

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting Wednesday 10th February, 2021 at 7pm by Zoom

Minutes

Agenda item		Action
1	Apologies and Attendance – Apologies were received from J Virtue; D Bouchard; K Nelson. In attendance were P Hood (Chair); N Simpson (Vice Chair); S Hay (co Vice Chair); K Tulloch (Secretary); M Black; J Fairbairn; R Laird; A Thackery; A Cockerell; J Sutton (CDF); S Fletcher; J Lister; Cllr H Laing (SBC); 3 members of the public.	
2	Police Report: a multi member ward report had been received, but no significant crime in the area. <i>[Editorial comment: dog thefts and pet thefts have been reported with 2 local break ins to kennels, and national publicity around bogus callers, purporting to be Scottish SPCA trying to seize animals from owners. Please ensure all pets, especially dogs are kept close and supervised. Do not give your pet over to anyone, unless there is a history of complaints and the officers have ID – even then, call the authorities first before handing over any animals. Keep livestock safe and all farm machinery under lock and key. There have also been reports (see facebook) of bogus offers for vaccines for COVID. There is no charge for these vaccines so please don't get caught out paying for something. If in any doubt about the authenticity of a vaccine offer, liaise with your GP].</i>	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting: agreed as correct.	
4	Matters Arising (taken in different orders due to availability of people attending)	
4.2	Shop update – circulated. Main points are that opening will hopefully be March 21 and building warrants have now been finalised. Cabin ordering imminent and drain to be re-rerouted around cabin site.	
4.3	COVID update – circulated. Main points are that local cases and hospital admissions are falling and vaccines are being rolled out within expected timescales with caveat that availability may vary. Foodbank hopes to reopen to members of public next week on Tuesdays (16 th Feb) and Fridays between 2.00 pm and 3.30pm. Fareshare delivery continues x 1 month, but Fareshare Go (via Tesco Haddington) isn't proving worthwhile and will probably be stopped. MB asked if papers would be redelivered to foodbank – these will go to new shop. Weather conditions – please stay at home during the winter weather and allow volunteers to deliver to you.	
4.4	Playpark update – MoP updated the CC on the progress towards revamping the playpark outside the village hall. Liaison with SBC is ongoing and first company to quote for changes has been on site. Liaison with primary school is also occurring tomorrow, especially regarding best way of engagement. Playpark group will also engage CDF in plans so that this plan also correlates with Community Action Plan (CAP). Community engagement is ongoing and a surveymonkey will hopefully engage parents, children, teens and grandparents on what they want to see on site. SBC will remove existing play equipment but there may be a chance of a local sale for this. SH and MoP to liaise over this. PH asked that some inclusion of teens occurs which may help CAP – more sewing seeds rather than final engagement. This may be useful in community engagement over the use and development of the football field and feed in to CAP. Some confusion within SBC re what equipment is actually	

	<p>on site – being clarified. KT asked if MoP wished to share current costs, but these will depend on engagement and also on further quotes - for further meetings. Cllr HL will liaise with SBC Officer re plans to remove play equipment. KT said that the football field is a community asset and needed views of all the community, rather than just children, teens and parents. MoP agreed that the field wasn't the property of SBC and should be included in the action plan to ensure everyone has their view. MoP said that there was a burden on the football field which prevented development, but KT said that adequate liaison with SBC under a recreation label, would probably be treated favourably and may not require a burden lift. SH felt that the football field had the size available for various ages including adults. JS added that wilderness experiences (in terms of willow shelters etc) had been well received by many teens in other areas. SF added that Brownies and Guides group could be involved in engagement – thoughts about a community award/badge etc. Further details will follow as this project progresses.</p>	<p>March onwards</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>SBC Cllr feedback – As Cllr Laing had to leave early, matters pertaining to her input were then taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grit bins – SH had had no response from SBC officers and Cllr Laing will take this forward. Ideally replacement/repair of some bins identified. - School Estate Review – Cllr Laing said that an estate review was underway and parameters for at risk schools included a roll below 50 (including nursery provision). Our school sits around 48 so could be at risk, but its rurality is something that needs to be taken into account. There is no risk to the school at present. She wished members to be aware that this was under current discussion however and will update as necessary. CC agreed they need to keep an eye on discussions around this as Copath has a strong case for retaining its primary school which needs to be presented should this be necessary. MoP said that nursery school had a waiting list, which is encouraging. Cllr Laing said that in her opinion, the younger the children, the closer to home their schooling should be. - Applications are open to discretionary funding for small businesses and self employed and also those facing hardship. Call SBC on 0300 100 1800 or via website. Link to hardship fund is www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20000/benefits_and_grants/471/community_care_grant_and_crisis_grant/2 PH mentioned that “hardship” funds cause issues in that people see it as charity or debt. - Cllr Laing is becoming a granny soon and the CC wish her all the best in her new role! 	<p>Cllr HL</p> <p>All/ March Cllr HL</p> <p>News letter</p>
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Allotment progress – there isn't any! Despite the agreement to sell land to Allotments Association by Transport Scotland (TS) no response to any communications since the agreement on 12th Dec (latest possible date for TS response). Allotment Assoc want to get on site to fulfil planning requirements re fencing etc asap so that there is a chance to get some allotments ready for spring planting, but the longer this takes the harder this is to fulfil. Cllr Laing will write to TS again to try to get them to move forwards and an approach to Roseanna Cunningham may also be considered. Allotments Solicitor has not yet heard back from TS re the payment/asset transfer. Much discussion around this but action points are that Cllr Laing will write, and Allotments Assoc will consider whether to involve relevant ScotGov ministers. NS to</p>	<p>Cllr HL</p>

	forward update to Cllr Laing. Newsletter includes a new survey re engagement over this land. JS said that the person involved in communications isn't actually involved in this type of work and perhaps another officer may be approached?	NS/ Cllr HL
4.7	Berwickshire Wheels/BAVS update – discussions continue with BAVS officers re community transport, but we are awaiting feedback from CAP re priorities over this.	
4.8	Berwick Bank Offshore windfarm – officer from this project is attending March CC meeting. No community benefits from this, and no right to object, but good to ensure we are aware of any potential issues and implications locally.	March
4.9	CC Insurance – KT has liaised with Edinburgh Council officers re our insurance which needs to be expanded to include container and some tools. NS said that he hoped to include snow plough and trailer in tractor insurance. KT will chase this as insurance needs to be completed this month. NS will liaise with KT re ancillary equipment for tractor as insurance is due soon.	KT
4.10	Benches at war memorial – cf to March.	March
5	Correspondence – all circulated. Members reminded to sign up to BAVS newsletter individually and CC should become a member. KT to send info to PH.	KT
6	Planning – the application relating to The Ramparts, Cockburnspath has been withdrawn.	
Addn item	MoP also mentioned at this point that his expertise was in digital engagement and IT so may be potentially useful to the digital engagement project. (see item 7.5 below) KT will liaise with developer re his inclusion.	KT
7	Funding applications:	
7.1	Declarations of interest: Brownies and Guides – no declarations Village Helping Hand – SH declared an interest and NS has also been involved as the applicant. Both will not therefore vote on this matter. Extension to CDF etc – KT and JS declared an interest	
7.6	Information board – Mercat Cross – ongoing. KT has requested guidance from Osprey, and will bring forward to March meeting.	March
7.3	Village Helping Hand/Community Caretaker - discussed that this was not an employment contract but a pilot project of one year offered on a self employed/freelance basis. A funding application had been received for between £12k and £17.5k depending on what the applicant can bring to the post including equipment/workspace etc. A role description and person spec has been developed and NS and MoP will interview prospective applicants. An advert will go out on notice boards and fb this weekend, if funding approved. Emphasised that this is a pilot with the requirement for feedback at various points to ensure that an accurate future requirement is ascertained. If a member of public becomes unavailable for interviewing due to personal circumstances, SF will step in. NS said that at first, a registration of interest can be made to him then applications in writing indicating relevant experience will be made. Those shortlisted will then be interviewed. Agreed unanimously – 7 members of the CC were able to vote on this and all agreed to award up to £17.5k depending on the applicant's experience and what they can bring to the post. KN has suggested that Fishermen 3 funds should be used for this as they have previously supported the category of "amenities" in the past. (see application form). KT to send out advert (FB and boards) and NS to take forward.	KT NS

7.5	<p>Digital community action plan – PH gave a brief history of thinking behind this and training in Planning for Real (PfR). A previous meeting had taken place regarding this, with the developer, to which all CC members had been invited. Rationale is that public engagement is very limited at present due to COVID restrictions and there is a need to push engagement forward for the action plan asap. This is a unique piece of work and is an exciting development for both the CC and the developer. There may be some fiscal advantage to the CC in the future should this digital platform be successful and be sold on to others. KT explained that the application for funding extended across the digital platform (DEP) to include the new website - a fusion website shared as a Co’path one. Domain fees would therefore be split or shared as required. KT mentioned a condition attached to extending the CDF etc roles (FS funding as below) and felt that there were a number of ways of ensuring sound milestones are established from a funding point of view. KT added that many older people may not engage digitally, but that they can be targeted with a physical map if necessary, or potentially assisted to engage via a public table eg at shop. We are therefore confident that a fuller more accurate “map” of progress towards the CAP in a linear method, not relying on completion of the CAP before action on projects are commenced, can occur. Developer has confirmed that there is no increase in costs to fulfil this requirement. The funding application for a total of £8500 (£5500 for DEP and £3000 for website) was agreed by 7 voters at the meeting and 2 additional emailed/phone votes. The application was therefore passed – KN will action to relevant community benefits fund.</p>	KN
7.4	<p>Extension to CDF/admin/IT assistant positions: KT and JS declared an interest in this application as it referred to an extension of their current roles. Malcolm Jack from Foundation Scotland (FS) spoke to his recommendation for approval, with conditions regarding the workstreams and updates to progress as stated in the recommendation for approval. This was with a view to ensuring that some actions from community engagement were able to be implemented during the first year, ensuring that actions weren’t delayed and were progressed appropriately once engagement had been completed on aspects of the CAP. It was agreed that conditions could easily be fulfilled with a caveat regarding whether the need for IT input be advertised or documentation of a clear decision regarding why a certain person was involved – as a result of MoP interest mentioned earlier, M Jack was reassured that nobody has been appointed to the IT role at present, and due to interest from another person tonight, it may be that this aspect should be advertised. KT also said that involvement of the teens etc is important as they are the future of the village and need to be involved and encouraged to participate for example in website updates.</p> <p>NS asked when discussions around the CCs uplift to CDF payment rate had been agreed – this was at a meeting which he was unable to attend until after this decision was taken. A vote agreed to award the recommendation by FS accepting the conditions. This was accepted unanimously (6) agreed by all members able to vote, who did not register and interest. Two additional votes had been received, in favour, by email or telephone (JV, KN). Total 8 votes in favour.</p> <p>Malcolm has issued a fund statement regarding spend and availability of Kinegar Fund assuming agreement of this spend, and this has been circulated to all.</p>	KT to email dev re MoP

<p>Addn item</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Some discussion ensued regarding how community wind farm benefits be managed in the future and Malcolm/FS are willing to engage in discussions around this. Some discussions around this and difficulties between the CC members’ roles and the administration of community benefits ie community development trust role and potential role of Foundation Scotland. M Jack said that there were 2 separate issues here – many different institutional forms re admin of community benefits have been seen by them and they can offer an impartial view. Secondly, if FS may be required to provide a separate view of other funds, a proposal could be put together to look at how this could be implemented. He felt that there shouldn’t be a “touting for business” role by FS unless this was requested. KT also said that FS could offer advice and assistance on investment of funds once the initial outcomes of the CAP had been fulfilled, and there was recognition re need to invest for future generations. Malcolm mentioned endowment opportunities, where CCs weren’t able to invest themselves etc and is willing to discuss various service level agreements that may suit our needs in the future. KT thanked Malcolm for his input and advice which was very much appreciated. Follow up meetings in due course re this.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Alison Thackray for her input to the CC as email secretary over the last 4 years. In particular, KT thanked her for her assistance and the CC will miss her valuable input and help. We welcome R Laird from the same area of the community who will represent local views.</p> <p>Community Councillor updates – no further items</p> <p>Members of the Public – taken earlier [<i>Editorial comment: Old Cambus pothole issues still ongoing – MoPs and KT are engaging with relevant officers.</i>]</p> <p>AOCB there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.</p> <p>Members of the public are most welcome to attend all or part of any meeting but unfortunately at this time, due to COVID restrictions, meeting have to be held virtually. To obtain an invitation to attend, please send your email address to jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Later in 2021</p>
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