too. Planners aim to determine this application by 16<sup>th</sup> September. Discussions took place around the impact of quarry traffic and the potential increase in A1 traffic due to electrical infrastructure work mentions above. It was agreed that the CC should stipulate a community preferred route for the quarry vehicles. It was suggested that all future planning applications should be on Facebook, the new WhatsApp group, the website and a newsletter. It was noted the Old Cambus notice board needs replaced. More discussions took place.

## **8 Correspondence**

### **9 Signing of Constitution and Code of Conduct: to be done at the October meeting**

### **10 SBC Councillor feedback:** Apologies were received from Cllr Anderson.

### **11 Community Councillor feedback:** S Hay noted he will be putting in two funding applications shortly. He noted that the participation agreement is going well and so far it is working even though it hasn't been signed as yet. A Blackwell has started to look into the Mercat Cross and thinks she can make some headway with it. Update to follow.

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