

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 14th October at 7pm by Zoom

Minutes

Agenda item		Action
1	Apologies and Attendance: Apologies were received from A Thackray; J Virtue; S Hay and K Nelson (Treas). In attendance were P Hood (Chair); N Simpson (Vice Chair); K Tulloch (Secy); J Fairbairn; M Black; D Bouchard; A Cockerell; S Fletcher; J Sutton (CDF); Cllr H Laing (SBC) and one member of the public.	
2	Police Report: Not yet to hand as Police Scotland now have new procedure.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meetings: Minutes agreed from August, September and the extra-ordinary meeting on 23 rd Sept. AC commented that he had not seen the 23/9 minutes and KT will forward same.	KT
4	Matters Arising:	
4.1	Co-option of Rev Suzanne Fletcher, The Manse, Cockburnspath, Electoral Roll number 77.000 7A. This was unanimously agreed and Rev Fletcher is hereby co-opted for expertise to Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council. Proposed M Black, seconded P Hood. KT will inform SBC.	KT
6.1	Taken early – Planning Application for The Ramparts, Cockburnspath. (20/01152/FUL) A member of the public was present to speak to this application as a neighbour and objector. He raised issues around archaeology, impact on neighbours, potential for multiple use/commercial use and felt that the proposal was not in keeping with the surrounding area nor housing stock. He owns the driveway to the plot and will not allow multiple occupancy or commercial use of his access. He is making his views known to SBC as an individual. PH said that some other neighbours did not object to the application but member of public indicated that this has been retracted due to proximity to her garden and interruption of light and impact on neighbour’s privacy. The land occupies the site of the old fort called the Ramparts, so an archaeological trench had previously been dug to ensure there were no historical artefacts. Some indications of underground history, but nothing to prevent building. Cllr HL said that an archaeology opinion would be sought as a statutory consultee to the application. The application would require the demolition of the existing “Ramparts” house and this wasn’t very clear from the application. Suspicions that it may be bed and breakfast/hotel/holiday lets which again is not apparent from the application and may require separate licensing. Cllr HL said that objections would come in front of the PC in due course and would be rigorously examined. Also concerned re whether the proposal would be in keeping with other homes in the area. Ground level will be increased to accommodate an underground car park. Comments are required by 27 th October, and KT will contact Planners with our concerns. She has also contacted a member of the public who currently rents a home nearby.	KT
6.2	Shop front removal and return to previous frontage, The Square, Cockburnspath (20/01184/FUL) Application had been received to remove the old shop frontage in the Square, and replace it with window/stone frontage returning it to previous state. No objections and it was felt plans were sympathetic to the nature of the conservation status of the village Square. One question asked re car parking on frontage but it was felt that this would not present an objection. KT to contact planners with views.	KT

4.2	<p>Cove litter solutions: NS spoke to this – less rubbish at this time of year although still visitors present. Bin operators are good, and understand the issue and there has been sufficient bin emptying recently. Recent emergency response today had highlighted the difficulty of emergency vehicle access to the harbour and the time taken up for emergency services which are scant on the ground! Litter issues at Cove will be monitored and it remains the case that larger bins would be welcomed to cope with large influx of visitors during the summer.</p>	NS
4.3	<p>20mph speed limit: Cllr HL said it was a blanket change for all 30mph limits which will now be 20. MB asked why 20mph limit hadn't been extended to Tollview and the response was that it was a 40mph limit there so didn't qualify under this 12 month trial. Cllr HL will contact Officer. Additional signage requested for the top end (Hoprig) of village as there is one at the edge of Hoprig Park, then nothing until the Square on opposite side. Cllr HL will also add this. Adequate warning signs are in place at entrances to the village however, but Coldingham has many such signs and there may be a case for more here. Cove traffic management information gained is "adequate" for SBC's purpose but Cove has no 20mph signs as there were previously no 30mph ones, so some are required there. Again, Cllr HL will highlight this to Officers and it is hoped that once the 12 month trial period is up, further "street architecture" may be added for permanent 20mph areas.</p>	Cllr HL Cllr HL Cllr HL
9	<p>Taken early as to do with parking etc – parking on Hoprig Road adjacent to Square. A member of the public had contacted MP regarding cars parked opposite Hay Terrace, adjacent to the Square. These vehicles have effectively narrowed the highway at this point and twice recently, vehicles have been unable to pass. Owners have been asked to move vehicles by drivers, but were apparently met with resistance. SBC response to MP indicated that they may consider yellow lines on one side of this area and Cllr HL will take this forward despite there being no TROs which will need to be arranged.</p>	Cllr HL
4.4	<p>COVID update – recent and local resurgence in COVID cases – October newsletter contains details of local response and assistance available. Fareshare may restart deliveries of goods and this is being investigated with ReTweed. PH asked whether there was information available regarding those most vulnerable in our community but this becomes difficult under DPA and confidentiality. Particular difficulties in our area due to liaison with GPs and Councils, as many here are registered with East Lothian rather than Borders GPs. Some people have recently come forward who we weren't aware of and who have real needs and are socially isolated. SF said that we should "map" the area for those in potential need and whilst most people will indicate a need, there are some who won't. Recognised the social isolation factor and effects on mental health and the need to address this as possible. JS suggested a "resilience package" within the newsletter which highlighted help available, including a "hardship" component. It was recognised that the end of the CJRS scheme may create further hardship locally. WhatsApp groups continue in both Cove and Co'path.</p>	All JS/KT
4.5	<p>Co'path shop update: Weekly Zoom meetings continue and discussions ongoing with Community Shares Scotland consultant re share offer. Prospectus for door to door delivery being developed and it is hoped to have this distributed by end Oct. The Website and Facebook page should also be finalised around the same time and minutes will be posted there. Modular build order by next week probably but there is still no news from Aikengall</p>	

	<p>regarding the funding situation, which is disappointing. The Shop Team need just over £28k to secure the order and it will be possible, if necessary to release this from general wind farm monies until the Aikengall monies are approved by Community Windpower. AC said that access to the groundworking site may have to be restricted fairly soon due to construction work, and this will involve liaison with the primary school and appropriate health and safety put in place with restricted public access. Community Windpower (Aikengall) have offered assistance with site preparation and safety advice on site. Should this not occur, it may be necessary to instruct a separate contractor to advise on safety. Funding applications have gone to five further organisations – no feedback yet. The Shop Team are preparing a separate newsletter for this which will be delivered with the October community newsletter to all households.</p>	KN for info
4.6	<p>AGM/future elections: Next January, the current CC members will stand down, and there are 3 vacancies created by DB and AT, with KT's voting membership still being vacant. Interest from the 2 co-opted members (AC and SF) who would stand for election plus two further members of the public. SF said that she was willing to remain co-opted as her remit will be easier to fulfil in this capacity. PH and KN, although standing down as Chair and Treasurer respectively, are willing to stay on as CC members. Notices to go on notice boards requesting any further members of the public who may be interested in standing to go on boards in November. PH mentioned that the Village Hall Committee are also requiring new members.</p>	KT
4.7	<p>Information to wind farm applicants – held over until November meeting.</p>	Nov
5	<p>Correspondence: (circulated and specific items mentioned as below)</p>	
5.1	<p>Locality care project – JS spoke to this re meeting with SBC, involving several members of the public, herself, SF and MB. Need a mapping exercise re potential need and volunteers/skill set. Various pots of money to support this project which will be piloted in Co'path and Cove. PH raised the "Catalyst for Change" fund which seemed ideal as it was for nurse led improvement to health for marginalised groups. JS will investigate (email of 29th Sept). KT said she was an assessor/verifier for SVQs at all levels and added that JF had expertise in mental health care. Again, stats offered by SBC depend on GP registration, which doesn't always reflect the picture in Co'path and Cove due to some registration with East Lothian GPs. Also discussed Borders NHS response to flu vaccination which had been difficult locally for the same reason. Emphasis would be on local people providing health and care.</p>	JS
5.4	<p>A1 traffic group – KT has said that we would be willing to join the action group and SF said she would be willing to act as liaison for us in this context. She will speak to East Lammermuir CC re this and will feed back.</p>	SF
5.8/5.9	<p>Asset transfer and Food growing strategy consultations – NS has completed the community empowerment survey. <i>[Has anyone completed food growing consultation?]</i></p>	NS?
5.10	<p>Training for Community Councils: Acknowledged some BAF contributions re office bearers and from other CCs. Discussed potential need in terms of planning issues/Local development plans etc – Cllr HL will liaise with planners. An online update may be appropriate and she highlighted that there is a need for CCs to validate their responses with reference to LDP. Cllr HL said that the new Local Development Plan has now gone through Council so will be available for public consultation soon. AC said that it was a very important document and deserved full consideration. Also discussed</p>	Cllr HL

<p>5.6 Addition</p>	<p>training on how the Council works/who's who etc. Cllr Laing will feed these ideas back to SBC. Cllr HL and PH commented that there was potentially a need to train CCs on how to gather views from the community. Community Engagement has been increased by newsletters and it may be an idea to add other CC members contact details to these. These will hopefully continue after COVID.</p> <p>Planning for Real also discussed and JS had contacted owner re this. KT will take this forward as there may be other tools available to pursue Pfr and community engagement towards an action plan.</p> <p>Bench plaque – provisionally “ceremony” on 29th Oct restrictions allowing, and time to be arranged to place the bench in memory of John Hubball.</p> <p>BAVS application re Berwickshire Wheels – Additional item as funding application had just been received. No figures re how Berwickshire Wheels was used within Co'path and Cove however. PH said that we could potentially provide volunteers and a vehicle here to be co-ordinated centrally by BAVS. JS said that with the pilot in social care here, this may positively impact on usage locally. PH said that payment for the round trips involved from Duns could be prohibitive for some. £31,837 is required with applications to other funders, to run Berwickshire Wheels per annum. KT asked Cllr Laing whether SBC funding, which is due to finish in December, was likely to continue after December. She will request this information. AC said that it would be good to have a representative from BAVS to answer questions, and JS said that perhaps the model should be challenged and research carried out into alternatives. The cost of using Berwickshire Wheels can mean that those most marginalised are deterred from using the service, particular where it is a “single use” journey and no cost sharing, more necessary now with COVID. Perspex screens were now being considered within minibuses to allow more than one user at a time. KT said there were two fundamental changes to the application ie this was now a Berwickshire Wheels specific one, and services were moving towards users rather than taking them to services. Most people were unaware of any regular current users of the service here. SF agreed that there may be a need to explore a model where we were partners in a community transport system to enable us to provide a more tailored local service. Decision to hold this over for a further week and JS asked for the application to be forwarded to her. KT will do this.</p> <p>7 SBCCN/BAF – all forwarded and no comments.</p> <p>8 SBC Councillor feedback – Cllr Laing had already commented on NHS Borders flu vaccinations programme issues, and the forthcoming consultation on the Local Development Plan. She added that the Council meeting last month has agreed that they are now officially in a Climate Emergency and further reports are being prepared as to how to take this challenge forward.</p> <p>9 Community Councillors: DB – notice boards – has old notice board from Old Cambus for repair and this will be available for use. PH said there may be a need for one at Hoprigshiels area. AC and KT said that there may be the potential to donate to the allotments and/or shop, and there is also still the wooden one from the Square, currently stored in the container, which with some refurb could be repurposed. MB – Bus from Dunbar at 9am is now bypassing Cockburnspath. Discussed at length and agreed that Borders Buses were a very commercially orientated</p>	<p>Cllr HL</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>KT</p> <p>Cllr HL</p> <p>21/10 KT</p>
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<p>10</p>	<p>business based purely on passenger usage in the current circumstances. We can only provide anecdotal evidence to support retaining the stop in Cockburnspath, whereas they can provide accurate objective figures. KT will try to get a further response from Borders Buses re the inclusion of Co'path again as it presents little deviation to their journey. <i>[Perhaps a request stop may be a solution?]</i></p> <p>NS – Recommended watching the Secret Life of Landfill on iplayer (BBC) which was largely filmed at the landfill site in Dunbar as it was a real environmental issue.</p> <p>AC – proposed an asset list of what belonged to the Community Council and PH asked why this would be needed. He also asked about the need to recruit someone to manage the CC website – SF will ask a member of the public.</p> <p>JS – sought clarification over whether the Local Development was specific to Berwickshire, or SBC. It was clarified that this covered all of Scottish Borders.</p> <p>KT – ReTweed are running a course (sewing and crafts) in Church hall starting 5th November during the day for 5 Thursdays. Aimed at women with confidence issues and learning new skills. PH will print off posters for notice boards – KT to send. Only 4 places due to COVID.</p> <p>KT – village handyman should probably go back on the agenda as there is a need to formalise this for job creation and develop a job description. Will need to be advertised. Would have to be freelance and funded through wind farm monies. To discuss at more length later in the year.</p> <p>KT – clarified that minutes would go on to boards if no comments after one week.</p> <p>AOCB – The Community Council agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Council members AT, PH, KT, SH, JV (by letter), NS, DB, JF, MB, AC, SF, KN.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the Community Council will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 11th November at 7pm.</p> <p>Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend all or part of the meetings, however an online connection is required. Please email jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com for an invitation to join.</p>	<p>KT</p> <p>SF</p> <p>KT/PH</p> <p>Nov</p>
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