

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7pm by
Zoom**

Minutes

Agenda item		Action
1	<p>Apologies and Attendance: <u>Apologies</u> were received from A Thackray; J Lister; A Cockerell; J Virtue. <u>In attendance</u> were P Hood (Chair); N Simpson (Vice Chair); S Hay (Co- vice Chair); K Nelson (Treasurer); K Tulloch (Secretary); M Black; D Bouchard; J Fairbairn; S Fletcher; M Lauder (CCE Ltd/shop); J Sutton (CDF); Cllr H Laing (SBC); 2 members of the public; R Laird (potentially interested CC member). Those present were introduced to members of public and potential new member. Cllr Laing thanked the CC for the flowers and card during her recent illness.</p>	
2	Police Report – circulated	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting – agreed as correct.	
4	Matters Arising (taken in different order due to visitor reports etc).	
5.3	<p>Cockburnspath Playpark – two members of the public spoke to this item. There is potential to lease the playpark for a ten year period from SBC. It is not in danger of closure but parents don't feel there is a fit between playpark items and the ages of children and teens who may use it. The fencing is also inadequate with poor protection from the road at the school, nor does it prevent dog fouling. The surface (bark) would be replaced with a compound. MoP had been in touch with SBC who seem to be in favour, and would provide maintenance and basic repairs plus expert monthly inspection, but not new equipment or major repairs. They would not insure the playpark but this has been investigated and will cost in the region of £65 pa including surface, liability etc. More modern playpark equipment isn't made of metal and is therefore more durable. MoP has spoken to Village Hall Committee (VHC) and there is a broad agreement to take this forward. Has been in touch with suppliers recommended by SBC and one will visit site to plan layout and others will also quote. This area being discussed would cover the small toddler play park and extend around the corner of the hall towards the football field. PH asked which group would be applying for funding, and it would probably be the VHC plus members co-opted from the current working group. Some discussion around the Community Action Plan in relation to this but recognised the limitations of public engagement at this time due to COVID restrictions. Some evidence of engagement will be expected in any funding application however. PH asked about extension to the play area, into the football field eg the far side but at present, the same footprint is being considered. KT asked about the area at the far side of the VH which had been favoured by planners in relation to any permanent shop/hub. She wondered if the top end of the field could be used to add equipment eg a cycle track and some adult fitness equipment. This would not infringe on football area. SF has been involved in similar work in Innerwick and offered support. She said the importance of a "play site" which is level would be important, and it is easier for parents that all ages of children are in the same place from a supervision point of view. Much discussion around this and a vote of hands indicated support for the</p>	SF

<p>4.5</p>	<p>project and enthusiasm to see final plans and a funding application, which will be made in due course. PH identified that seed funding could be used for this project and some alternative funding should also be sought. KN said she thought the CC would support. JS said that engagement with the older children would be important here and suggested a facebook post if Playpark group would write a piece, and a surveymonkey could be set up to provide evidence of views. Also include in Feb newsletter asking all ages to respond with their “wish list”. The other member of the public welcomed the support and potential for further development but felt it should be staged with support from other groups in the community. Some discussion around the field opposite Callander Place, which is owned by a local landowner – there may be potential in the future subject to landowner agreement longer term. Cllr Laing welcomed the project and advised that there may be some funding available in the longer term although it is not available for the next 2 to 3 years. This may be appropriate for the long term bigger vision. Cf February.</p> <p>Shop update – The share offered closed having raised just over 30K exceeding the target of 25K. Equally important I think is that this has created over 170 shareholders which is very encouraging going forward. The groundworks as you will have noticed have progressed and we are now ready to proceed with the foundations. Again we have to thank Aikengall (Community Windpower) and their contractor R J McLeod for their continued support and Arnot and Lynden Findlay from Kinegar Quarry for supplying the aggregate.</p> <p>Interviews have taken place and 2 part time shop managers are in the final stages of being appointed. Training in various fields for them , executive members and volunteers will begin later in the month. We would still like to hear from anyone who would like to feel involved in this project either now or going forward as hopefully things return to a more ‘normal’ life.</p> <p>Prior to the Christmas break we received note of information that Building Control required prior to a building warrant being issued. This could not be progressed far over Christmas and New Year but we are now in a position to supply the necessary detail. However throughout we have had concerns about the lack of information available about the drains surrounding the hall and how both waste water and surface water were connected and whether there was a soakaway involved or not. Because of this we decided that we should survey the drains so that everyone had the correct information going forward. Thanks to Kevin Thomson of A G Thomson for his pro bono, very prompt and efficient help on this one. All the drains have now been tracked and we have a complete picture of how they are connected. Unfortunately, we discovered that both drains have connection problems. In particular the waste pipe has a leak in the area where the shop is to be sited. This looks like it’s been going on for some time and obviously needs to be fixed as a priority and we are making plans to proceed with this.</p> <p>Lots of positives to move forward on in the next few weeks.</p> <p>M Lauder was thanked for her report.</p> <p>JS added that the shop had been successful in receiving £10k from the Localities Bid Fund and wished to thank Cllr Laing for her interjections and</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>Feb</p>
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<p>4.4</p>	<p>support. Cllr Laing also said that JS had had to go “through the mill” in terms of questioning, but had done a great job.</p> <p>COVID update – KT spoke about the huge increase in number in East Berwickshire over the last 3 weeks and explained the closure of the foodbank to people “shopping”. The decision will be revised at end of January. However, figures are still falling thankfully. Cllr Laing said that hospital admissions were still rising however and advised caution. She said a lot of the community were frightened, and there had been an inadvertent backlash against our local farm food store – clarified no link to operation with similar name. The newsletter this month has been dedicated to COVID advice. This month the foodbank had been registered with Fareshare Go, however the items available were less than anticipated. Decision to keep this for another couple of weeks to assess plus our monthly Fareshare delivery. An email had been received from SBC re a person willing to donate items to local foodbanks and we have asked for fresh items, milk eggs etc. and are very grateful for this. Malicious rumours in the community have been an issue lately naming people that may or may not have had COVID and CC members were asked to do their best to stop this if they hear it. SF also added information about the fund available to people in need and the cold weather payments which may be available. Although East Lothian currently qualify for these, temperatures in our postcode do not currently qualify, but it is something to keep an eye on. Due to icy conditions, foodbank volunteers are trying to minimise the need for people to come out and the parcel doorstep drop offs help minimise this and enhance local communication with people housebound. JS provided a link to the cold weather payments. An amber “be aware” warning currently exists for the next couple of days. Cllr Laing will share the Energy Efficiency Campaign (CAB) to SF re fuel poverty by email. SF said that we are facing different challenges due to the cold weather and needed to be aware of them. PH thanked all the COVID volunteers for all of their work particularly in the last few weeks.</p>	<p>Newsletter</p> <p>Cllr HL</p>
<p>4.6</p>	<p>20 mph speed limit – AC was thanked in his absence for the work around feedback to the CC which revealed that although many were against the limit, those that were in favour were strongly so. The findings have been shared with SBC Officers.</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Allotment update – NS spoke to this. Seeking permission to access the land from Transport Scotland (TS) as this has been slow in coming. Aim is to get organised for the current growing season and some help from Cllr Laing and JS may be needed. The cost is agreed at £6k for the land. Local solicitor is involved and will try to get an agreement from TS by mid February however there is a condition imposed by TS regarding a 6 ft fence between the cemetery and the allotments, which is not agreeable to planners and this needs to be resolved. MB asked NS about the fence between the cemetery and the preference for tree and planting to screen this area. Local farmer has offered to do some work to the ground, and SBC Planning Officer has approved the landscaping and fencing plan. Allotment Trustees meeting on 14th January which will decide next move with TS and approval to access land. NS will then liaise with JS and Cllr Laing about any delays and seek their assistance if required. A planning condition exists to erect a 6ft fence between the allotment land and the</p>	<p>Cllr HL/JS</p> <p>NS</p>

<p>7.1</p>	<p>railway line and this needs to be done asap when access to the land is agreed. The CC will do its best to assist wherever possible.</p> <p>Village Helping Hand – Funding application has been circulated in last few days. Some further discussion is needed around payment and also the need to advertise this even as a pilot study. KT spoke about the addition to the application regarding public engagement and the positivity from both facebook posts and word of mouth engagement. JS’s initial findings when community engagement was possible, were also positive, identifying a need to “tidy” up the village etc. She mentioned that there was probably support from the CC and the community but KN had identified the need to be equitable over payment rates and the potential need to advertise the post even for the pilot. Important for the CC to be fair and to be seen to be fair in this and potential need to advertise the position at this stage. PH said more definition of the role is needed and SH said that the individual assistance within this role is not part of the pilot. PH said that the CC and others would be clients of the role but not the employer for the pilot. This was accepted. Should SH take on this role, there would be no need to resign from the CC but he should declare an interest and withdraw appropriately during discussions about funding etc. NS added that the pilot would provide structure to the expectations of the role for the future and any development of it longer term. PH asked the question of volunteer system and support/training to them, plus the rate of payment and where it goes from any “private” support work. NS said that the focus of the work would be estate and maintenance but there is a need for the “helping hand” element especially during the current restrictions. KT said that this element had already been happening to some extent - it may be difficult to withdraw this and gave examples. She felt the role description was sufficient but agreed that a volunteer system may be required. The term “Project Leader” was mentioned and MB asked if volunteers and project leader would be vetted but SH said that it would only be him going into peoples’ houses. Discussed public liability which isn’t onerous and can have volunteers added to it. KN was concerned that if the post isn’t advertised, it may be seen as a lack of transparency on behalf of the CC and a “job for the boys”. This point was discussed at length and the aims of the pilot were also questioned – what does the pilot want to achieve? Issues around the post being a “hub” for further volunteer work explored and would be welcomed. Also discussed zero waste, recycling/upcycling etc. A show of hands over general support in principle for this project was taken and was unanimously in support. KT added that JV, and JL were also in favour, and AT was as well, but had similar concerns re transparency etc. Also discussed availability of assistance and agreed no 24/7 coverage and a separate mobile number would be available for working hours only. Discussed whether the assistance to individuals should be volunteer based rather than part of the paid role. ML also said that parameters were needed to help avoid the “jobs for the boys” view in the community. KN suggested that other members of the community could be involved in discussing parameters of the role to reduce the views above. KT said she would be happy to help from an HR point of view. It was agreed that a separate Zoom meeting may be needed between a group and further details discussed at the February meeting.</p>	<p>KT Feb</p>
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4.2	Eyemouth HS thank you for the digital pens	
4.3	Benches at War Memorial – held over till later in the year	
4.7	Digital engagement/ Planning for Real – documents shared with all. An additional Zoom meeting with the web designer is needed so that this can be explained to all with a view to a funding application in February. Potentially 20 th January, midday to accommodate developer and also PH if still away. JS added that current projects being discussed would have benefited from such a development to ensure adequate engagement.	KT/JS
4.8	Planning training for CC members – this is now available via a link circulated by planning officers. Encouraged to look at this and take part.	All
4.9	Grit bin survey – SH has now completed this and forwarded to SBC for action/responses. Cllr HL will ask for officer response asap.	Cllr HL
5	Correspondence	
5.1	BAVS/Berwickshire Wheels – cheque for £5k received and gratefully received which will help with operating costs. Officer from BAVS will arrange a meeting re local transport to take this forward.	KT/JS
5.2	Zero Waste seminar – KT attended and will feedback by written report once minutes received from BAVS. Cllr HL wanted to be included in this feedback	KT
5.4	Berwickshire Bank offshore wind farm – development officer willing to come along and discuss plans with the CC. Agreed to offer a slot in March if an appetite – agreed. KT will issue	KT
10.1	AGM in February – AT has indicated her intention to resign in Feb but DB will continue until August. KT said that AC now has a vote after 3 months attendance at CC meetings. PH will try to produce a report should she still be away. KT will do paperwork.	KT
5.5	CC Insurance – KT is liaising with officer at SBC in first instance.	KT
6	Planning – application received for Kirkgate 20/01581/FUL for small rear extension. No objections to this. KT will email SBC with views.	KT
7	Windfarm applications	
7.1	Village Helping Hand – see above	
7.2	Potential applications coming forward for Feb – Brownies/Guides and Mercat Cross.	
10.2	Development Trust – held over until PH returns to UK.	Feb
11	Community Councillor updates: JS – has put herself forward for the Area Partnership Review and this was welcomed. She has also been successful in her application for the Tourism training, which is fully funded (via SOSE). She highlighted the importance of planning for tourism post COVID and the need to include other partners (eg Air BnBs, shop, hall, local people and groups) and the avoidance of “dirty” tourism which isn’t wanted locally. MB – fly tipping at Bilsdean and at Co’path roundabout – being dealt with by relevant Local Authorities. RL was thanked for joining the meeting and the CC hoped she would continue with interest. KT - asked if anyone is willing to take over ATs role and liaison with JV as required. As a temporary measure, SF will forward emails once AT has resigned.	SF

<p>12</p> <p>13</p>	<p>SBC Councillor update – all covered. Cllr Laing intimated that the Code of Conduct did not need to be signed individually but an agreement reached and minuted at the AGM. There is a need however for it to be additionally minuted within the current financial year.</p> <p>AOCB – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Wednesday 10th Feb at 7pm by Zoom. The meeting is open to members of the public who are welcome and encouraged to attend all or part of any CC meeting. Invitations to join Zoom meeting should be emailed to jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com</p>	
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