

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm in  
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

**Minutes**

- 1 **Apologies and Attendance:** Apologies received from P Hood (Chair); S Hay (Vice Chair); J Morton (Secy); J Sutton (CDW); J Fairbairn; I Fletcher. In attendance were K Nelson (Treasurer); K Tulloch (Minutes); M Given; S Kennedy; J Virtue; C Morrison; S Fletcher.
- 2 **Police Reports** none had been received. MG said he had requested these, but so far nothing had arrived.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** were agreed as correct and signed by Treasurer. It was agreed that at request of Chair, in her absence, KN would chair this meeting.
- 4 **Matters Arising**
  - 4.1 Feedback from Resilient Communities meeting in Dec 2022 – second meeting wasn't as well attended but some actions have resulted. KT gave brief update on shed; materials; SPEN audit of hall etc. KN said that cost and ongoing cost of a generator is a concern, plus all of the maintenance and health and safety issues re fuel storage etc. Cf to February meeting for full report.
  - 4.2 Poppy wreaths – still blowing away. In SH's absence, MG will have a look at putting hooks on to cross to prevent wreaths blowing away. MG will advise.
  - 4.3 Vulnerable residents – cf as minister not in attendance at this point.
  - 4.4 Cemetery cutting – KT had emailed Council re more frequent cutting due to SH doing most of the verges etc. No response as yet.
  - 4.5 CAP update – KT had provided update information on items that had been achieved from the CAP, and other emerging priorities eg storm resilience; energy crisis. KT had liaised with Village Poll developer and is meeting him tomorrow re a doorstep update for the public. KT will email format to CC members asap.
  - 4.6 Insurance for playpark – no response at present from SBC Cllrs. KT said that it was possible that Cllrs had not had info from us re this meeting, and KN will email them with future dates and apologies.
  - 4.7 Aikengall and Foundation Scotland update – KN had been in contact with Foundation Scotland (FS) following community agreement over a funding panel and FS setting up a community fund. So far, all windfarms had come back with a positive response to these plans, other than Aikengall, who's response is still awaited. KN will clarify the next steps with FS and has financial spreadsheets ready to present. Funding Panel to be set up – one volunteer so far from MoP and a further 4 will be required plus 2 CC members. Meetings will be quarterly with a 3 year term, and full induction pack will be issued to members of the panel. Final decision re funding applications will rest with the funding panel on behalf of the community.

Aikengall update – PH's email has been acknowledged but no further contact from Aikengall and no payment of monies owed (£50,000). KN reiterated some of the history of this wind farm, and the 2020 contract vs the "new" contract(s). The position of the CC is that the 2020 contract should be retained, with or without the Be Green Dunbar addendum, but they consider the new contract to have punitive clauses. Cf re further action in February in the hope of a response from Aikengall.
  - 4.8 CDW update – JS has been engaged by the CC for over 3 years now, and her contract has been extended for a further year. FS had placed some conditions on the application, ie setting objectives and keeping to them over the year's timescale. The three agreed objectives were

- i) Volunteer development programme
- ii) Support to the bowling club
- iii) Parents Council/School/ after school club/Playpark ie provision of recreational services.

Over the initial 3 year period, partly due to COVID and changing priorities (eg shop closure), JS's time was "pulled" in various directions, and she managed her own time. However, this year's extension needs to be more tightly managed as available hours are greatly reduced, and conditions re objectives have been advised by FS. KN spoke to this item as she is the "sounding board" for JS in her CDW role, and said that in the past, a retrospective view of what JS spends time on has been taken. She emphasised that a proactive approach was needed and spoke through the cost of JS to attend things like Cosy Café etc. She has been through the timesheet and allocated time to admin, agreed priorities and Wellness activities. KN has identified over £280 which should be billed to Wellness and discussed the need to focus on the priorities above in the next few months. KN acknowledged how hard it was to manage the CDW time but as this is public money, it's essential that value for money is achieved in activities undertaken. Re Volunteer Programme, BAVS are not able to supply this. JS is away all of February and aim is to get programme up and running by end March. KT said that the first thing is to identify volunteers, no matter how much time they may have available and this could be through newsletters, social media etc and then providing training and support. Getting the message out to people is a major factor. Discussed CDW attendance at things like BAF, Place Planning workshops etc and how these should be funded or whether they are linked to the priorities above. KN said she had to provide evidence to FS about progress to objectives, and had just completed an interim report. She also discussed the Wellness funding from TSDG which also requires interim reports re spending and itemised some allocations from this fund eg café manager at £12,500 which haven't happened yet. KN said that we should itemise what has been spent and why some activities haven't occurred or spends made. KT said that many of the Wellness activities (apart from hall hire) were free of charge eg walking football, bereavement group etc. KN is joining Wellness meeting tomorrow. KN said that there was also funding available – 5 hrs / month for admin eg newsletter. This will go into the newsletter to seek an applicant.

## 5 Funding applications

- 5.1 Shop – has applied for £915 for counter changes. This was unanimously agreed and will come from Aikengall funds. Application had been circulated and PH and JF had emailed their agreement with this. Storage box for kindling etc has been made and delivered with funding from National Lottery.
- 5.2 Forthcoming potential applications
- i) Old Cambus defibrillator – SK is taking this forward and will liaise re an application in due course. Probably Aikengall funding for this as previously.
  - ii) Hall consultant – KT spoke to this re the lack of volunteers and Trustees and the issues the hall is currently facing. Decided at hall meeting earlier this week that a consultant is required to set up systems, policies and procedures etc. A consultant is available and willing to support the hall for 16 hrs / week – she has recently indicated her willingness to take this on for approx. a 4 month period with the potential for a hall manager to take over. Approx cost is around £7000 with the hall contributing to these costs but some assistance from community benefits will be needed. Held finances by the hall have a large component of ring fenced monies eg replacement of rear (balcony doors and windows); floor

repairs and potential replacement; new fire system etc. KT also mentioned that the running costs of the hall will more than double due to changes in electricity provider from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, and rising oil prices, so this needs to be factored in. KN said that the hall and shop were the centre of the community and advised that she would be supportive of such an application to be made in due course. KN said that an application could be made and supported by Fishermen 3 in this instance.

iii) After School Club planning is taking place, and it is likely that an application may come forward for some of the start up costs. There is some very good work towards this taking place with some experts providing advice.

KN advised that balance at 30<sup>th</sup> Dec was £325k without the £50k due from Aikengall, although there is some ring fenced money within that.

6 **Planning** – The Alpaca farm permanent house has been approved. No further update on the appeal for the extension to Pease Bay Leisure Park which will be heard by LRB at SBC later this month.

7 **SBCCN/BAF** No meetings since December.

8 **SBC Councillors** – none in attendance.

9 **Community Councillor updates**

**JV** – Flower show had received a bill from SBC for £80 for opening the school for exhibition of children’s art work etc. This relates apparently to a janitor opening and closing the school but the cook had voluntarily opened and closed it. JV said that if this continues the Flower Show would sadly not continue with this aspect of the show. KT to email Councillor Anderson and cc Flower Show Treasurer.

**MG** – has a storage chest available if the shop requires it. KN will advise shop. He also asked if the shop were erecting a sign advertising it, on the SUW.

**CM** – advised some men looking into gardens and acting suspiciously. Living in a house in Crofts Road. KN advised report it, and KT will report to Police Scotland. SF mentioned that a white van has been seen around Callander Place also. He also said he was erecting a stile on the football field fence to allow maintenance of the apple trees. He is doing this free of charge and was thanked for this. Work on the composting scheme at the allotments will start next week.

**KN** – advised that as caretaker hours were tight at present, volunteers could be used to assist with some activities. MG is willing to help.

10 **AOCB** – SH and CM were thanked for taking down the Christmas decorations in the village and two members of the public were thanked for same at Cove.

**AGM** – will take place second Wednesday in March (8<sup>th</sup>). KN asked if there was anything the CC could do to attract members of the public to this annual event – discussed this and felt that it would be generally advertised as before this year, but after FS have taken over the fiscal management of the community benefits, more of an “event” may be something to consider for 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. **The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend all or part of any meeting.**