

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 7pm in  
Cockburnspath Village Hall.**

**Minutes**

| <b>Item number</b>  |  | <b>Action</b>                      |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Addn Item</b></p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p> | <p>The Community Council (CC) were greatly saddened to hear of the recent death of Rosemary Laird, one of our Vice Chairs and someone we were all proud to call a friend. Rosemary worked extremely hard for the CC and was an able and experienced Vice Chair, most recently assisting as part of the “renewables” sub group. The CC will miss her a great deal, and wish to send condolences and sympathy to her family. The funeral is at Melrose Crematorium on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, at 12 noon. Bright clothing please. RIP.</p> <p><b>Apologies and Attendance:</b> In attendance were P Hood (Chair); J Morton (secretary); K Tulloch (minutes); S Hay (vice chair); J Fairbairn; J Virtue; S Fletcher; J Sutton (CDF); N Simpson; S Kennedy; Cllr A Orr plus 9 members of the public in person and one on Zoom. Apologies were received from K Nelson (Treasurer); C Morrison; Cllrs C Hamilton and J Anderson; S Boyd (Torness CNC).</p> <p>A member of the public asked re the availability of a <b>defibrillator for Old Cambus</b> now that the one at Delgany is no longer available. Asked to look at potential positioning of same (external box) and consideration will be given to how this could be funded and maintained.</p> <p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> were agreed as correct and signed. JM thanked KT for doing these. Nobody had any objections regarding voice recording being taken to facilitate minutes.</p> <p><b>CNC Police report</b> had been received, thanks to PC S Boyd. MG asked if Remembrance Day was an open event – yes. CNC Police will attend. Service at Church starts at 10.55 and thereafter a brief service and wreath laying will occur at the War Memorial. MG agreed to take over the role of police liaison with Torness.</p> <p><b>Funding applications</b> – taken first due to members of the public in attendance:</p> <p><b>Football field lighting</b> – SH presented the application on behalf of the Walking Football group, which has been very successful, for external lighting on the field. This will enable them to continue during winter. Currently being held on a Tues night on the football field and had tried to move to Sunday afternoon, but not so well attended. Discussion had also taken place with Sports Scotland, but the group is not in a position to proceed with an application, due to their constraints. Constitution is needed and SH and the group are looking into this. £1500 is benchmarked towards the lights from Wellness Group for 6 portable chargeable lights (stored in the football hut) and a further £2000 is being requested from community benefits. Agreed unanimously, cheque to be made payable to J Sutton for £2000 on condition that the group develop a constitution. SH added that this group was contributing successfully towards physical and mental health of players and spectators. If further grants came through, some of these monies could be repaid, or used for other group purposes. He also added that</p> | <p></p> <p>SK/KT/All</p> <p>MG</p> |

|                   |   |                           |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <p><b>4.2</b></p> | <p>these lights could potentially fit on to pillars if a multi sports area was developed in the future. Action – KN.</p> <p><b>Hallowe’en Children’s Party</b> – an application for £450 had been received from parents to hold a Hallowe’en party for children. Two parents spoke to the application. This will include food, juice, fancy dress and a children’s magic show. Parents will be in attendance throughout so no need for safeguarding. Hoping to get a Parents’ Council set up again, who would lead on such issues in the future. Unanimously agreed from ?micro grants (as unconstituted group) for £450. Action – KN.</p>  | <p>KN</p>                 |
| <p><b>4.3</b></p> | <p><b>EV point grant</b> – the Village Hall are seeking “agreement in principle” for up to £2500 from community benefits, to enable the installation of EV chargers in the Village Hall car park. The application for a grant from Scottish Government (for 75% of cost) had been successful and the hall are seeking the remaining 25% from community benefits. Two chargers at 22kw from one post. An application will follow, should it be likely to be agreed by the CC. Much discussion over whether the VH should contribute to this venture, and KT pointed out that they would be responsible for changes to the hall car park to compensate for loss of spaces. Agreed in principle that the CC would look favourably on such an application, up to £2500. Any further expenses would need to be met by the VH. The CC would also seek clarification within the application of any income which the VH may be received in relation to this installation and whether this could be shared within the community. Briefly discussed the establishment of the Village Hall as a community hub for emergencies under Resilient Communities which would be welcome. JS clarified that the total cost of the chargers would be £7236, with a grant of £5427. An application will be considered at the next CC meeting.</p>  | <p>KN</p> <p>November</p> |
| <p><b>4.4</b></p> | <p><b>Grass cutting/tractor</b> – SH informed the CC that he and NS were looking at renewing the tractor soon in advance of next season. The current tractor is requiring more and more of SH’s time in terms of repairs, and an offer had been received to purchase the tractor for £11000 including the snow plough. Recognised this was a good offer. Cost of new tractor which has a front loader, is just over £17000 and the Allotments Association is prepared to add approx. £3000 to the cost as a front loader would be very beneficial to them, especially in terms of turning compost which is a venture they are exploring and which would benefit the community. This would effectively mean that a new machine could be bought for approx. £3000 from community benefits and SH had received assurance that so long as genuine parts were used, he would be able to carry out servicing requirements thereby cutting costs. It was agreed in principle that community benefits would support the renewal of the tractor, as it wasn’t sensible to continue to spend more of SH’s hours on maintenance etc in the future. There are repairs of greater magnitude anticipated soon. The CC anticipate that the role of the Caretaker will continue after the current 3 year period, due to enthusiastic comments and appreciation from the community. An application will be made in due course.</p> | <p>November</p>           |
| <p><b>4.5</b></p> | <p><b>Wednesday Club application</b> – will be presented at Nov meeting.</p>  | <p>NS/SH<br/>JV</p>       |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 5 | <p><b>Code of Conduct</b> – all members present agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct and signed this document. CM and KN who were absent have still to sign/agree. CM to email KN to indicate he is willing to abide by the code.</p>  | CM/KN                                   |
| 6 | <p><b>Public toilets</b> – Cllr Orr said that public toilet provision was under discussion with SBC. The Council have little funds and may be reviewing these services. Some discussion ensued, and it was agreed that should there be a threat to the public toilets, this would be considered by the CC.</p>   |   |
| 7 | <p><b>Planning</b> – Solar PV panels to Drysdale’s roof have been approved. Townhead riding arena has been approved. Scottish Government Planning documents updating the current planning legislation has been received. Cllr Orr reminded all that as a member of the Planning Committee she cannot take part in discussions re any planning applications.</p>  |   |
| 8 | <p><b>SBC Councillor report</b> – no further information regarding issues raised with Cllr Anderson at Cove. Cllr Anderson has emailed some feedback previously. These involved repair/replacement to restraining wires at the cliff front; poor social care provision in Cove and Cockburnspath etc. JS said she would share the survey of local people needing social care services, with Cllrs. to assist discussions.</p>  | Cllrs JA /AO                            |
| 9 | <p><b>Community Councillor issues</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SF – Bereavement group will start in November for 4 weeks to support people with bereavement. Publicity to follow next week. Will include advice on nutrition, healthcare, legal and financial advice as well as support. SF asked CC members to promote this and refer anyone who may wish to join the group.</li> <li>- JS – Cosy Café will start in village hall in 2 weeks, and funding is available through Wellness to look at improvements to the café area. The café will supply food / hot drinks etc at no cost, although donations may be made. Resources to assist people with the current energy etc crisis will also be available.</li> <li>- JS/SH – the Playpark group wishes to lease the current playpark from SBC and regenerate it. They are asking if public liability insurance could be provided through CC insurance, as in Reston. Discussion followed but there are wider issues regarding potential plans for shop and hall which could affect this land. The shop committee have apparently applied for a ten year planning permission, to retain the shop in its current location. Permanent permission is not apparently possible as the building is temporary in nature.</li> <li>- JS asked Cllr Orr if she had any information regarding food/electricity vouchers. This is currently being considered by SBC (eg Tesco type vouchers) and we will be updated once decision is made.</li> <li>- PH Mercat Cross works – following advice from Cllr Anderson, it was agreed that a “notice of intention to repair” be placed on the Cross for 30 days. This may encourage anyone who owns it or has an interest, to come forward. A further notice would be placed regarding any intention to repair, with dates. Conservator recommendations may be carried out in stages</li> </ul> | <p>All</p> <p>KN/Nov</p> <p>Cllr AO</p> |

|                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
|                                  | <p>rather than all works at once as total costs would be around £17000 including VAT. Recognised it is an important monument to the community. Much discussion around role of Berwickshire Civic Society in the past, and a previous “common good fund” which was later amalgamated into the Marshall Brown Trust. JV sits on this Trust and will investigate whether some contribution to costs may be available from this fund. Cllr Orr will investigate whether it may be possible to provide insurance for the Cross via existing CC insurance and investigate whether there is an instrument that could be used, given that there appears to have been a previous common good fund to re-establish one. Also to add to newsletter.</p>  | <p>KT<br/>JV<br/>Cllr AO<br/>JS/Nov</p> |
| <p><b>10</b><br/><b>10.1</b></p> | <p><b>Community benefits and future management</b><br/><u>Aikengall II contract</u> - PH had sent the addendum to the Aikengall proposed update, by recorded delivery to Community Windpower (CWP) and by email, but as yet, there had been no response. The CC wishes to retain the 2020 executed version of the contract, and apply an addendum regarding the potential to have £25k of the benefits for eco grants, administered by Be Green Dunbar. CWP are currently in breach of contract, to the tune of £50000 in terms of failure to pay benefits due at end of March 2022 and end of Sept 2022. This does not include any backlog monies still held by CWP. Lengthy discussion re this including an explanation of the arbitration clause in the 2020 contract. Cllr Orr said that recent promotional publication read by many, indicates that Aikengall is contributing huge amounts of money locally yet we have not received this year’s benefits. She advocated that MPs/MSPs become involved in this. Recognised that there is a need to ensure recorded delivery letter has been received, especially in light of recent postal strikes. PH to progress in conjunction with her advisors.</p> | <p>PH/Nov</p>                           |
| <p><b>10.2</b></p>               | <p><u>Foundation Scotland</u> – leaflet around the community has been sent out inviting people to the CC meeting tonight, and offering the potential to discuss potential changes with the Chair, or CC members. One person has contacted Chair in agreement with the proposed changes, and a further person spoke to SH asking why the CC was “giving away” control of these monies, which is not the case. PH feels that the CC has advised the community on what they propose to do and should now ask Foundation Scotland to start the process. However, some others felt that a public meeting, with a representative from Foundation Scotland in attendance. Some discussion re encouraging the community to attend such an event by holding it in the Bowling Club with alcohol etc? Consider “advertising” it and inviting comments on website and facebook page. Agreed to ask Foundation Scotland re availability – possibly a Monday evening and consider a public meeting. To include in newsletter.</p>  | <p>PH<br/>JS</p>                        |
| <p><b>10.3</b></p>               | <p><u>Crystal Rig 4</u> – developers are trying to set up a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to discuss various issues, including community benefits, relating to their proposed addition to Crystal Rig. Possibility of a face to face meeting with contact including 2 CC members (SK and PH) and one member of the public (KT). Date to be arranged.</p>  | <p>PH</p>                               |

|                    |   |              |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| <p><b>10.4</b></p> | <p><u>Howpark wind farm</u> – JS will speak to developers regarding the absence of any community benefits from this development. The CC were a statutory consultee to this proposal some years ago.</p>   | <p>JS</p>    |
| <p><b>11</b></p>   | <p><b>AOB:</b></p>  |              |
| <p><b>11.1</b></p> | <p><b>Christmas lights and tree</b> – SH has this in hand. KT has details of previous provider of trees (Cove and Co’path) if required. Agreed that it may be appropriate to recompense a home owner for electricity for the lights this year which come from their personal supply. SF has access to 2 artificial trees if required.</p>   | <p>SH/SF</p> |
| <p><b>11.2</b></p> | <p><b>Open Learning for Community Councillors</b> – has been circulated.</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 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend all or part of any CC meeting.</b></p> |              |