



COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Draft

16th April 2024, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

Present

Coldingham Community Council:

Phillipa Allan (PA)	Alice Fisher (AF)	Rhona Goldie (RG)
Dawn Tait (DT)	Richard Thomas (RT)	Ethne Turnbull (ET)
Peter White (PW)	Norman Wood (NW)	

Members of the Coldingham Community: 11

Councilors: Cllr Carol Hamilton

Coldingham Police: Not in attendance

Apologies for absence

Krishna Ramcharran (KR), Jack Eeley (JE), Cllr Aileen Orr.

Previous Minutes

The meeting minutes for 19th March 2024 were queried by Mr Kerr.

Ms. Phillips queried whether the additional Constitution article (7.3) had been agreed by the CC as a whole. This was confirmed.

Planned presentation by Kevin McClure on apprenticeship scheme

Due to miscommunication Mr McClure was not present, the presentation will be rescheduled for a forthcoming meeting.

Matters Arising/Actions from Previous Minutes 19/03/2024

1) Actions

Defibrillator(s): (JE lead). Martin Curran (Dunbar & Berwickshire 1st Responders) has been contacted. The apparatus in the phone box has recently been serviced and potentially the phone box should be painted green. CCC will consult SBC on the viability & desirability of an additional Defibrillator for the Beach area. (AF) will speak to SBC (Denise Bryden, Estates).

Resilient Communities: Neil Ingles (SBC) will visit for training & presentation at 6pm on 21 May, immediately preceding the CCC meeting. Thanks to AF for arranging this.

CCC Constitution: The proposed amendment was agreed immediately after the meeting, a copy signed by Chair, Secretary & Treasurer duly lodged with SBC, receipt confirmed by SBC Democratic Services.

2) Matters Arising

Reston A1 junction: Further inconclusive contact w/ SBC (& Bear) has taken place, KR to continue to pursue this.

Christmas lights: We await quotes for replacement lights from NW. The positive community response to the annual display was noted.

Planning application - Sunnybank: No objections or comments, a reply from CCC to be lodged promptly by KR

School narratives / stories from the village: NW can find no evidence of the previous documentation of village stories currently available.

Dog fouling signs - Priory grounds: These have been installed on gates. Thanks to Friends of the Priory. Mrs. Prentice (for Friends of the Priory) asked for thanks to be forwarded to SBC for replacement information signs installed around gardens. Mrs. Prentice also informed CCC that the Luckenbooth had a printer that could be used by CCC and community organisations.

Mercat Cross Landscaping - Obtaining quotes: Obtaining quotes for the remaining landscaping has proved difficult. Advice has been provided by Drew Fiddes from N Berwick re. bollards. There was discussion concerning appropriate bollard location and height to both avoid collision risk and prevent inappropriate parking. The landowner remains flexible regarding the final arrangement. PA to discuss with Michael Henry

Manse Road / Footbridge area surfaces: Remains a problem. Mrs. Prentice noted that this route has status as a 'safe route' for school children. Dr Fenty questioned whether the arguable 'unadopted' status of part of this area was being/has been used as an excuse for SBC inaction. Cllr CH to follow up with SBC Roads.

3) Wish list items

- **Play Park:** JE and Robbie Broomfield to consult with interested parties with respect to specifications & costings [per previous Minutes]
- **Memorial Garden:** RG to follow up with Rev. Haddow (currently on leave).
- **Paths / walks Subgroup:** St Abbs CC has expressed the wish for a joint approach to path maintenance & improvement. RG to follow up with respect to a potential meeting for interested parties. Ms. Sutton raised grant availability for work on paths - thanks. Peter White noted that under an earlier CCC the Creel Path had been levelled & surfaced.

General note: RG informed the room that 2 informal CCC meetings had been held to collate & discuss ideas submitted. Very few had been set aside as impractical for legal or other reasons - the example given being the community purchase of the Anchor Inn. Otherwise the intention has been to list and publicise all ideas submitted - a working document that can be added to at any point.

Ms. Philips noted that her suggestions had not been included, it was agreed that this would be checked by JE and corrected if necessary.

Community Newsletter: Ms. Philips also floated the idea of a printed community newsletter, possibly bi-monthly, to reinforce current communication channels and indicated a willingness to assist. AF noted that the “What’s on in Coldingham” mailchimp ceased to exist due to lack of content. AF to follow up Ellie Philips reinstating a community newsletter.

4) SBC Councilor’s Report

Comments by Cllr Hamilton were:

- **Potholes** - Spot repairs during the prolonged wet weather were consciously temporary, further work planned when conditions permit.
- **Grass cutting** - is being scheduled under a new regime which leaves more areas unmowed on ecological grounds.

Area Partnership meeting - was held at Eyemouth High School on 20 March 2024: full notes will be circulated in due course - Cllr Hamilton to provide a copy of the meeting minutes. Disappointment was expressed that no serving CCC member attended the Eyemouth AP meeting. It was noted that a member had intended to attend but was obliged to cancel. RG to ensure a representative from CCC attends the next meeting.

Questions / comments / Issues arising:

- **Potholes** - Bobby Kerr asked if a telephone number is available for reporting potholes - given as 0300 100 1800
- **Compensation** - NW Asked if compensation claim figures for consequent tyre/wheel damage is recorded / published.
- **CCC Election** - NW raised the possibility that votes in the CCC had been cast by individuals ineligible to vote by reason of address / postcode. ET noted that electoral boundaries vary for different elections - CC, SBC etc. It was noted that in principle CC areas are determined by roughly equal numbers of residents and that SBC Democratic Services are responsible for the election process.

5) Police Report

- No police representatives were present.
- **Speeding Measures** - Dr Fenty noted that Coldingham, unlike comparable or smaller Borders villages, has no ‘smiley’ speed signs. AF noted that in some cases these had been funded by the communities concerned and we could look to do the same. Mr Kerr observed that speed cameras are increasingly covered (i.e. taken out of use) in the area. Cllr Hamilton confirmed that SBC and Police Scotland are aware of and concerned by this trend. RG to follow up w/ Police Scotland.

6) Constitutional Changes

- Mr Hood (DH) related to the CCC Constitution and specifically to article 7.3. With reference to the notes of the 04/12/2023 meeting he noted the implication that any

textual changes to the model Constitution should be subject to community consultation.

- RT set out CCC’s understanding that this applied only to change judged substantive, and the collective view that neither the replacement of blanks nor the introduction of a sequential term limit met this criterion. DH disagreed. Mr Kerr added that the decision to amend the Constitution without consultation was legally and morally wrong.
- Mr Kerr raised a verbal complaint concerning the alleged conduct of a CCC member, initially unspecified but thereafter identified by Mr Kerr as RT. To the extent that the allegations were specified, they were categorically denied by RT. The Chair reminded Mr Kerr of his right to submit a written complaint.
- NW noted that a revised Model Constitution was due to be published by SBC later in 2024, however CCC would review our decision not to consult after the strength of feeling noted in the meeting.

7) Treasurer's Report:

- NW distributed a summary income/expenditure statement including End of Year balance and noted that correctly formatted and audited accounts by Brenda Alexander will be hand delivered to SBC on time. He noted that the figures did not reflect an additional £1k (approx) very recently received from Foundation Scotland.

8) Resignations:

- NW then made a personal statement announcing his resignation with immediate effect as Treasurer due to the negative interaction between CCC and some residents. Communication had reached a point of toxicity which meant he could no longer continue as Treasurer.
- RG made remarks in a similar vein: strong community tradition of kindness and support, however recent negativity has prevented the real work of the CC from progressing.

The meeting was closed at this point.

Summary of Actions

Topic	Action & Owner
Defibrillator	AF will speak to SBC (Denise Bryden & Estates Department).
Reston A1 junction	KR to continue to pursue this.
Christmas lights	NW to obtain quotes to replace
Planning application - Sunnybank	A reply from CCC to be lodged promptly by KR

Topic	Action & Owner
Mercat Cross Landscaping - Obtaining quotes	PA to discuss with Michael Henry
Manse Road / Footbridge area surfaces	CLlr CH to follow up with SBC Roads.
Play Park	JE and Robbie Broomfield to consult with interested parties with respect to specifications & costings [per previous Minutes]
Memorial Garden	RG to follow up with Rev. Haddow (currently on leave).
Paths / walks Subgroup	RG to follow up with respect to a potential meeting for interested parties
Wish List	JE to check list and add Ellie Philips suggestion.
Community Newsletter	AF to follow up Ellie Philips reinstating a community newsletter.
Area Partnership meeting	CLlr Hamilton to provide a copy of the meeting minutes. RG to ensure a representative from CCC attends the next meeting
Speeding Measures	RG to follow up w/ Police Scotland
Constitutional Changes	CCC to review the decision on consulting the community

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st May 2024, 7pm at the Coldingham Community Village Hall.