

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting 8th September 2021 at 7pm by Zoom

Minutes

Agenda item no.		Action
<p align="center">1</p> <p align="center">2</p> <p align="center">3</p> <p align="center">4</p> <p align="center">5</p> <p align="center">6</p> <p align="center">7</p> <p align="center">8</p> <p align="center">9</p> <p align="center">1</p> <p align="center">2</p>	<p>Post Election Meeting</p> <p>Welcome and Introduction: The meeting was opened by Councillor Helen Laing (SBC). She welcomed the new Community Council members indicating that they had been successful via an uncontested election, and discussed the order of business.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence: Apologies had been received from J Virtue; J Fairbairn; L Smith Sheerin; S Hay and Cllr Carol Hamilton. In attendance were: P Hood; N Simpson; K Nelson; R Laird; S Kennedy; S Fletcher; K Tulloch; M Given; Cllr H Laing; J Sutton (CDF) and one member of the public.</p> <p>Order of business: Cllr Laing explained that election of new Chair was required then election of office bearers would follow. This was agreed.</p> <p>Declaration of Interests: None received.</p> <p>Membership of new Community Council post uncontested election: Pauline Hood; Neil Simpson; Scott Hay; Karen Nelson; Rosemary Laird; Scott Kennedy; Jean Fairbairn; Liela Smith Sheerin; Martin Given; Jane (Jean) Virtue.</p> <p>Appointment of Chair: Cllr Laing asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Community Council: Pauline Hood – proposed N Simpson; Seconded K Nelson. No other nominations for Chair were received and Pauline Hood was duly elected.</p> <p>Election of Office Bearers: PH then took over the chair of the meeting.</p> <p>Vice Chair(s) – Rosemary Laird – proposed by P Hood; seconded by N Simpson. Also proposed was Scott Hay – proposed by N Simpson and seconded by M Given. Rosemary and Scott were duly elected as co-vice chairs.</p> <p>Secretary – no community councillors were willing to stand for this position – see co-options in later minutes.</p> <p>Treasurer – K Nelson – proposed P Hood; seconded R Laird. No other nominations were received and Karen Nelson was duly elected.</p> <p>The post election meeting ended and the main meeting of the CC then took place.</p> <p>Apologies and Attendance – as above</p> <p>Co-options to the Community Council: (see agenda for Electoral Roll Numbers) K Tulloch – Secretary F Marshall; B Whiteman and C Morrison all co-opted to assist with grass cutting and use of community council equipment for this. This covers them under the CC insurance. Rev S Fletcher – expertise and pastoral advice. All of the above are hereby co-opted to Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council. None of the above will have voting rights.</p>	

3	<p>Police Reports – none received. KT said she had enquired why these had stopped and Police Scotland are investigating and will feed back. Torness Police continue to update via facebook and messages and will attend meetings once they resume in person.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – the minutes of 14th July 2021 were approved as correct and signed by Chair.</p>	
5	<p>Agreement of Agenda – this was agreed by all</p>	
6	<p>Code of Conduct and Constitution – all members had received copies of both the constitution and code of conduct and have agreed to abide by these.</p>	
Addn items	<p>Changes to Church buildings – as per recent newsletter, Rev SF gave an outline of the intended sale of Oldhamstocks and Innerwick churches, with the retention of Co’path Church and Church Hall. She said that the Church could look favourably on community asset transfer and there is the potential to create new spaces for community use.</p>	
7 Addn item	<p>Matters Arising Playpark: MoP raised the issue of the playpark and wished to see improved fencing to keep children away from the road. He had spoken to Community Windpower who said that such funding would have to come through the CC Aikengall payments. MoP volunteered to assist with such works and had not heard from Chair of Village Hall regarding progress on the playpark refurbishment. PH explained the processes which had occurred already and the inclusion of this in the Village Poll, however, MoP wished to see extended fencing in the short term. PH explained that this is on SBC land and MoP said he has emailed Cllr Laing regarding this. KN explained the processes involved in applying to CWP for funds and highlighted the issue around wind farm monies not being used for SBC responsibilities. PH clarified that SBC permissions would need to be in place and that currently maintenance and upkeep of the playpark fell to them rather than the community. Cllr Laing will ask SBC about temporary fencing on the grounds of child safety and feedback, and said that there may be some funding from SBC in the future once current programmes had been completed. In the meantime, MoP will price cost of wood etc and present a plan to the CC. NS suggested that he, SH and MoP look at the area and come back to the CC whilst Cllr Laing progresses this with SBC.</p>	Cllr HL NS/SH MoP
7.1	<p>Pease Bay proposed extension – KT advised that the Planning Officer (PO) had given agents until 17th Sept to respond to the public and CC objections to this. Due to the level of objections, it is likely that it will go in front of Planning and Building Standards Committee. No updates on any other current planning applications are available at this point. See Planning below.</p>	
7.2	<p>Village Poll update – had been circulated and was progressing well.</p>	
9.2	<p>Planning application 21/01347/MOD75 was briefly discussed at this point as a MoP had attended to hear about this. Planning Officer had confirmed it would not be normal for either the CC or MoPs to comment at this stage, but if and when an application was made in relation to development of subsequently “untied” fields at Townhead Farm, this would be put in front of the CC and neighbours for comments.</p>	

7.3	<p>Foodbank Accounts – JS spoke to her report which had been already circulated and confirmed that there remained a balance of £50 in these accounts. However, SF confirmed that there was a floor cleaning invoice pending amounting to £180 including VAT. KN said that the balance to ensure floor cleaning was paid, could potentially come from Penmanshiel “emergency funds” and will investigate whether the balance (£130 including VAT) could be taken from Penmanshiel funds. SF will forward invoice to KN for floor cleaning, asap.</p>	KN
7.4	<p>CDF role and expenses/sub group - Not discussed. Cf October</p>	Oct 21
7.5	<p>Wind farm benefits – the way forward: PH set the background to this explaining that wind farm benefits could be managed by an organisation such as Foundation Scotland. Currently, our wind farm benefits are largely managed by the CC and this involves a great deal of work particularly for the Treasurer. She highlighted the potential for competing funding interests and larger projects, post Village Poll, and the need for a greater degree of fiscal and business scrutiny, which PH felt the CC members didn’t have. RL had been discussing outsourcing/employing Foundation Scotland (FS) with another Community Council (Old Luce) who have already employed FS for this purpose, to get their impartial view on how this had worked for them. She fed back on that conversation – Old Luce felt it had been a very positive move and the involvement of FS worked well for them. Old Luce Chair was very enthusiastic about the move to FS. Their funding panel meet x4 a year with 2 CC members sitting on that panel. RL asked how other members of the panel had been recruited – they had been hand picked for expertise and stood for a 4 year period. Their experience was that the funding panel work was not onerous as FS had already carried out due diligence on each application and made recommendations, at times with conditions. Old Luce approve small applications – in their case up to £500 but we could set our own limits on this. RL has asked Chair of Old Luce whether he could take part in a quick Zoom meeting if this is what the CC wished to see happen. KN explained the background to the Treasurer’s role and how it had now expanded to managing funds from 7 windfarms with varying requirements and agreements, and was a huge job. She confirmed that annual w/f income currently amounts to around £100k per annum. The management of this is very different to the usual CC Treasurer role where only the CC account (£630 pa) was managed. She reiterated that she feels the CC need professional help with this money. PH said that we could retain some of the very flexible wind farm monies eg Hoprigshiels and Ferneylea for smaller projects to be decided by the CC. NS said that FS could be used for varying degrees and can invest the CC funds rather than them being in a bank account. He felt this was definitely necessary. KN said that the CC had agreed in July to take our requirements to FS for a quote, and asked if that was still the position. PH said that even if we decided to go with FS to manage the benefits, we still had to negotiate with each and every wind farm as to whether this was acceptable. MoP said that there may be issues with Aikengall – they may need some convincing - KN asked if someone has spoken to them already, as this hadn’t come from the CC. RL will arrange a short Zoom meeting with Old Luce in the meantime. NS said this shouldn’t be</p>	

	<p>term future should SBC wish to shut the toilets. PH asked if there would be an opportunity to transfer the asset from the Council to the Community and this is potentially possible. However, the CC felt that this decision was premature, and it was agreed it would be a huge commitment. Cllr Laing said that the toilet provision did not fall under a statutory responsibility/obligation so wind farm monies should be available. J Hedley is the relevant officer to contact and it was agreed that any decision should be deferred until after October. NS mentioned visitor numbers in Cove and that having no toilets was a problem from a public health problem. Cf Oct</p>	<p>October</p> <p>October</p>
7.10	<p>Coldingham Surgery – a unanimous decision has been made by NHS Borders to close the satellite surgery at Coldingham. Some positive comments were made however - discussion locally would take place around the potential for the community to utilise the surgery as a wellness centre. A community group could be brought together, after an impact assessment from NHS Borders, and the group could then assess the potential for a community take over of the premises. JS said that the arguments for closure were not as transparent on the patient letter as they could be, and the main issue was around recruitment and retention of GPs to the area.</p>	
7.11	<p>Eastern Link – DB held a meeting around this and DB indicated he was still happy to act as a liaison on this. DB has circulated his report.</p>	
7.12	<p>Clarification under CC Review Scheme – the meeting has not yet taken place and Cllr HL will feed back on this once it has.</p>	Cllr HL
7.13	<p>20 mph scheme and potential buffer zone – KT had been in correspondence with SBC Officer who had indicated a willingness to look at a 40 mph buffer zone to the 20 mph zone to the south approach to Co'path. She has sent relevant information and will feed back in due course.</p>	KT
7.14	<p>No Cold Calling Zone – new door stickers had been requested from Police Scotland – KT is facilitating.</p>	KT
7.15	<p>Cove under pass lighting – has now been repaired but supply still to be handed to SBC from Bear.</p>	
7.16	<p>Litter pick – SH had mentioned that there was increased litter around the shop and playpark and would like litter picking equipment and volunteers. KT has officer name for equipment. Cf Oct when SF available.</p>	KT/SF
9	<p>Planning:</p>	
9.1	<p>21/01326/SCR – extraction works at Neuk Farm – discussed in outline – KT explained it was to extract useable materials and return the site to its current state. The only comments were about transporting excavated materials through the village and it was felt valid to ask them to do this. KT to respond.</p>	KT
9.2	<p>Section 75 – see above</p>	
9.3	<p>21/01314/FUL – no objections received – KT will inform SBC.</p>	KT
9.4	<p>21/01448/FUL – work to railway embankment. (Network Rail) Unfortunately this will impact on garage field and also allotments. Compensation is being offered and NS said that work would take around 13 weeks. There will be some impact on planting and a hedge planting programme is being agreed with Network Rail. Compensation looks to be in the region of £13k. NS said there is no point in the CC</p>	

	<p>objecting or commenting on this application as he feels it is in hand and negotiations are amiable. A slight delay of 3 weeks has been encountered due to COP26.</p> <p>PH asked if there was any further news about 21/00513/FUL (garage relocation) and there are still some technical issues to be worked through. Members of the public have been asking re this.</p> <p>Verdant Leisure has sold their controlling interest on to another company but this will probably have no effect on their planning application.</p>	
8	<p>Wind farm funding application – from JS and KT regarding Village Poll printing etc towards the various phases to complete the Action Plan, alongside newsletter production. KT said we were still awaiting costs from Lothian Printers for cost of a “concertina” type document and this will affect the final costs. It was therefore agreed in principle to award £1500 for all printing works and newsletters, subject to final costings being made available. KT/JS will come back with precise figures.</p> <p>PH said that newsletters should continue each month, and the proposal is to continue until around Jan 22 then reduce to every 2 months. KN said that some of this money could come from the Community Council fund, but it is not high enough to pay for all the distribution and printing costs so a split in funding allocation will be required.</p>	<p>KT/JS October</p> <p>October</p>
10	<p>SBCCN/BAP – JS has been attending and minutes are available. PH asked if a separate report from JS on her view of proceedings would be warranted. JS didn’t think there was anything that she could add to the minutes.</p>	
11	<p>SBC Cllr update – Cllr Laing said that the Placemaking Framework Update happened at the last SBC meeting, and said that all of the principles of Placemaking were already taking place in Co’path and Cove via the Village Poll with plans being made from “the bottom up”. Cllr Laing had promoted our work to SBC Chief Exec recently. She advised that members should have a look at the report which is available on the Council website. She emphasised the role of the community and community councils. SBC are looking at town centre indexes of deprivation but there is little information on smaller rural community’s deprivation indexes and she felt that Co’path and Cove could benefit from funding and were well placed to comment.</p>	All CC Members
12	<p>Community Councillor updates</p> <p>NS – newsletter – asked if we were struggling to get content. JS said she was happy to take content subject to editing re space.</p> <p>KT added that the next newsletter would focus on sustainability with links and contact points – this was the basis on which KT had been asking for clarification on Aikengall’s requirements re private individual applications. KT and PH clarified the requirements for these funds, and it was agreed that Community Windpower should be contacted for advice on newsletter content. PH said there was increasing emphasis on green projects within developer aspirations and funding.</p> <p>KN – proposed that a meeting with CWP be arranged, out of courtesy as CWP now seemed to be aware that we were considering FS contract in the future. It was agreed that KT would send an email about information for newsletter and include an invitation to have a zoom call with KN, KT and potentially RL as the new vice chair. This was agreed.</p>	KT

	<p>KT to email. KN also said that we need clarification about monies spent out of our ring fenced £20k held by Be Green.</p> <p>KN – re £500 pot for vulnerable people who may need cash during the pandemic. This has now been paid back into the bank.</p> <p>SF – meeting regarding church changes on Sunday 12th Sept at 2pm in Oldhamstocks Church which all were encouraged to attend.</p> <p>SK – asked about electronic speed signage on entrances to communities and KT explained that the buffer zone will hopefully be extended. Electronic signage has been popular on the village poll and this information will be fed back to SBC – street architecture will be considered once the 20 mph trial is completing.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 13th October, either by Zoom or in person at the Village Hall. Confirmation will follow according to advice from SBC.</p> <p>Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend all or part of any Community Council meeting.</p>	<p>All</p>
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