

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm by Zoom**

**Minutes**

Agenda item		Action
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies and Attendance:</b> Apologies were received from J Virtue; M Black; D Bouchard and J Lister. In attendance were P Hood (Chair); K Nelson (Treasurer); S Hay (Vice Chair); N Simpson (Vice Chair); K Tulloch (secy); J Fairbairn; S Fletcher; J Sutton (CDF); R Laird; Cllr H Laing; 2 officers from SSE Renewables (G Donlin and D Watson); 3 members of public (re shop and playpark); Reporter from Radio Borders re windfarm in part (A McGilvray).</p> <p><b>Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm</b> – 2 SSE officers as above gave a half hour presentation on the pre planning scoping request for approx. 240 off shore turbines at a height of 310m off shore in the North Sea, off East Lothian, but with impacts on Berwickshire. 2.3 mw capacity, and would be largest off shore site if consented. Potentially larger than Torness production? It has the capacity to displace 4 million tonnes of CO2. 49 km off East Lothian coast close to boundary with Berwickshire. There is a secure grid connection at Branxton operated by Scottish Power. Discussed cumulative impact with Inchcape and NnG developments, plus, further north the two Seagreen Alpha and Bravo wind farms. Both Marr and Berwick Bank are proposed for deeper waters. Map demonstrated potential areas for landfall, where cabling would come aground, at either Thorntonloch or Skateraw. These areas will be refined as the application proceeds.</p> <p>A data sharing agreement exists between SSE and other developers regarding research and geo tech surveys and they are continuing to gather ecology/benthic data. All is available from power point presentation which is available separately. Discussed off shore technology being a new technology and the need for continuing research and development. Officers confirmed that they continued to keep a legislation register to enable them to react to new more stringent measures. Berwick Bank will have the largest ornithological data set for the whole of Scotland and developers continue to liaise closely with Nature Scot and RSPB. Reassured that the assessments will be informed by the Sectoral Marine Plan and carried out diligently, despite the two projects being leased by the Crown Estate prior to this guidance. Agreed that assessment of the cumulative impact and a strategic overview across the whole area was essential rather than a project by project approach. Also working with Scottish Fisheries and other consultees. (See Marine Scotland website for full details of consultee feedback). Socio economic study is ongoing and will be shared as part of pre planning process. Event on 16<sup>th</sup> April – virtual presentation for supply chain to try to get local businesses involved – will be shared with us for consultation and forwarding to local supply chains. COVID has had an impact on public engagement which has had to be held virtually. Keen to work with local communities and schools and to assist the community with projects. Worked with Seabird Centre and WAVES partnership recently. SSE would like to continue to liaise with the CC as the project progresses and another event is planned for Autumn 2021.</p> <p>Timeline revealed planning application planned for Spring 2022 but a lot of work is needed between now and then, particularly with statutory bodies.</p>	

	<p>Envisage a planning decision in 2024, with completion of construction/commissioning by 2030.</p> <p><b>Questions</b> asked by CC members – KT had already sent an email re various points eg ZTVs, traffic, carbon cost vs green energy produced and we asked for some indication of this. Balancing act between effects on environment and need to generate electricity from renewables also discussed. A formal response will be given to the questions asked. Aviation and aviation lighting will also be responded to. Also effects on Cove Harbour’s fishing fleet and JS asked what impact there had been on shell fish catches – it may take some time to recover, but there can be some benefits from the rocky substrates put down. EG said that the main impact on small fishing fleets was due to exclusion areas during research and cabling corridors. She felt the cabling corridors proposed would take out around one third of fishing catches locally as their boats worked on shore within a one to two mile limit. This would also have an effect on some Dunbar boats and also St Abbs. She welcomed the inclusion of Fisheries Liaison Officers who have been of assistance. Students from St Andrew’s University had data from around 30-40 years ago re the Torness build and how quickly the seabed recovered. SSE Officers asked for EG’s email address for liaison directly over the Cove fleet and she agreed. KT will facilitate this. NS asked about any permanent exclusion zone for sailing vessels – accommodation of “air gap” of 32m is being proposed from bottom blade tip to sea surface to allow sailing to continue – this will also facilitate clearance for bird flight. Some adjustments to this may occur once details are available regarding the engineering perspective and any changes to turbine types but there is a commitment to ensuring a sufficient air gap is maintained. Significant commercial vessels also operate and a navigational expert is on board to advice – they will avoid anchorage areas in the research and construction phases. SSE were thanked for their time.</p> <p><b>3 Co-option of new member</b> – It was agreed that Rosemary Laird of Hoprigshiels, Cockburnspath, electoral roll number 50648 be co-opted as a CC member. Explained after 6 meetings, RL would become a voting member. Duly co-opted.</p> <p><b>4 Police Report</b> – some local issues re hare coursing/rabbit shooting. Reported to police. Some cold calling in the area and discouraged by a CC member due to this being a no cold calling zone, and COVID restrictions should prevent this from occurring as well. One person in the village also had their front door tried and there is a need to be vigilant.</p> <p><b>5 Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> – agreed as correct and signed.</p> <p><b>6 Matters Arising</b> (taken in different order due to availability of members of the public)</p> <p><b>6.5 Playpark</b> – two members of the public attended to speak to this item. Over 100 responses to the surveys had indicated positivity and a lot of responses had included suggestions for other areas of the village. Results will be collated and shared. A second site visit has occurred by potential suppliers and estimates hope to be received end March. A piece for the newsletter is proposed and for the VH website. School is engaged and children are drawing pictures of their “dream playground”. Preparing funding applications – some difficulty in liaison between two departments of SBC eg Playground and Estates Dept re MOU of lease of land. Viridor is being approached re some funding and a stage 1 application under Scottish Landfill Fund has been made, but progression is delayed by having to have a lease in</p>	<p>KT</p>
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	<p>place from SBC prior to moving to phase 2 of the application. Third party payment needs to be in place to enable Viridor to claw back 10% of any funds released to cover administration. This is required before a stage 2 application will be accepted. Asked if this may be something the CC would be prepared to look at funding the 10% required direct to Viridor. Letters of support are required to take the application forward eg from local childminders etc. JS said that the Community Engagement Platform is about to be launched (mid April) and the first areas to assess will be recreation and leisure, so the playpark fits well into this category. She explained the need to look at the whole area holistically, and not one project in isolation as there are limits on funding availability, and there is a need for the whole community to engage on what they want to see happen in the entire area. She explained her responsibility regarding community development generally and asked that the playgroup be paused slightly to allow fuller community engagement. PH said that we had heard that the online surveys had been completed several times by same people and are slightly concerned re the lack of filter to prevent this. Member of public felt it wasn't fair to limit results to one IP address as households have more than one person able to respond. Almost all on line surveys included individual responses and there may well be a method of identifying duplication from these mandatory fields. Another member of the public asked if we were trying to say someone had sabotaged the survey and PH explained that we were just passing on information we have been given. They had assessed whether to include postcodes but felt that school children from outwith the area, and regular visitors should be included. PH explained the need to progress the action plan and the potential for conflicting wishes over areas of ground. She alluded to the potential for a permanent shop site within the area, and said that the CC were concerned that there may be competing needs and wishes for areas of land. KT explained the thinking behind sectional engagement and the potential to look at recreation and leisure category first, especially around the hall area. She explained the weighting apportioned to votes so that robust results, reflecting the wishes of the whole community can be gathered. When PO came to look at shop sites, he identified that building towards the far end of the hall, with playground having potential to be moved, may be a solution. She also said that feedback from parents had indicated a desire to look at being able to supervise various ages of children from one point which is very difficult at present. MoP asked why this hadn't been considered by shop team initially as a site, but there were other issues around a temporary facility – delayed by COVID – which were inevitable. Another MoP said they weren't keen to delay too much but there was the potential to work in parallel, as dates involved in obtaining quotes, MoU etc would probably bring the two projects (playpark and DEP) into line. They were reassured that the CC was behind the renewal of the playpark but wanted to ensure that this fitted with the wishes of the whole community and it was placed appropriately for the long term. SF said that given the size and shape of the current footprint and the PO's suggestion that this might be a potential site for further development as a hub/cafe/shop, she thought it would be better for families, with children of different ages, to have a playground near the end of the playing field in the shadow of current play park. This would allow for any potential development to the hall to go ahead if prioritised within the CAP, and could include tables/ benches etc for</p>	
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	<p>parents and carers to watch children while having a coffee, etc. She asked whether the suppliers visiting could look at a plan A and plan B where plan B would involve the playpark moving on to the main field. It would also address some of the safety concerns re the current playpark's proximity to the school road. She drew on her own experience of Innerwick Hall and East Lothian Council, where the group that raised money for the park there (with the support of the Innerwick Parish Welfare, as it's on their property) had no problem with ELC adopting playground and doing upkeep, even though they don't own the land it was sited on. She urged caution and a minor delay to playpark plans to enable full consultation to occur. Following a lengthy discussion about the play park, and more generally the best use of space around the hall, SF produced a digital sketch which had originated after discussion of same at foodbank and was asked if she could send this around to those present. An offer was made to carry out temporary refreshments to the playpark in the interim but it was felt that at present everything worked, but was unfit for purpose. MoP said there was a fear about the project being delayed for a lengthy period but it was unlikely that any firm decisions be made within the next 6 weeks. JS added that the whole recreation and leisure agenda needs to be assessed and this will include the playpark regeneration. PH suggested that the village hall could be more active in this project and gain usage and potentially income from this. Lengthy discussion around this – MoP felt that there may be a plan that had excluded the VHC, but was reassured that it would be up to the community to say what the plan was through engagement yet to occur. KT discussed how having an action plan would impact on priorities for funding both internally via wind farm funds currently available and that the engagement process would make it much more likely to attract external funders as they are now actively looking for such holistic evidence. PH said that subject to the results of community engagement, the CC would look favourably on the 10% contribution required for the Viridor funding. MoP will liaise with JS re the development of this as part of the engagement process.</p> <p><b>6.1 Shop update</b> – contractors have to lay concrete and building is ready to be delivered. Water has to be put in and all drainage in the area has been identified. The two managers are ordering chillers etc and have passed their alcohol licences. Liaison with Scottish Water continues. Drains – ongoing but progressing. New manholes have been delivered and some additional equipment (chillers and freezers) is currently being held in the village hall. KN asked about funding and all is on track. Potential saving re water plans etc and funds are evening out. Thanks go to Thorburn's garage staff for their assistance with moving items. KT checked that the chiller in the old shop is still being used and this is the case. Managers are taking this forward. EG also mentioned the potential for home deliveries in the future, particularly for more vulnerable people and this was welcomed with an on line and telephone ordering system available. Involvement of the whole community is essential to the success of the shop, including all age groups.</p> <p><b>6.2 COVID update</b> – numbers of infections locally continue to drop, and vaccinations are rising. The 65 – 70 age group previously “missed” have now all got appointments. KT spoke about the administration going more national (GPs administered the over 70s) some with cross borders GPs had missed out. Discussed the numbers to ring – 01896 827171 or the 0800 helpline. Details are available on the nhsinform website. BAVS are putting together a</p>	<p>JS</p>
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<p><b>6.3</b></p> <p><b>6.4</b></p> <p><b>6.5</b></p> <p><b>6.6</b></p> <p><b>6.7</b></p> <p><b>6.8</b></p> <p><b>6.9</b></p> <p><b>6.10</b></p>	<p>list of local foodbanks in Berwickshire and KT will ask for this info to be shared.</p> <p><b>Allotments update</b> – congratulations on getting the article in the Berwickshire News. Cllr HL had asked for a response from Transport Scotland but had just been told that it’s in the hands of the solicitors. NS wants permission to go on to the land prior to owning it but the TS solicitors are a huge firm and it has been difficult to find the right person to talk to. In the meantime, some manure has been delivered and the top surface has been cut. A survey has been sent out to interested people and a sample plot has been identified. Tenancy agreements are in the process of being drafted. Planning the work is progressing well, but they are limited by the actual transaction with TS. Some thoughts about cultivating a trial plot to allow people to look at it and see potential. Possible need for more “advertising” and KT said that photos of work as it progresses could be shared on fb and JS added that allotments formed part of the recreation and leisure category in the engagement plan. KN asked if the old wooden notice board from The Square may be useful at the allotments? Caretaker may be able to assist with this. NS will consider this as information sharing and activity on site may generate further interest. Liaison through the community action plan can also occur here through the recreation and leisure category of the digital engagement platform. Recognised the season urgency over allotments and the need to move forward. PH asked about school involvement, and one of the trustees has been in touch with them. SH asked about supplies of surplus allotment goods to shop and community café, and this is something that will be actively explored, with advice from Abundant Borders re food supply legislation/food traceability and hygiene.</p> <p><b>School Estates survey</b> – no further updates</p> <p><b>Playground</b> – taken earlier</p> <p><b>CC Insurance</b> – still awaiting certificate – KT will chase this again.</p> <p><b>Benches at War Memorial</b> – held over until April</p> <p><b>DEP/Website</b> – All was in email circulated, and it was agreed that there is an agreement for JS and KT plus a volunteer to be able to progress this without constant referral back to the CC. Requirement for regular reporting back to CC. Website will be on hold until around April, and KT will contact member of public regarding potential to set up a temporary one. Costs are minimal for this – KN said costs were around £60 pa. She will see if she still has log ins for the old Wordpress site, and KT will progress with MoP.</p> <p><b>Village Caretaker</b> – Rigorous recruitment and selection processes have been followed to recruit SH into this role. All candidates have now been informed. The selection process involved assessment of CVs against a person specification, interviews and scenarios set. Further details of the processes are now available on request if required. SH asked for SBC contact re safeguarding and Cllr HL will take this forward. He will also contact JF for information as required as she has updated training etc. SH is undertaking Level 2 of police disclosure in the meantime, and if he progresses to Level 3, he may not require further training. However, a “chain” needs to be established to allow SH to escalate any concerns should he come across any.</p> <p><b>Future Wind Farm Benefit Management</b> – PH suggested a meeting of interested parties to discuss the existing Trust currently in abeyance. A MoP and Foundation Scotland have a lot of experience in such issues and will be asked to feed in to this process as it moves forward. PH will send round the</p>	<p>KT</p> <p>KT/JS</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KN</p> <p>Cllr HL</p> <p>PH</p>
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	<p>old Trust document as a starting point but it was agreed that this was a priority and should be finalised by the CC elections in August. If the old document is agreed as still relevant, an application for SCIO could then be considered. PH spoke about some difficult funding requests in the past and all felt that although the CC may still be involved at a final level with other parties (Trust or FS) carrying out the assessment and ensuring due diligence. JS has had a conversation with DTAS recently regarding similar issues and they are willing to be involved. Discussion about the need for external people to be involved in any Trust, as they are less involved in local issues so are better placed to make objective decisions eg solicitor, accountant and other non CC members as well as a couple of CC members to satisfy RES conditions. NS raised concerns regarding the following – community councillors, some of whom in our case have not been directly voted in by the public do have the legitimacy of being the representatives of the community and he felt that we should take the responsibility of taking the important decisions on how the benefit funds are spent and not hand this to unelected MoPs. PH said that a combined approach with the final decision being made by the CC may be the way forward, similar to the service given by FS at present for some funds. Further discussion ensued and RL said that she felt a static Trust may be better. The CC is often in a dilemma as they are supposed to represent the (often differing) views of the community and this can in itself be difficult to negotiate within local tensions when they are also acting as funders. The CAP will greatly assist with this as it will clearly demonstrate what the community as a whole wish to see happen. KT mentioned that it would also greatly assist with any recruitment of a new treasurer in the future, should the wind farm processes be administered separately from the CC. PH will progress asap. Cf May 21.</p> <p><b>6.11 Old Cambus potholes</b> – thanks to SBC officers for their work so far, but some potholes still unfilled, due to being under water at the time. Member of the public will continue to keep us in the loop and SH has sent photos to SBC regarding the ones still to be filled. Cllr HL will also progress this and pass on our thanks for work already undertaken.</p> <p><b>6.12 Resignation of co-opted member</b> – the CC acknowledged that AC had stood down due to other commitments and thanked him for his input in the time he was with us.</p> <p><b>7 Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Localised flooding</b> – KT spoke to this item with some historic information regarding the flooding around the garage due to cumulation at a pinch point. Also recently, the Cockburnspath Burn had been severely flooded resulting in a running river down the path towards the sewage works, and damage to the bottom bridge at the works. Officers from SBC have attended and suggested a clean up of the area and a clean out of pipes. This will progress asap. Another officer will assess the bottom bridge and see if they can repair. There may be the opportunity for some joint work between SBC and the CC. Discussed water running down from A1 at Abbey road end, the village and Tollview towards the pinch point at the garage, and officer has said there is a plan to remedy this which is largely due to drain blockage. SH’s new role may assist here.</p> <p><b>7.2 Community Development Facilitator (CDF) report</b> – JS had prepared a report of her activities and future actions. This had been circulated prior to the meeting. JS asked Cllr HL re Berwickshire Area Partnership and the sub group</p>	<p>May</p> <p>Cllr HL</p> <p>April</p>
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	<p>that had been set up to look into improving the application process amongst other items. She said that a consultancy is being brought in to do Place Planning and she wondered whether this created a top down approach when there is enough experience and good practice at grass roots level. Cllr Laing sympathised with this view, but added that many CCs are not as proactive as we are and may need consultancy assistance. JS added that the digital platform we are developing may assist this process and once further work has been done on it, may be available to BAP to utilise.</p>	Cllr HL
7.3	<p><b>Litter on A1</b> – reports from Cove resident re this and also on local roads. Trunk road litter is now the responsibility of Transport Scotland and they will be approached re this. A1 litter is an issue due to recent verge cutting but TS are concerned re public safety of any volunteers. We could however look at getting input from SBC for other roads. SBC have been very good at picking up fly tipping locally and were thanked for this. Wine and beer bottles have also been deposited en masse towards the Bilsdean road from the roundabout. NS will contact Transport Scotland re A1 and SBC as the initial complaint came from Cove resident. Pease Bay road is a problem and Cllr HL will take this forward with SBC. Some A1 litter may be Viridor related. McDonalds wrappers etc also deposited – suggestion that they could be approached for funding for hi viz jackets and litter sticks. KT will ask Torness CNC to keep an eye on this as it is part of their route.</p>	NS Cllr HL KT
11	<p><b>SBC Councillor</b> - 20mph survey has been slightly delayed but will come out soon for engagement (April/May). KT said she had asked that AC be removed from the mailing list on this due to his recent resignation.</p>	
12	<p><b>Community Councillor issues</b></p> <p><b>KT</b> – dog poo again. Facebook post up asking for locations to be identified to pass to SBC re clean up, but there is a need for people to be reported as this may stop this anti social behaviour. Some new signs will be ordered through Cllr Laing, and will take forward the locations for clean up once we have had feedback on this. Two witnesses are required prior to reporting anyone for this. CAT team could be useful here.</p> <p><b>SH</b> – asked Cllr HL re electric car chargers here as other villages in this area now have them. Not sure whether this is an SBC responsibility or is a community responsibility and Cllr Laing will investigate this. JS said that there is government money for these and it will feature in the CAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tractor is now out of warranty and an agreement was made to allow SH to carry out warranty now as SH is time served mechanic. Discussed public liability here but agreed that this was appropriate due to SH’s experience. Services of tractor will be recorded.</li> <li>- Repair and replacement of relevant grit boxes in need of repairs – Cllr HL had received a response from officers saying they would investigate on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, but no further response received. Cllr Laing will progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>NS</b> – has met with officer from SBC re planting of trees at Bankhead. Originally SBC were going to plant donated trees, but Allotments Association is content to do this. KT will liaise with JV re MoP funding.</p> <p><b>KN</b> – approached by Cove visitors re cycle racks to secure their bikes. Cllr Laing will see if this is an SBC responsibility or whether it needs to feature in the CAP. It also fits well with “clean tourism” venture for Cove.</p> <p><b>PH</b> – had recently attended a webinar on Mental Health assistance and social care system integration with the third sector. Consisted of a series of talks from various public and voluntary sector organisations. She reflected that</p>	Cllr HL KT SH Cllr HL Cllr HL Cllr HL April

	<p>there was a lot of support available in the Borders – JF will also be able to direct people to relevant assistance.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p><b>The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm by Zoom. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend all or part of any meetings. Please contact <a href="mailto:jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com">jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com</a> for an invitation to join.</b></p>	
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