

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 13th April, 2022

in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Minutes

1. Apologies and Attendance

Apologies were received from C. Morrison, S. Kennedy, S. Boyd (CNC), C. Hamilton (Cllr.), J. Fullarton (Cllr.)

In Attendance were: P. Hood (Chair), R. Laird (Co. Vice Chair), S. Hay (Co Vice Chair), J. Fairbairn, M. Given, H. Laing (Cllr.), J. Virtue, J. Sutton (CDF), K. Nelson (Treasurer), S. Fletcher (from 8.15pm), 3 Members of the Public

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved.

At this point in the meeting, and as it was Councillor Laing's last meeting the Chair took the opportunity to thank her for being a valuable member of our Council and for all the hard work she has done on our behalf.

3. Actions

Reviewed. See separate Table

4. Police Reports

Nothing to report

5. Recruitment

With the Community Action Plan coming to fruition much thought has been given to how this report is going to be shared with the Community. There will be copies of the document in various places in the Village, i.e. Village Hall, Shop, etc. Thoughts have turned to having a "launch day" entitled "Jump Start". The idea is that we invite all the activities groups to the Village Hall, e.g. the CC, CAP, the Bowling Club, the Wednesday Group, Guides/Brownies, School, Church etc. and allocate them a space where people come along and talk to the different groups with a view to getting them interested in joining. This would be one chance of recruiting people onto the Community Council. It would also give people the opportunity to talk through the CAP. They could ask about projects they were particularly interested in.

PH stated that we would all need to get involved and get people to come along. The date of Sunday, 15th May was decided on. A start time of around 2.00pm and we would provide tea, coffee, cake and perhaps wine and cheese in the evening.

Action – JS to start working on this

All – Start speaking to people and get them to come along and support "Jump Start".

6. SBC Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

7. Caretaker Update

SH has completed the Contract of Employment for the Caretaker for the next three years. This was given to the Chair to sign. He has given his expenses to the Treasurer. Last year expenses totalled £1,517 which was made up of mostly fuel. He will be focussing on 3 major projects this year i.e. Entrance to the Village both north and south, the Cove frontage and the nature trail at the top of Crofts Acre.

CDF Report

JS said she is sending a leaflet about CAP out at the same time as the May Newsletter. She is looking for items for the newsletter ASAP. She will include a piece about the Dunglass 2 Day Study Conference.

She talked about the Workshop that is being run "Repair and Renewal". She has provisionally booked places on this. She asked Scott if he was interested in attending. The Wellness Project has kicked off with a very successful Wellness Café on 6th April. Another one is planned for Wednesday, 11th May.

A Ladies Night is being held in the Village Hall

A Bereavement Group is being set up and there is an information night on 4th May for anyone who may be interested in this.

Jubilee Activities

1st June – Jubilee Café in the Village Hall

5th June – Picnic in the Park. Bring your own picnic and join in the fun. Outdoor games.

At the School there will be a display showing "The Queen's Reign through the Decades". Volunteers including the Guides will be interviewing local people who wish to share their stories of past jubilees.

CC Chair Update

PH attended the Placemaking Workshop

She will be attending the SBCCC Network AGM tomorrow night (14th) by zoom.

There is a new Community Council Constitution on its way.

As part of the March newsletter from Ability Borders they are seeking volunteers for their Community Connectors Project who would be happy to help someone in the local community who needs a point of contact for their care alarm provider. PH asked that this be put on noticeboards.

An e-mail about a Job Creation Fund was circulated to everyone previously. This may of interest to the Caretaker.

There is a new Community Engagement Office – James Purvis.

CC Vice Chair Update

RL reported that she had attended the Torness Local Liaison Committee on 17th March 2022. She made the CC aware that Torness will be holding its Statutory Outage this year in May and this will last for a period of 10 weeks.

CC Treasurer Update

Wellbeing Project

The CC will soon receive £31,835 to finance the project. This money will be managed by Jennie and the steering group including reports to TSDG, the body that awarded the funds.

End of Financial Year

KN has a meeting with a local book keeper at the end of the month to talk through Treasurer activities and what support service they might offer for end of year sign off and perhaps managing the account(s) going forward.

Bank accounts

After the visit to the book keeper she will look to update the bank accounts for the new signatory replacing Kate and look at options to change the accounts for either telephone or online transactions.

Foundation Scotland

KN has a couple of queries from FS which she will action as soon as she can.

Be Green

The CC meeting is still outstanding. She has kept Be Green up to date and said we do not expect any change in contract with Aikengall (if that is required) in the next few months. She suggested that RL organise the meeting of the CC to discuss our suggestions on managing the funds. If we can agree these we can continue for a few months and monitor the situation. Janice is kindly still monitoring the individual applications.

Memorial Benches at Cove

Discussions progressing well regarding the benches although not quite finalised. Neil Simpson and KN are managing it.

The expectation is that the benches themselves will be paid for by family and friends. The hope is that Caretaker work to prepare the ground and support installation will be a secured with a funding application to the CC. This is currently being costed.

8. Planning Updates

Some time ago planning permission was sought for two 4 bedroom houses on land at Old Cambus. Permission wasn't granted and subsequently there has been an appeal. SK, KT, PH and residents of Old Cambus had a meeting and outlined their objections which have now been registered with SBC.

PH updated the CC on an application made by the Eastern Link Project who are proposing to put an overhead electrical cable across the A1 just north of Torness. This appears to have been an oversight on their part.

22/00287/FUL | Change of use of agricultural land and erection of stable block and formation of riding arena | Land North East of The Oaks Townhead Cockburnspath Scottish Borders

The Community Council did not wish to make comment.

21/01545/FUL | Erection of dwellinghouse with garage | Land South Of The Old Smiddy Cockburnspath Scottish Borders

Now approved following discussions with the Planning Officer and some changes being applied to the plans.

9. Correspondence

Funding application and associated documentation from the Group "Rediscovering Dunglass".

We were joined by three members of the above Group who have submitted an application for funding from the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund. They gave a presentation to the CC. They are proposing to hold a Conference with the aim of increasing awareness of the historical importance of Dunglass and to expand the current level of knowledge of the diverse elements of the overall "Dunglass Story". This is being jointly organised by Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage Group, the Architectural Heritage Society for Scotland and the Berwickshire Naturalists Club. It is to be held in Dunglass Stables and will be over 2 days 13th and 14th July. There will be a number of speakers and Tours. They are anticipating 100 people attending. A provisional budget was handed round. This was discussed. The Group are seeking funding from various sources. At this point the three members left the meeting and the CC then discussed the funding application. After much discussion the CC were in agreement that we should support this. Therefore the decision was taken that we would provide £2,500 from the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund with two conditions. 1. That a Bank Account is set up and 2. They complete the set-up of their Trust. The Council will also help to advertise the Conference by putting posters up and advertising on Facebook, etc.

Action PH to reply with the decision made by the CC.

An e-mail was received from the Duns Players. They are in the process of raising funds for their next project and asked if they might be considered eligible for funding from the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. A discussion with the CC then took place and the decision was taken that we would be happy to support them but would require a completed application form. PH agreed to e-mail this out.

Action PH to send out form.

A letter was received from the 1st Dunglass Guides thanking the CC for providing funds for them to make a trip to the ski centre in Glasgow.

A letter was received from SBC Chief Executive, thanking all for the vital part played during the pandemic.

10. AOB

MG asked that due to the large numbers of people using the Southern Upland Way now that a sign is erected between Cove Farm Cottages and the Village advertising the shop facilities.

Action RL to speak to the Shop about erecting signs.