

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council meeting, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7pm by Zoom**

**Minutes of Meeting**


Agenda		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies and Attendance:</b> Apologies were received from J Virtue; P Hood (Chair); Cllr H Laing; Cllr J Fullarton.</p> <p>In attendance were N Simpson (Vice Chair); S Hay (Vice Chair); K Nelson (Treas); K Tulloch (secy); M Black; A Cockerell; J Fairbairn; D Bouchard; S Fletcher, J Sutton (CDF); J Lister (co-option tonight)</p>	
2	<p><b>Police report</b> – a generic Berwickshire report had been received with nothing significant for the community.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> were agreed as correct.</p>	
3.1	<p><b>Co-option of Jennifer Lister</b>, 11 Croftsacre, Cockburnspath, TD13 5YD, electoral roll number 50451.7A. Unanimously agreed. Proposed by N Simpson and seconded by J Fairbairn. Co-opted on basis of forthcoming vacancies.</p> <p>Due to time constraints on some members, the meeting first consider wind farm applications as follows:</p>	
7	<p><b>Wind farm community benefit applications</b></p>	
7.1	<p><b>iPens for Berwickshire High School</b> – an application had been received for £402 to supply ipens for marking virtual work. This was unanimously approved to come from Ferneylea funds. KN to action. KT will inform High School</p>	KN/KT
7.2	<p><b>Tractor Accessories</b> – much discussion around the need for snow plough and tipping trailer. This was unanimously approved at cost of £4500 in total to come from Fishermen 3/Hoprigshiels funds. KN to action.</p>	KN
7.3	<p><b>Allotments</b> – an application had been received from Allotment Society, pending approval for community asset transfer due this week from Transport Scotland (TS). Amount = £23,000 to cover preparation of land, planning requirements such as fencing; investigating water supply; hedging etc. The applicants explained their thinking behind the application at this current point, as they wished to be prepared to carry out work immediately a response had been received from TS so that there was a chance that land would be available to “allotmenters” for the 2021 growing season. Community engagement had been carried out over the past few years, and most recently in the August 2020 newsletter. NS is chasing TS as a decision is due on 11<sup>th</sup> December – two days time! They have a legal obligation to respond by then, and an option exists to go to Scottish Government on appeal if no decision, or an unfavourable one. The inclusion of a community garden and school involvement as indicated in the business plan was welcomed. At present there are approx. 30 members, of which 20 would like to work an allotment. Allotment Trustees present (NS and AC) declared an interest in this application and refrained from discussion regarding the decision. The decision was to award the monies requested, with the caveat that if they are unused in the near future (to be discussed and CC to remain updated) they are returned to the CC and an updated application made at a later date once the purchase has been completed. KT also added that she felt the Association should use the funds already received and this fund, flexibly so as not to be restricted by remit for previous award of £9500. JV has been</p>	NS

	<p>consulted by telephone today and is in favour of this award. MB asked about charge for allotments - £41/pa in line with national charging. JL asked how members leaving the Association for any reason would be managed, and NS said much of the details will be ironed out in the future – they will not be allocated on a life long basis.</p> <p>The decision was taken to award funds, unanimously with voting members (KN, MB, JV, JF, DB, AT, SH) in favour and AC and NS declaring an interest. KN indicated that Crystal Rig 1 funds would be used and will action. NB Quorum is 3.33 members ie 4.</p> <p><b>7.4 Forthcoming applications</b> – KT said that there would be an application to improve the <b>Mercat Cross interpretation board</b> and information for SUW walkers. Some appetite for certificates etc potentially available in new shop. Over 500 engagements on facebook, with many positive comments and an application will be forthcoming in January for this.</p> <p><b>Memorial benches for war memorial</b> - KT outlined the costs and SF provided a link which can be placed on facebook. Brochures are available for foodbank consultations. Painted steel benches which depict WW1 and WWII scenes were felt to be appropriate. To revisit in January.</p> <p><b>4 Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Community Transport</b> – JS gave a brief update that BAVS seem willing to work with us, but the purchase of a vehicle (probably electric MPV type) would be up to the community. BAVS could supply booking, training etc. NHS willing to look at “group appointments” for distant locations. At this time, it is “idea sharing” with BAVS, BHA. JS also mentioned a wind farm associated with Co’path which had no spend! This appears to be Fishermen 3 / Hoprigshiels which has had considerable spend re tractor etc. KN/KT will ensure their information is updated. JS also mentioned that the shop may be looking for a van type transport for shop so there may be joined up thinking here. Electric vehicles are expensive and estimated costs would be in region of £30 - £35k. Early days at present, but work is progressing and may tie in to Localities Care planning to provide local care for hospital visits etc.</p> <p><b>4.2 Locality Care</b> – (JS) response to questionnaire had been minimal at present but recognised that this is largely due to time of year, other items being circulated, and it was agreed that further consultation be carried out after the year. Some indication that further questionnaires are being completed. Looked at design of the questionnaire and agreed that any further consultation may require help, or may require separation of audiences/recipients. SF agreed that a revamp of the questionnaire may elicit more responses, and KT added that help with completing the questionnaire could be given at the foodbank.</p> <p><b>4.4. Shop update</b> – provided by E Gray:  Media coverage from Foundation Scotland and the newspapers which is welcomed. Funding – Crown estates Scotland – unsuccessful due to level of applications. Awaiting decision on SBC Communities Grant – should be available in 2 weeks. Share offer going well, and 90% of target reached with 2 days to go and 120 subscribers so far.  Modular unit ordered and being modified – due 14<sup>th</sup> January.  Turf has been removed and stored for reuse.  Foundations started by Aikengall contractors.</p>	<p>KN</p> <p>Jan/KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>Jan</p> <p>KN/KT</p> <p>JS</p>
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<p>4.3</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p>	<p>Kinegar Quarry has donated aggregate and costs will only be incurred for transport.</p> <p>Volunteers required for fit out and painting, and also for working in shop. Then purchase of white goods and liaison with suppliers which is currently ongoing. 18 applications for part time shop managers – recruitment on going and decision due next week. High quality of applicants. E Gray also thanked the CC, volunteers and others for their hard work and support, and also the community for participating in the share offer- it is particularly appreciated during the current financial implications of COVID. Questions – KT asked if there was an opportunity to increase share donations in the future. The answer was yes, as there will be a requirement for a permanent site and possibly building in the future which will require funding. E Gray (EG) was thanked for her report which was very informative. KN also added that with the ongoing work on community action planning, there will be more competition for funding and that at this point, we are privileged to be able to allocate funds from community benefits, but this may become harder in the future. External funders are finding that they are oversubscribed and this is an indication of the future. EG also added that the backing of the community through the share application had had a positive effect on funding applications.</p> <p><b>COVID update</b></p> <p>Monthly Fareshare deliveries which are now more targeted re items needed. Parcels for children with bells, candles etc and about to commence the parcels for older people. JV has now purchased the vouchers for Asda for Wednesday Club members. JS had produced a spreadsheet, indicating a “profit” and AC mentioned that Corporation Tax may be incurred with any foodstore profit – subject of additional discussion as it is not formally a charity. This needs to be clarified. Surplus of goods will be offered to others (but probably not shop as donations are charitably funded through Scottish Govt funding) and there are some outstanding “bills” which still need to be paid. Dunbar Basics can accept surplus goods and some monies could be repurposed through this scheme. “Hardship funds” have not yet been used but as some restrictions continue it would be wise to hold these until early next year. KT had produced a facebook message welcoming all to the foodbank, and dispelling the “charity” status many see. SF also thought that some local “heros” such as posties etc could be given a token of appreciation for the work and support they have given and it was agreed these funds could be used for this.</p> <p><b>Training for CC</b> – held over until January. KT will check with Cllr Laing.</p> <p><b>Digital engagement/website</b> – member of public was thanked for their work on the Wordpress site over the past few years. Another member of the public is currently producing a proposal for developing a website, including community engagement towards the action plan and there may be some reciprocal ability to use our work as a pilot which could be sold on to other authorities. Proposal will be shared later this week. NS asked whether this was something that replaced PfR and it was felt that both would work side by side – some audiences would prefer to engage digitally, whereas other would welcome the opportunity to go to an event when restrictions allow. KT mentioned that people are asking about minutes as they are not on the old website any more and it may be</p>	<p>KT</p>
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<p><b>4.7</b></p>	<p>necessary to provide a “quick fix” to make minutes and agendas available should the current proposals prove time consuming.</p> <p><b>Village Helping Hand discussion document</b> – document has been circulated to all. It is not an application for funds at this time, but forms the basis for one. NS and SH spoke to this document and highlighted the current “estate management” and desire to progress this with increased tractor versatility etc. It was agreed that this would be an evolving position and it was important not to try to cover all bases at this time. Early community engagement mentioned the need to tidy the village as it looks “tired” and there are many much needed projects. The “helping hand” component included things like changing light bulbs etc but excluded expert works. NS mentioned that some positions meant that work progressed more successfully and pointed to the CDF post as an example. Agreed better community engagement is needed – suggested fb post, talking to neighbours and people at food bank etc. and potentially involving Foundation Scotland in progressing such an idea. KT will approach FS and also ask Cllr HL whether a Care and Repair scheme existed in SBC who could be approached for guidance. KT had emailed BAVS re insurance etc and any similar schemes but it was widely accepted that most freelance workers would carry their own insurance. SF said that “amenities” are high on the agenda for area forums etc and some support may be available through these. Agreed to use the next month to engage the community in this idea. Important to recognise that the role would have to be advertised and the best fit obtained. KT will also sound out Foundation Scotland re this potential idea. Total cost, including materials and tractor running would be around £24/25k per annum and it was recognised that funds need to be secured to give some security to any applicant, over say, a 3 year period. Zero Waste was also discussed (raised by JS) in this respect – the role could involve recycling and upcycling of goods, and repurposing of items such as wood for burning etc. KT will raise this at the upcoming BAVS seminar on Zero Waste. KN said that it would represent a significant impact on annual wind farm funds – annual income being about £100k and this project would take up a quarter of this so it needs to be thoroughly researched. Some discussion around how payments would work for “private” work – could perhaps be offered at cost plus materials? Potential to uplift recyclable items also from homes to reduce waste? Focus on local assistance and reducing waste. Concluded that there was enough interest to develop this, subject to further community engagement. JS thought that there may be environmental zero waste monies available to help fund such a post. AC said that the simple pieces of work are around public spaces but the inclusion of work within people’s houses may be more difficult to administer, which is where advice from existing organisations may be particularly useful. Agreed to progress and revisit in January 2021.</p>	<p>Jan</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p>
<p><b>4.8</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas update</b> – amazing donation of toys for Salvation Army; donations to foodbank and for older people’s “hampers”; Calais refugees knitted items all very successful. Thanks to all for this. SF looking for assistance to deliver “hampers” next Wednesday. Carols on Doorstep at 6pm on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – broadcast on radio – SF is doing a voice over! Christmas Eve at 6pm – bell ringing – all information is in newsletter going</p>	<p>Jan</p>

	out next week. SH is delivering Salvation Army items on Friday provisionally.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Christmas Meal Cooking</b> – BAVS have a person identified for Cockburnspath who will cook for those who wish a meal on Christmas day – details in newsletter coming out next week.	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Pig memorial</b> – this has been refused by Amey	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Litter around Bilsdean</b> road close to A1 – reported to SBC and a litter pick has already taken place. Thanks for the quick response. Mostly alcohol bottles so community police may have to be involved if situation recurs. SF raised concerns that some of the alcohol litter may be related to younger people so it needs to be monitored.	Jan
<b>6</b>	<b>Planning update</b> – none available at this time.	
<b>7</b>	Taken earlier <b>wind farm applications</b> .	
<b>8</b>	<b>Area Partnership meeting</b> – JS attended this. Discussion was mostly around the damning report on how the Community Fund was being administered. JS is involved in the improvement of the scheme.	
<b>9</b>	<b>CC Insurance</b> – agreed this is becoming more complicated due to various additional tractor items, container, co-opted members etc. There is a need to coordinate this, and ensure that we are not paying for things twice, yet are covering all items/activities fully. Safeguarding training and coverage may need to be considered too. KT said she would be happy to assist with this with KN and that JL might take this on longer term with help and training. JL is happy to be involved and learn about this. BAVS may also be useful in this situation.	KT/KN JL
<b>10</b>	<b>Community Councillor feedback</b>	KT KT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SH - Grit bins</b> – road to Monynut – reported to SBC</li> <li>• <b>SH – lighting on path between Croftsacre and Causeway</b> – reported to Cllr HL as inadequate. KN mentioned the difficulties over streetlight replacements previously, and the need to involve members of the public who live in the vicinity.</li> <li>• <b>AT – grit bin at Hoprig</b> – hinges rotted and lid blows off. Repair required.</li> <li>• <b>DB – grit bin at Cove</b> filled but one at Pease Bay road – lid is off so repair required.</li> <li>• Agreed that all grit bins should be checked prior to emails being sent. All to check those local to them.</li> <li>• <b>KT</b> – potholes on the Redheugh Road reported and overhanging trees affecting phone lines – reported to SBC.</li> <li>• <b>JS</b> – email from Sea the Change – SOSE training re communities and tourism. Some discussion on the need re this – but it was agreed that there was a need for sensitive tourism in conjunction with the community’s needs. JS will apply for this as it appears to be a free 12 week training and may be useful in terms of our development. Agreed that JS as an independent person is best placed to attend and feedback.</li> <li>• <b>20mph survey</b> – one person from the community required and recognised that the views of the community were required before responding. AC will co-ordinate a survey for facebook via KT.</li> <li>• <b>Cove interpretation panel</b> – replacement is in hand within existing funds.</li> </ul>	KT KT Asap Jan JS AC/KT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveymonkey questionnaire re <b>Res Comms</b> – SF will co-ordinate.</li></ul> <p><b>11</b> All items under 11 discussed in 10 above.</p> <p><b>12</b> AOCB – no further business and the meeting concluded.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm by Zoom. Members of the community are very welcome to attend all or part of the meeting. Please contact <a href="mailto:jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com">jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com</a> for an invitation to attend.</p> <p>The Community Council wish to extend their good wishes to the whole community for Christmas and the New Year. We very much hope 2021 will be a better year for all and would like to thank all our volunteers and helpers who have made Co'path and Cove a good place to be during the pandemic. It's been gratifying to see so many people step up to help in extremely challenging situations so thank you one and all.</p>  <p>A decorative graphic for Christmas. It features two red baubles at the top, surrounded by green holly leaves and berries. The words "Merry Christmas" are written in a red, cursive font across the center, with a red flourish underneath.</p>	SF
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