

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Minutes – 14th September 2022, at 7pm in
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

Agenda item		Action
<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>The Chair opened the meeting by extending sympathies to the Royal Family on the death of Queen Elizabeth II and welcomed King Charles III to the throne. She and JV had attended the Proclamation in Eyemouth on Monday 12th September.</p> <p>Apologies and Attendance: In attendance were P Hood (Chair); K Nelson (Treasurer); J Morton (Sec); K Tulloch (minutes); J Virtue; J Sutton (CDF); J Fairbairn; S Fletcher; C Morrison; S Kennedy (in part); Cllr J Anderson; Cllr C Hamilton (in part). Apologies were received from S Hay (Vice Chair); R Laird (Vice Chair) and M Given. A card will be sent to Vice Chair with the CC’s best wishes.</p> <p>Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of June 2022 and August 2022 were accepted and signed off. No meeting in July 2022.</p> <p>Police Reports: None received.</p> <p>Community Councillor reports:</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) <u>Community Windpower (CWP) Aikengall II update:</u> A number of discussions with Be Green Dunbar had taken place, re managing the £25k towards green initiatives allocated to Cockburnspath and Cove. This has now resulted in a proposed updated contract, including the Be Green agreement, but also including some completely revised clauses, from CWP. It adds some concerning clauses including a “claw back” and redistribution clause should CWP feel the CC hold too much money in terms of accumulated funds. The five year review period has also been shortened to annual review. PH had replied to CWP to indicate that there was no consultation (other than re Be Green) on the additional changes and offered to discuss concerns. She suggested Be Green changes can be covered by an addendum to the 2020 original contract. Be Green was meant to have a meeting with CWP earlier this week, and they still hope to move things forward in a positive manner. PH had talked the matter through with 2 people locally who have extensive Scottish legal system experience, as well as a windfarm expert. A suggested addendum has been drafted and will be sent in due course to CWP once finalised. A meeting had been held on Monday 12th Sept and included all voting members of the CC available regarding this issue. PH offered to update co-opted members on SH’s return. PH reminded all that this was still a negotiation and should remain confidential at present, particularly should anyone be in touch with CWP personnel.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii) <u>Foundation Scotland update:</u> Work on the Community Action Plan has been completed and there may be a whole series of applications pending as a result of this. The CC will probably have to look at seed funding for many. The CC do not collectively feel that they have the fiscal expertise to examine</p>	<p>KT</p> <p>PH/Oct</p>

	<p>such larger applications and carry out due diligence. Therefore, an approach was made to Foundation Scotland (FS) to assess whether they would be willing to manage such funds, providing due diligence and at what cost. Failing which an auditor would need to be appointed, at considerable community cost. JM asked for clarification on the matter of Aikengall and FS. It was clarified that there was at present, no intention of including Aikengall benefits in the sum managed by FS. No approach has been made to wind farm developers yet until a decision as to whether to accept the offer from FS has been arrived at. Should the CC accept the contract from FS, decision making would remain with the CC and community, and only the due diligence/fiscal responsibilities would fall to FS who would then make recommendations for acceptance/refusal/any conditions etc. The CC and community may disagree with any such recommendations from FS so retains the final word. PH suggested the CC invite FS to come along and go through some details of the proposed contract. The proposal includes 3 to 4 funding panel meetings per year, comprising some CC members and some MoPs, which is why it is important to retain some funding for smaller items with funding directly in the control of the CC. The other option was a public meeting re this, but it was acknowledged that this may not be of significant interest to attract many in the community and it may be difficult to get the public “up to speed” to effectively engage. PH asked members to consider how to progress this issue. KN added that FS have received all of the CC’s fiscal details and the contracts with various developers, and had suggested an umbrella fund eg “Cockburnspath and Cove Community Fund”. PH returned to the issue with CWP (above) and indicated that CWP were not in agreement with such an approach by FS. KN said that the CC would not put the community benefits from CWP in jeopardy. KN also said that there was a lot of due diligence and transparency needed between the CC and any funding applications, and as there were no members of the public attending CC meetings (unless there were particular issues directly affecting them) she agreed it would be difficult to get the public up to speed on such complicated issues. PH added that separation of financial management and projects was desirable, as it would create a separation in the system which would enable CC involvement in projects in the future. PH and JF already have lengthy experience on a Funding Panel managed by FS. Decision deferred to October meeting.</p> <p>iii) <u>Update re CDF contract</u> (KN): Consensus at last CC meeting was to continue JS’s contract and an integrated community group meeting had been held to agree this with other community organisations. JS and KN have started an application to FS (Kinegar fund) who are broadly in agreement with a contract extension. Agreed that the</p>	<p>All/Oct</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>KN/JS</p>
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<p>4.2</p>	<p>backlog of monies for CDF until Aug 22 would be used until a new application was accepted. In the meantime, KN has issued a payment to JS to enable her to continue her role of 10 hrs / week.</p> <p>Vice Chair's report – not available currently but some items were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) There is a shop AGM on 22nd September at 7pm in Cockburnspath Bowling Club. All were encouraged to attend. ii) Green initiatives applications – in the interim the CC are managing green initiatives on a case-by-case basis via a sub group, under advice from Be Green Dunbar. This will continue until a new contract with Be Green/CWP is agreed and signed. The CC can set their own terms and conditions but are guided by those of Be Green. Sub group include CM, SH and RL. In the interim, KN is covering RL's role. Approved two solar panel applications and one insulation application, and cheques will be paid out once all evidence of completion is in place. A new application had been received, but without paperwork so the applicant will be advised of additional documents required. KT thanked the sub group for approving their application and KN thanked them for their work in assessing and approving the applications. 	<p>All</p> <p>KN</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Treasurer Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Annual CC grant had been approved and KN thanked JM for the minutes regarding agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct by all members, which is a requirement prior to the grant being paid. This grant covers "running the CC" costs. ii) Paid for survey of Mercat Cross (see August minutes) iii) Common Good Fund – Cllr JA will liaise with officers regarding setting up a Common Good Fund (which is not a fund per se but would cover ownership, allow insurance and secure the Cross for the community – it is basically an asset list) and allow the CC to request further funds to maintain the Cross. JV said that she would investigate this, as there may have been a previous Common Good Fund for Cockburnspath and Cove. Cllr JA said that through the SBC investigation leading to establishing a Common Good Fund, Mercat Cross ownership may come to light, and he will progress this. KT added information about planning issues and legislation covering the Cross – if repairs are like for like, no permissions would be required. KT had forward the conservator's report to SBC and had received a list of potential SBC etc funds which may allow some repairs but it is important to establish ownership before repairs and insurance could be considered. 	<p>Cllr JA</p> <p>JV</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p>Caretaker report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Report not due but CM updated that the path at Croftsacre woods had been completed. ii) Bear Scotland works on A1/Thorntonloch – traffic system should be taken down by the end of this week. However, a 2 day traffic system may be needed when drive entrances are 	

<p>4.5</p>	<p>reinstated. Fencing works could be carried out without traffic management.</p> <p>CDF report – no formal one</p> <p>i) Parent group progressing to look at proposal for an after-school club for 2 hrs. A questionnaire is being developed to assess needs and the group intends to assist potential child minders to move their aspirations forward in the future.</p> <p>ii) Bereavement programme starts – reflective service on 6th November at 3pm in Innerwick Church, and the 4 Tuesdays in November will be the new support group workshops. Further publicity will follow. Workshops will involve CAB, GPs and nutritionists etc and include support particularly to people who suffered bereavements during COVID. Will also be looking at end of life planning in the future. At present this is only offered to local area due to funding through the Wellness grant.</p> <p>iii) Support to bowling club to generate income eg dances, events and “pie and a pint” during the winter – ongoing.</p> <p>iv) Village hall looking at café manager through the Wellness grant.</p> <p>v) SF added information re “heating and eating” over the winter – not necessarily a café, but perhaps a “blether”, cup of tea and perhaps a bowl of soup. A name for this is being explored to minimise the impression that this may be “accepting charity” which was an issue during COVID with the foodbank.</p> <p>vi) SF also added that the foodbank is on standby should it be needed. PH said that the food larder initiative was discussed at Area Partnership and a presentation was given by Reston. SF said that we are fortunate that both Dunbar and Eyemouth are willing to help cover our area. There is an issue around competition with the shop however and in Reston, the local shop doesn’t sell food. JM asked about “checking on people” during such crises, and SF said that this can be difficult due to GDPR, PVG and safety and many referrals had previously come through social work departments. Care obviously had to be taken over safeguarding and boundaries of volunteers and vulnerable people.</p> <p>vii) KN reminded all that JS is now doing 10 hrs a week, concentrating on works above contained and prioritised within the Community Action Plan but may be able to get some additional hours via the Wellness grant. It is important to realise that JS cannot move everything forward however, due to the decrease in hours.</p>	<p>SF/JS SF/JS</p> <p>JS/JF VHC</p> <p>SF</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>i) PH had addressed the issue with leaves from trees raised by a MoP last month. She had spoken to landowner to negotiate how to deal with this situation. SF said that the trees in question were not on the Church boundary.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) A notice regarding a Remembrance Fund has been received by PH and circulated to MoPs. SF also has a copy and felt it may benefit the bereavement workshops. Applications have to be in by 22nd September however. iii) Feedback had been received about speed of traffic between Co'path roundabout and the entrance of the Cove road end, making road crossing to the underpass difficult. This is not in the 20mph zone and Cllr Hamilton will take this forward with officers at SBC on behalf of the member of the public. iv) A report from SBC had been received regarding the permanent installation and enforcement of the 20mph limit in existing locations. (Was previously a trial). v) Foundations Scotland had asked for help to assess user friendly digital connections and SK has volunteered for this. 	<p>SF/JS</p> <p>Cllr CH</p> <p>SK</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Planning: SK had submitted a report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Drysdale's have applied for permission to place solar panels on their roof - approved ii) Semi permanent caravans at Old Cambus Quarry (R&K Drysdale). The application has been refused. iii) Land adjacent to Fernrig – application had been approved in 2019 and the CC did not object. Work is paused during the bird nesting season. Conditions appear to be being adhered to. iv) New reception building at Wigwams on Pease Bay road – no objections v) Extension to Pease Bay holiday park – refused. vi) Houses at Old Cambus adjacent to Delgany had been refused. <p>PH mentioned that a MoP who had helped a great deal in planning issues around Old Cambus, had died. Her funeral is on 21st September at 1230 in Dunbar Parish Church, adjacent to the doctor's surgery. The CC extended its condolences to her friends and family.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>SBC Councillor reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cllr Anderson had not managed to get any information regarding the 2 empty houses at Hoprig. A plumber had been on site to rectify an issue with burst pipes within one of the properties, which resulted in no water pressure to two properties at Hoprig Square that share the same water bore hole. However, it is not known who now owns these empty houses, which the CC believe to be without completion certificates and perhaps repossessed - may be owned by a bank or finance company. Cllr JA will try to get further information from SBC. ii) Southern Upland Way (SUW) has apparently been cut, but local residents are concerned that the grass is still very high and there is no direct evidence of cutting. Cllr JA will seek clarification. In relation to the community assisting with cutting, SBC are content with this. SH and NS continue to liaise with Officer at SBC. NS has also asked about a mini digger to level the path which is at an angle around the sea braes (linked to Cove frontage improvements – see 10 below) 	<p>Cllr JA</p> <p>Cllr JA</p> <p>SH/NS</p>

	<p>iii) Cove visit by Councillors – a meeting had taken place and Cllr JA will explore any new issues around car parking restrictions in Cove car park. <i>[Editorial comment: KN has added that she is liaising with Cllr JA regarding some of the additional concerns raised at the meeting, which include social care or lack of in our community; upkeep or lack of for cliff side fence and posts (first reported two years ago); recycling or lack of in the area; road safety improvements – see Cove feedback earlier in 5 iii); lack of indication on Pease Bay road that people may be crossing (national speed limit applies here).]</i></p> <p>iv) Request for signage to Cockburnspath Community Shop on the SUW. Cllr JA can progress this via small grants scheme, once the Shop have agreed any wording etc. Comments were made that signage should be sensitive to the environment. KN and shop to progress with Cllr JA.</p>	<p>Cllr JA</p> <p>Shop/MG Cllr JA/KN</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Area Partnership meeting feedback:</p> <p>i) JS had given a presentation to the Area Partnership re Place Planning and the use of the Village Poll/digital platform here in Co’path and Cove. This was well received and JS was thanked for her work by Cllr JA.</p> <p>ii) PH mentioned a Nurture Policy which will be implemented within schools. Documentation and support/training is now taking place and SBC acknowledged that there had been miscommunication between SBC and schools who were expected to implement this policy. SF added that the school’s Parents Council now had some renewed interest and it was hoped that this would revitalise this group.</p> <p>iii) Cllr JA said that if the community wish to liaise with the head teacher, he can facilitate this. JS to email him.</p> <p>iv) PH has enrolled on BAVS training re Place Making for Communities but cannot now attend. A ticket in PH’s name is available for anyone wishing to attend this free event on Thursday 22nd September, 6-8pm at Eyemouth Community Centre.</p> <p>v) Next Area Partnership meeting is 1st December in Coldstream, and will focus on warm initiatives and NHS provision. PH encouraged people to attend – held at various locations which rotate and expenses can be paid for travel.</p> <p>vi) Where to get help for food in Scottish Borders – a notice will be displayed in noticeboards.</p>	<p>JS/SF Cllr JA</p> <p>JS/KT</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Community Councillors:</p> <p>JV – ordered two wreaths for Remembrance service – two wreaths instead of the normal one, are needed this year. KN will pay JV for this.</p> <p>PH – newsletter included changes to Church of Scotland and closure of two local church buildings. The parish will be retained however.</p> <p>KN – will liaise with CM re people on list for information on green initiatives to ensure they are kept up to date, until further information regarding the contract with Be Green is received. JM to pass on relevant list to ensure everyone who has expressed an interest is kept up to date.</p> <p>PH – Crystal Rig presentation delayed – hopefully now to be held next month. Developer is looking at having a community group representing</p>	<p>KN/JV</p> <p>KN/CM/SH</p> <p>JM</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>all communities affected and this was welcomed. PH said it may be appropriate to renegotiate existing Crystal Rig benefits agreements which are below the accepted norm of £5000 per megawatt installed capacity, and enquire regarding benefits from Crystal Rig 3. SK volunteered to be a part of any community group and later KT indicated interest in joining any group.</p> <p>PH - Community Allotments have an open day on Sat 1st October from 2pm to 4pm and help is needed on 25th September, 10 am to 1pm to identify volunteers and assist with general tidy up / help on the open day. Some refreshments will be provided.</p> <p>Funding applications</p> <p><u>Cove frontage improvements:</u></p> <p>KN had communicated a funding application for improving the frontage at Cove. This is in 2 phases – the initial application is for groundworks and will cost £1368 which includes fencing. However, SBC may agree to repair/replace the edge fencing so amounts may reduce. Cllr JA is exploring potential for SBC to replace fencing, but residents want to ensure that the fencing is appropriate to the area. Approved unanimously – fund to be agreed by KN once final costs are available.</p> <p>Phase 2 is for benches placed on carved creels with a stone statue of a fishermen, by Gardner Malloy. Consultation had taken place with all local residents. SK asked about “crowding” of the site, and KN reassured him that new proposals would not overshadow the existing “Wives and Bairns” sculpture already in place. Almost half of the cost of phase 2 has already been raised. Agreement in principle was sought, subject to final costs. Costs are in the region of £7000 with at least £3080 already raised and an agreement in principle was achieved. To follow up once final costs are available.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall.</p> <p>Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend any meetings either in part or in whole.</p>	<p>SK/KT/PH</p> <p>All</p> <p>Oct/KN</p>
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