

**Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council Meeting, Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7pm in
Cockburnspath Village Hall**

- 1 Apologies and Attendance** – Apologies received from P Hood (Chair); S Fletcher; C Morrison; J Sutton; J Fairbairn; Cllr C Hamilton; Cllr J Anderson; J Morton. In attendance were K Nelson (Vice Chair); S Hay (Vice Chair); S Kennedy (Treasurer); J Virtue; N Simpson; K Tulloch; M Given; Cllr A Orr and one member of the public. It was agreed that the meeting was quorate and that K Nelson would act as Chair.
- 2 Police Reports** – Torness CNC did not have anything to report this month, but a Police Scotland MMW report had been received and circulated. Nothing particularly relevant to Co'path other than general campaigns, although the No Cold Calling Zone has been resurrected and further stickers are available.
- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting** – agreed as correct. PH to sign and retain. The meeting then proceeded in a different order to agenda, due to presence of Cllr Orr (Planning Committee) and a member of the public with a funding application in front of the CC.
- 4 Funding Applications**
 - 4.1** Member of the public spoke to her application towards funds to go to Borneo in 2024 to work in the rainforest, supporting endangered species and fragile communities. As her ambition was to become a vet this was relevant to her future. It is a self funded event, costing £3750, of which £650 has already been raised, with further fund raising planned. Agreed unanimously to award £1000 towards costs, from Aikengall Green funding. **Action – KN.**
 - 4.2** Wednesday Club application for £250 towards cost of their annual afternoon tea at Winterfield. Unanimously agreed from Aikengall funds. **Action KN**
 - 4.3** Application for transport towards attending Scottish Gardens Show at Scone Palace – this was agreed in principle, pending verification of exact costs (circa £400). Agreed unanimously from Drone Hill Microgrants. **Action KN**
 - 4.4** Cockburnspath Shop had applied for funds (£1107) to purchase solar film blinds to keep the inside temperature of the shop lower, and improve efficiency of fridges/freezers. Some discussion around potential options open to them (eg air conditioning) but as the shop is a temporary structure, the cost of this would be prohibitive. The Shop (Community Benefits Society) are providing 10% of the cost. Agreed unanimously from Aikengall funds. **Action KN**
 - 4.5** Defibrillator fitting - £120 was agreed (added to defib application previously) for fitting. A local tradesperson had been used. Agreed unanimously from Aikengall funds. **Action KN**
 - 4.6** Litter picking equipment – a member of the public had purchased hoops, gloves and pickers for the recent litter pick. Agreed Cllr Orr will arrange for further equipment from SBC, but the MoP had already purchased these items and would now pass them to the CC. Agreed unanimously from Drone Hill Microgrants. **Action KN; Cllr Orr.**
- 5 Matters Arising**
 - 5.1** Caretaker update – NS and SH presented receipts and an overview of hours used in this post from 2021/22 and 2022/23. The only objective from 22/23 not completed is the Cove frontage (see under Bench update below in Community Councillor reports item 9.5) and of the £2000 of expenses issued, £551 is left currently. SH has all receipts to pass to the new Treasurer SK. Planned projects for 2023/24 include entrances to village; progress astro turf multi sports court area and Cove frontage (once bench issues are resolved). KN asked if SH would prepare a single page overview of completed projects

and plans for future. **Action SH.** Also, a poster for the noticeboards etc which would also recognise the contributions of various wind farm developers particularly RES/Penmanshiel for SH's position, and Aikengall funds to replace the tractor. Twelve couples locally have now requested assistance under the "Helping Hands" scheme, included in the caretaker hours and this was welcomed and has slowly increased over the course of the caretaker scheme. Total caretaker hours – 1012 hrs for 2022/23 were used, but recognised that volunteer hours (NS/CM/MG) should be logged as well. More use of volunteers was recommended moving forward as there are increasing pressures on SH's time. Currently 19 hrs over proposed, for 22/23. Difficult to plan due to winter weather, which can increase workload due to gritting/clearing. SH has also given some time towards the hall in terms of health and safety checks etc and it was recognised that the hours had worked out fairly well generally. Hall's hours will decrease this month onwards. Recognised that other groups (Bowling Club and Church) had requested assistance from the caretaker hours – this was discussed in some depth and it was agreed that currently, there are insufficient hours within SH's remit to take on further work. Agreed that extra grass at Tollview would be cut within the existing remit however as it was a natural extension to current work there. SH said he would feed back to both Church and Bowling Club. Plan to get caretaker contact number on fridge magnets to attach to newsletter. **Agreed - Action SH/NS.** Also plan to do a bi-annual litter pick starting this year – potential to link to the Big Help Out on 8th May with a tea/coffee event in the hall, or a picnic on the field if weather was good. Dog waste was also discussed and the bins on the football field have really helped. Plans within Scottish Govt to make this an offence. Cllr Orr spoke to this item. SH said that many dog owners don't realise they can put dog waste in the general bins – to look at stickers for all general bins. **Action – SH; Cllr Orr re stickers.**

- 5.2 KT raised the issue of co-option for the use of machinery to ensure users are insured under the CC insurance. Restrictions in the Constitution states a maximum of a third total membership of 10, can be additional co-options. As we currently have 5 co-options, agreed KT and SH's son would come off, leaving CM, SF and NS as co-options.
- 5.3 Wellness report – JS had submitted a report, but it was agreed to carry this forward. KT mentioned changes to what Wellness supported, had been made eg supporting badminton and bridge.
- 5.4 Treasurer update – end of year update from AGM last month. Welcomed SK as the new Treasurer who will take over now. Some March transactions and bank statements were updated from the AGM in Feb. Running the Council account has much less of a backlog due largely to paying printing costs. Currently, just a year of backlog money is retained. The newsletters take up a significant amount of this account, and it was agreed that in future, printing of newsletter could be funded by Wellness funds. **Action JS.** KN said that she was moving bilateral agreements forward with developers and Foundation Scotland, apart from Aikengall to allow benefit monies to be managed by FS. KN was thanked for her work as Treasurer and assistance over the previous years. She will continue as Vice Chair and a CC member however.
- 5.5 Mercat Cross – ownership issues now seems to have stalled within legal dept in SBC. KT had emailed SBC solicitors by no response. HES had been very helpful, but were only responsible for scheduling not ownership or insurance. However, advice received indicated that under Community Empowerment Act, the community could apply to purchase the Cross under "derelict buildings/lands" provision. Cllr Orr will take this up

with SBC's legal dept to progress, and if it is not progressed, the community can look at adopting the Cross under Community Empowerment. **Action – Cllr Orr**

5.6 Aikengall update – No payments have been received, despite KN's recent email, highlighting achievements and stating that we would stay with the 2020 contract and manage the Green initiatives ourselves. She mentioned that they are now £75k in arrears. She had asked for reasons for the non payment, but did not receive a response re this other than that Aikengall looked forward to receiving a "comprehensive" report of expenditure. Further actions will be considered once the report has been forwarded. Some good initiatives eg the first Community Composting Scheme in Scottish Borders had been achieved with Aikengall monies to date, but these are not being publicised due to the non payment. **Action KN re annual reports.**

5.7 Foundation Scotland – KN is working with Foundation Scotland (FS) over bilateral agreements between FS and developers. The Funding Panel membership is progressing well aiming for 8 members, and KN is working on the annual report to developers, including an agreement re bilateral working. This work is progressing well. **Action KN**

5.8 Volunteer Development update – although the programme itself had progressed well, uptake was low. Some people thought it was designed to tie volunteers in to volunteering rather than give information and encouragement. KN spoke about an integrated group where various organisations worked together and a "Take Two" version of the Volunteer Development Programme may be appropriate. The film re volunteering was excellent, and workbooks and sessions were in place for any further sessions. Edited pieces of the film could be put together and offered to the various village organisations for promotional activities/funding. **Cf May - JS**

5.9 Walking festival – cf May

5.10 Update to AGM re seconding Vice Chairs – agreed that SF as a co-opted member should not have seconded these positions. SK agreed to act as seconder to PH as proposer, to elect KN and SH as joint vice chairs. **Action KT to reflect in minutes.**

6 Correspondence

6.1 Gala / Coronation – SF had fed back that only 2 parents had agreed to a meeting and uptake had been slow. Coins are ordered for the Coronation and SF will email school imminently re gala. Talk about combined gala/coronation. **SF to take this forward.**

6.2 CC insurance – KN has submitted the required information and is awaiting acknowledgement (online). Changes to overall cover limit, numbers attending events and some detail restricting special events to no inflatables, fireworks, bonfires etc. NS asked whether the Allotments shredder could be added to CC insurance – much discussion around this as Allotments Association is a separate SCIO rather than a sub group of the CC. Agreed to cf and think about this. **Cf May.** KN will ask insurers. **Action KN.** SK asked about insurance for community defibrillators and **KN will also check this with insurers. Action KN. Cllr Orr will check with other communities re if/how defibs are insured.**

6.3 Other correspondence had been circulated.

6.4 Invitation from East Lammermuir CC – to attend multi agency meeting on 25th April re works involving various contractors (Eastern Link, Branxton, off shore cabling etc). SK will attend (?KT also) and feedback. **Action SK.**

6.5 Advert for administrator for Village Hall – has been advertised. Contact KT or shop for information packs. KN also said that the admin for CDW support had been delayed for a month due to personal circumstances.

- 7 BAP/SBCCN** – SK had attended SBCCN meeting which was largely procedural in nature. He had also attended the Berwickshire Area Partnership (BAP) meeting as well and fed back on:
- Absence of regular Police Scotland reports was raised and this appears to have been rectified. A Police report was received for this month.
 - Fire service announced that they will not respond to open premises during day time unless a fire has been confirmed.
 - Retained fire services – may move members around to achieve full crews.
 - Health and Social Care Strategic Framework – initial work commenced
 - Pingo bus service will be extended to 2024. Integrated transport is a major issue and Pingo doesn't really compensate for transport cut backs, as it doesn't work the way people need it to.
 - Foundation Scotland are running an online event which had been circulated. SH may attend. Some discussion around suitability for Co'path and SH will let KT know if he wishes to attend. SK said that integrated work amongst communities was required to achieve what would be a costly exercise
 - **Crystal Rig 4 CLG** – SK had attended this meeting. Various options exist for the potential community benefits of £240k which would be split between 5 CC areas. Developers keen to look at various options ie splitting benefits 60/40 with potential to award more to CC areas closer to the development. Other options included a single fund for one big project geographically eg employing an Energy Officer to advise on upgrading homes etc within the area. Transport scheme was also discussed. The third option was to award funds to individual homes within a certain area surrounding the wind farm. SK sought views on the above options. It was decided that allocation to community councils (ie the 60/40 option) would be preferred, thereby allowing joint work with other CC areas if warranted. Further work may progress with “underplanting” existing wind turbines with a solar array which may also attract a degree of community benefit if approved. Discussed the need for SBC to look more creatively at energy efficiency in conservation areas, and listed structures. Cllr Orr said that discussions regarding this were ongoing within SBC as it was recognised that restrictions did not match with the move towards more energy efficiency. SK will feed back the views of the CC to the developers.
- 8 SBC Councillor update** – Advised that cameras may be being placed at Monynut to identify off road bikers. Human waste on beaches and around the coast continues to be an issue, especially with the potential closure of some public toilets (Co'path toilets are not under threat currently). Cllr Orr said that SBC were trying to engage communities more and recognised that Co'path is a long way from SBC HQ and we need to “shout loudest”. She explained that she was the champion for disability and learning as well and the Council are trying to reach out to communities more effectively.
- 9 Community Councillors update**
- 9.1** JV raised issue of road degradation on verge of Callander Place. Discussed the need to remove part of the verge and widen the road. **Cllr Orr will take this forward.**
- 9.2** SH reported a street light in Crofts Acre that the Council are aware of since it was damaged by a car and removed by SBC. This needs replaced – **Cllr Orr to action.**
- 9.3** SH reported the issue with litter on A1 despite some clearing by Bear Scotland – particularly close to the roundabout. **Cllr Anderson has already taken forward the vegetation on the roundabout but litter continues to be a large issue. Cllr Orr will take this forward with Bear.**

- 9.4 SH reported a problem with moles on roundabout, and listeriosis is a risk. There is also an issue with moles in the cemetery at Bankhead. **Cllr Orr will take this forward.**
- 9.5 KN gave an update on benches at Cove. Discussion is ongoing with members of the community, caretaker and Cove residents and progress is being made. A memorial bench to a local fisherman was being proposed by family, and discussions are ongoing as to amalgamating plans with existing benches.
- 9.6 Zoom – professional zoom has auto renewed, so SF suggested that the cost of this is shared with Church, Innerwick, Wellness/JS all contribute to cost. Agreed.
- 9.7 Siccar Point has not been successful in its application for World Heritage Site, but work towards the tercentenary of James Hutton is still being planned.

10 Planning

- 10.1 Planning consent for on shore works for Berwick Bank have gone in to East Lothian Council (ELC) and members of the public can comment to ELC.
- 10.2 Extension to Cockburnspath Shop – a petition exists in the shop and has many signatures. The CC was in support of the permission extension and KN will pass the numbers of signatories to SK to respond to SBC Planning Dept. **Action SK/KN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7pm in Cockburnspath Village Hall. Members of the community are welcome and encouraged to attend all or part of any Community Council meeting.