

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th December, 2022 at 7pm
in Cockburnspath Village Hall**

Minutes

- 1 **Apologies and Attendance:** In attendance were K Nelson (Treas); S Hay (Vice Chair); K Tulloch (minutes); J Morton (Secretary); J Fairbairn; J Virtue; N Simpson; J Sutton (CDF); S Fletcher (in part); 2 members of the public.
Apologies were received from C Morrison; P Hood (Chair); Cllr C Hamilton; S Kennedy; M Given and Torness CNC.
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** were agreed as correct
- 3 **Police Reports** – none received.
- 4 **Community Councillor Reports**

JS – wondered whether the hall could be opened over the festive period for people for warmth etc. Cf to Res Comms meeting on 20th Dec – some discussion that the most vulnerable would not be able to come to the hall and who would be there as responsible person. **Action – To discuss on 20th Dec at 10am in Village Hall (Res Comms meeting with SBC).** JF also said that the bowling club could be opened as it has a gas cooker.

JV – poppy wreaths are blowing away. SH is aware and it is on his list to create a triangle of clasps to retain them. **Action: SH**

KN – Whether to co-opt KT for wind farm group – KT said she would be more comfortable with a co-option rather than acting solely as a MoP in these issues. Agreed unanimously. KT to sign Code of Conduct. KN confirmed that CM (co-opted) has also signed Code of Conduct.

SH – poo bins for dog waste for football field have arrived and will be erected shortly. He will empty and place contents into other dog waste receptacles or general waste bins for collection by SBC. These have been purchased by the Village Hall. **Action: SH**

SH – Raised concerns re several vulnerable people locally. Serious concerns that statutory authorities are not fulfilling their duties towards one person in particular and Minister to “escalate” this issue with Social Services. Agreed on some actions in confidence with Minister and individuals concerned - funds to be used from crisis funding currently held by the Minister. **Action: SH/Minister**

SH – raised concerns about his caretaker hours as he is currently eating into hours ring fenced for spring cutting, due to the bad weather, and the fact that he is also assisting the VH with temporary caretaker/health and safety duties. KN said that perhaps in the Spring, some of the verges and grass would have to be left a bit longer to reduce grass cutting hours and SH added that monies should technically come back from SBC re all the grass cutting the community were doing. Original agreement was that SBC would cut cemeteries twice a month, but this isn’t happening. **Action: to raise with Cllrs/SBC.**

Action: To monitor this as winter progresses but there is a need for volunteers to assist with gritting etc. Discussed potential need to purchase a tow along grit bin for new tractor as current bin is being sold with old tractor. New tractor has arrived at Macmerry and will be delivered soon.

KT – updated community action plan to cover things that have been achieved and to include emerging new identified priorities – particularly in terms of community resilience/hall as a community hub, and energy crisis. Plan is to update the community by a doorstep flyer early in the new year, and ideas are currently with the Village Poll developer to create a flyer.

5 Matters arising from previous minutes

5.1 Santa in the Village – Santa will visit courtesy of the Rotary Club at 4.30pm in the Square, Cockburnspath on 16th December.

Food vouchers – no update currently. KT will email Cllr Orr who was to feed back on this, although there was some news from SF that larger supermarkets were offering some vouchers. **Action: KT will email Cllr Orr. Cf January 2023**

5.2 Insurance for playpark – Playpark currently owned and insured by SBC but has apparently failed its annual safety inspection. SH said that he did not feel the CC should include any new playpark under its insurance, and it should be retained under SBC's block insurance. Cllr Orr was to have investigated whether the insurance could remain with SBC even should the community decide to lease the playpark from them, but no feedback as yet. **Action: KT will email Cllr Orr. Cf January.**

5.3 Allotments application for community composting: NS spoke to this item and an application had been previously circulated for consideration. Although application is in name of Allotment Association, it is a community scheme which will benefit the community in terms of being able to have their green waste picked up avoiding a trip to recycling centres. It will benefit the allotmenters in terms of ability to generate and use the compost reducing their need to purchase same. In the future, some consideration could be given to selling compost, but this is not currently planned and requires investigation and paperwork. Village Caretaker will be involved with new tractor, which the Allotments Assoc contributed towards. Much discussion around how the £6000 requested would be used, especially as more funding had been applied for (in excess of the total estimated cost of £10,063) and what would happen if other funding sources were not successful ie how far would the £6000 take the project forward? It is possible that not all funding requests would be successful, and further work on community composting would be needed as the project progressed, so any surplus would be used to put towards further allotment and composting improvements. KN asked how the £6000 would be administered, and it will be managed under the current Allotments Association, which is already set up as a SCIO. After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed (absentees had indicated their approval of this application by email) to award £6000 towards this project – to come from Aikengall II funds. NS also explained that there is a window of opportunity in terms of the growing season, and other funders will not make decisions until earliest, February. **Action: KN**

Other funding applications:

- Cockburnspath Primary School for payment of hall hire for school nativity. KN had also added selection boxes for the children involved. Cost approx. £200 agreed unanimously, to come from Drone Hill Microgrants. Village Hall to give invoice to CC for hall hire. **Action: KN**

Future funding applications the CC is aware of:

- Applications may come forward from Cockburnspath Community Shop in January (newspaper box, changes to counter and potentially changes to front entrance door)
- Further application may be received from Bowling Club for green maintenance in Jan.
- SH mentioned that changes to the football field may be forthcoming to create a multi sports area – dependent on visit from potential funder (Sports Scotland) early in new year. This could create a 2 pitch astro turfed area to provide

courts/pitches for up to 4 sports. It would be fenced, and potentially a 75% grant may be available to cover total costs of around £100,000.

- Electrical logger to measure power usage within the hall for community hub – to be discussed at Res Comms meeting on 20th Dec. and revisited.

All of the above will only be considered once funding applications have come in front of the Community Council.

5.4 Aikengall/Foundation Scotland etc update: KN spoke to this item, explaining that PH had emailed Aikengall II stating that the CC still felt the 2020 contract could be adapted with the suggested Addendum and there was no requirement for a new contract which contained some punitive clauses. Alternatively, the CC would be comfortable with the Green Initiatives contract staying with the CC for dispersal, rather than utilising Be Green Dunbar. The 2020 contract would therefore remain in place in its entirety. PH had also requested payment of the £50,000 back monies not yet paid for 2022. A reply has been received this evening, and KN will update in due course once she has read it.

KN also added that she had approached two wind farm developers (RES/Penmanshiel and CARES/Fishermen Three) about the proposals to use Foundation Scotland as part of the CC's assessment of funding applications, to provide due diligence. Both developers had responded favourably and had no objections to this. KN will now email all other developers. **Action: KN**

Sub group had paid out 2 green initiative applications since the last meeting. One application was from newsletter info and the other was word of mouth. Sub group will continue meantime, until any decision re using Be Green for green initiative grants. CC have agreed terms with Foundation Scotland (Foresight Kinegar funds) to allow the retention of the Community Development Facilitator for a further year at 10 hrs/week.

5.5 Paths grant: Had been received from SBC. These monies go towards the Community Caretaker role. (£450).

5.6 Christmas trees lights etc: Thanks go to SH and his team for erecting all the lights and Christmas trees (Cove and Co'path) and grateful thanks to Craig Morrison and his family for the gift of the 2 trees, and to Craig for provision of machinery and manpower. Grateful thanks also to Alan Thorburn at the garage for his assistance. Much appreciated. Agreed a payment of £50 be made to MoP whose electricity was being used for one side of the Square. This is to cover this year, and the two previous years.

Action: KN

6 SBC Councillor reports: No Cllrs in attendance and no reports received.

7 Planning update: SK was not present to speak to this, but wondered if a wider consultation amongst the community was required over the planning application from Verdant Leisure (Pease Bay) to remove a condition that requires them to close for one month of the year. Much discussion around this, but it was largely felt that it would not negatively impact the community.

Action: KN will email SK.

8 SBCCN/BAF update: No update this month.

9 Correspondence: A thank you letter had been received from the Wednesday Club for the funding towards their annual Christmas lunch. It had been a great success.

10 AOCB: All other items have been mentioned above.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 11th January at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the community are welcome and encouraged to attend.