

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7pm
in Cockburnspath Village Hall

Minutes

- 1 Apologies and Attendance:** Attendance: P Hood (Co-chair), S Fletcher (Co-chair), S Hope (Treasurer), H Brewerton (minutes), J Fairbairn, M Given, C Tempest, A Cornes, A Blackwell, 2 MOPs
 - 1.1. CC member resignation: The CC have received a letter of resignation from R Hicks. The CC wishes R Hicks all the best in her future.
 - 1.2. New CC member: Andy Cornes; 12 Hoprig Pk, TD13 5YY; electoral registration number provided. The CC welcomed and officially co-opted Andy Cornes.
- 2 Signing of Constitution and Code of Conduct:** S Fletcher will make sure this is available at the next meeting for all who have not yet signed.
- 3 Conflicts of Interest and Additions to Agenda:** Additions: Funding for bowling club. Conflicts of Interest; S Fletcher – book group funding
- 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Approved
- 5 Police Report:** None
- 6 Matters Arising:**
 - 6.1 Discussion of funding application for Community Administrator – see funding applications below
 - 6.2 Areas of responsibility by Community Council (Facebook, WhatsApp, Website, newsletter, green grants, confirmation of areas, integrated group etc) – covered in the community administrator application fund below.
 - 6.3 Cockburnspath and Cove Place Planning update – Pauline / Suzie: The CC employed a community development facilitator in 2019 who developed a community action plan. This began with a “planning for real” method (in person meetings) and later developed through a locally developed digital online method when in-person meetings were stopped during the pandemic. This worked really well and ticked all the right boxes. These methods involved various members of the community between 2019 and 2022 to help develop the community action plan based around what the community needed and wanted. The CC had updated progress on these shared goals which would feed into the current development planning process which is known as Place Planning. This process is recognised by SBC and carries more legal weight when planning applications are made in the area and is therefore the best way forward for the next community action plan. SBC recommends their own consultants based in George Street, Edinburgh but the CC would like to use their consultants they used for their previous Community Action Plan. The CC met with SBC to show them the planning for real and digital method that was used last time and how it works. This was done to check that the methods being used would be recognised by SBC as a Place Plan project. The CC is awaiting SBC’s decision on this. The estimated budget for these methods will be around £22,000, which will be considerably less than if they used SBC’s recommended companies for the work. Discussions took place and it was noted that the CC can fund this directly, through the Aikengall funding, rather than through the funding panel if approved by SBC. Discussions took place. It was noted that the community action plan has no legal importance, but the Place Plan would. The Place Plan would need to be completed by September 2027. Discussions took place to share with new members what the Community Action Plan involved the last time. It was noted that it now needed to be updated with new projects as most of the projects were now completed. There will be more to consider with a Place Plan such as planning for housing as well as what the community need and want in their area.

The CC hope to start the process in February 2026. It will be a useful way for CC members to communicate and contact their residents and a way of talking to younger members. More discussions took place. It was requested that the previous Community Action Plan be circulated amongst members. A Blackwell agreed that the Place Plan may be useful with reference to the threat of the school and nursery closures as the community can show why the school and nursery are so important to the area. Discussions took place. **Action: S Fletcher to share the previous community action plan and East Lammermuir Community Council's place plan.** The CC all agreed they are happy to support this decision to use Aikengall funding. This means the CC can start the process straight away once the methods are approved by SBC. All agreed to support this.

- 6.4 Treasurer update – S Hope noted the NNG funding and Fred Olsen's second round of funds have come through for Crystal Rig and will be sent to Foundation Scotland. He noted that he now has the Bowling Club bank statement and he will contact them for a breakdown of funding they have had to date.
- 6.5 Mercat Cross update – A Blackwell has written to Dunglass and followed this up via email. She has had no response yet. After discussion it was decided to come back to this in January and decide on what to do next. A Blackwell noted that she would prefer to meet them in person to discuss. A Blackwell will contact HES as per last month's meeting.
- 6.6 Crystal Rig IV Community Benefits update – Pauline. P Hood noted that she is still putting together the funding tick list. A draft agreement has been sent regarding the community benefits to the CC. It was noted that it does not state what the money can be used for and is within the CC's remit. The CC constitution states they can do anything involved with the community that they feel is appropriate, so it leaves things very wide. P Hood suggested the CC agrees to the draft agreement. Discussions took place about this being part of the community fund. All agreed to the draft agreement.
- 6.7 School / Nursery Update – Alice: The parent council have established a Facebook page, and the school have reactivated their Facebook page. These have lots of updates to show all the good work the school and community are doing for the school. There has been a funded campaign to promote the school, and the parent council will be requesting more of the money they have funded by the CC. It was noted that the future of the nursery feels uncertain. The current enrollment figure is sitting at 5 children (less than 10 enrollments may mean closure due to SBC's decision). This means that the nursery and parent council should be in consultation with SBC for an options appraisal by now but there has been no communication from them. SBC have visited to assess the composing of the nursery with the school, and everyone has been positive about it but there is no official report from SBC yet. It was noted that there is a statutory consultation about moving Eyemouth Primary School to the High School campus. This plan has now been abandoned due to the community's complaints. Discussions took place. It was asked if this year's enrollment has been reduced because of SBC's threat of closure to the nursery. A Blackwell answered that there have been a few parents who have dropped out of enrolling and a few parents that have removed their children from school. Discussions took place.
- 6.8 Induction: S Fletcher noted that there is a trainee handbook available online for new members. She would like to arrange a proper induction before one of the next meetings for new members. New members agree they would like the induction, and they would also like more information/background on the current CC members and the topics that the minutes include and how the funding works. Discussions took place around the handbooks, and it was noted there were 2 different ones online that would be useful.
- 6.9 Christmas update (trees, lights and celebrations): Hoprig and Old Cambus will plan for this to happen next year rather than this year as there has been some issues with power supplies to go ahead this year. Everyone noted how lovely the village is looking with the lights on. MOP asked

if there could be more lights on the other side of the square as well as there is a power supply available.

7 Funding applications

7.1 Various Green Funding Applications

7.1.1 None

7.2 Cove Sea Front Benches update - none

7.3 Pear Tree update - none

7.4 "Wellness" update - none

7.5 Community Administrator pilot (application to follow): S Fletcher noted that the CC needs an administrator to cover all the paperwork required to fulfill the CC's ideas and responsibilities. This would support communication through Facebook, the Newsletter, WhatsApp and support the Integrated groups and now possibly the admin for Place Planning. Discussions took place. S Hope noted that Cockburnspath and Cove is a well-funded community and therefore there is a lot of funded activities with a lot of plates spinning at once and there is a need for an administrator. A project manager would be good to have. The CC agreed that a 3-month trial pilot would be a good start. Discussions took place around hours required. It was agreed to start with 1 day per week initially as the pilot. All agreed.

7.6 Community Garden Project from Allotments Association: A MOP from the allotments explained they would like a more traditional garden area for people to come and sit and relax and enjoy the planting and meeting up. Currently it is just a bench and grass. They have a design ready for it which will make a feature for people to come, meet or sit quietly. Questions were asked about their previous funding through the funding panel. The MOP explained these funds are all allocated to other larger projects. They are planning an Open Day in 2026. More discussions took place around advertising what is going on at the allotments and bringing more of the community into the allotments. All agreed to going ahead with the funding application.

7.7 Book Group – to cover hall hire... All agreed but it was noted that the funding should start from January 2026 like all the other group funds.

8 Planning

8.1 Concrete Batching Plant – Update - none

8.2 Siccar Point Path Route, Edinburgh Geological Society – Update - none

9 Correspondence – covered under other points.

10 SBC Councillor feedback: None

11 **Community Councillor feedback: C Tempest** noted she was disappointed to hear that ELC pushed through the Dunbar parking charges and asked if there was anything that the CC can do. It was suggested that CC members should all email ELC to object and to ask for how many objections were made towards this decision through the Freedom of Information Act. **Action: S Fletcher to send the email address of ELC for CC members to use.** S Fletcher emailed Border's bus about the change in their route but has not heard anything back from them. P Hood noted that the people checking the walks on their walking leaflet has completed 4 of the walks and were now able to complete the rest by early next year so the leaflet should be ready for the Siccar Point celebrations. It was suggested they should be thanked formally with a gift. All agreed. P Hood stated she would send the community fund posters for the notice boards as this needed to be advertised more.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.