



COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM Meeting Minutes - Draft

18th June 2024, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

Attendance

Coldingham Community Council:

Phillipa Allen (PA)	Jack Eeley (JE)	Alice Fisher (AF)
Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Richard Thomas (RT)	Ethne Turnbull (ET)
Peter White (PW)		

Members of the Coldingham Community: 14

Councilors: Cllr James Anderson JA

Apologies for absence

Cllr Carol Hamilton, Cllr Aileen Orr.

Minutes from Previous AGM

KR explained that the last set of AGM Minutes were for 2022. They were limited in content and did not address any specific matters aside from the Treasurers report.

Chairmans Report

KR read a prepared Chairman's report – see Appendix A. In response the following topics were raised:

- Luckenbooth – A member of the community mentioned the running of the Luckenbooth as a a café was being taken over by a local couple with experience in hospitality.
- Green Energy – A member of the community mention that a Green Energy company from Fife were giving a presentation at the Church on Sunday. Another member of the community spoke of the Island Generation initiative underway to assist local communities move towards being self sustainable in energy through the use of wind, solar and storage battery technology.

Treasurers Report

AF summarised the audited set of accounts running through the key items of income and expenditure – see Appendix B. AF confirmed a signed copy of the audited accounts would be made available and also sent to SBC.

Election of Officer Bearers

KR informed the meeting that Dawn Tait had stood down from the role of Secretary and Community Councillor for personal reasons.

KR and AF confirmed that they would continue as Community Councillors and in their respective roles as Chair and Treasurer. All remaining CC's confirmed their commitment to remain as Community Councillors; none were in a position to take on the role of Treasurer. RT confirmed that he would stand down as Vice Chair. The post was not re-elected as it is one not recognised in the Constitution.

KR explained that the CC's had been debating how to fill the post of Secretary. Options included co-opting a new member to the CC or sharing the responsibilities between the existing Councillors. Further options discussed at the meeting included paying someone to carry out the role, which some other Community Councils do, or to co-opt someone in to undertake the specific role but not as an elected Councillor. JA reminded CCC that if a member of the community submitted an application to be co-opted, the CCC had to give the request serious consideration. The community council voted to share the role of Secretary between now and August amongst the Councilors. In the event that sharing did not work, a shortlist of options would be presented at the August meeting for a vote.

Appointment of Auditors

AF confirmed that Brenda Alexander had indicated she would not be able to be the Auditor of the following years account. It was recognised that there were a handful of qualified accountants in the area that could be approached.

Action: AF to identify and propose a new accountant as Auditor by the next CC meeting in August 2024.

Agreement to Abide Code of Conduct

All Community Councillors reconfirmed their commitment to abide by the SBC Code of Conduct and uphold the signed Constitution.

Date of next AGM

The next AGM Meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Tuesday 20th May 2025 at Coldingham Village Hall.

Appendix A – Chairmans Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman's Report

Tuesday 18th June 2024, 7pm – 7.30pm

In seeking inspiration, I have looked back to previous AGMs, looked and reflected on the time since this Community Council has been formed, and looked towards where we would like to be in years time.

It is clear that the Coldingham Community Council (CCC) had a turbulent past and present compounded by COVID. The formation of the current Community Council has not been easy partly attributed to the challenges of a new team coming together, the legacy of previous events and the tension created by the need for change. Sadly we have lost three of our elected community councillors of whom two have been long standing.

Having said that, there are some green shoots emerging. In the short time this current Community Council has been in place, we have started to deliver, listen and conduct ourselves in a more open and transparent manner. Key achievements include:

- Conducting the Wish List survey and compiling and long list of projects.
- Getting the Foundation Scotland Microgrant released
- Starting the New Community Response Group with training from SBC
- Permission from SBC to install a defib at the beach - now researching options
- Improved communications with SBC, RES, and Foundation Scotland
- Draft meeting agendas and minutes now being published in advance
- Consultations on CC policy's.

Looking forward, the Community Council remains focused and committed to serving the Coldingham Community. I am now only starting to understand the nature and importance of the role the community council plays – possibly not known by most of the community - and the amazing work undertaken by community councillors and members of the community.

We now need to move from being reactive to proactive. We – collectively - need a common vision of what the community deems important, wants and its priorities. This will allow the channeling of resources, and harnessing of the amazing skills and enthusiasm within our community.

We now need to urgently:

- Put in place the application and evaluation process for the FS Microgrants and the RES Wishlist (August).
- Work collectively to prioritise the wish list and start a few projects (Autumn)
- Complete the Cross (end of the year?)

Before the end of the year we need to have several subgroups in place help us deliver on these initiatives as well as explore others. For example identifying and tapping into additional funding sources, exploring green energy for the benefit of the community, and further improving social cohesion of the community.

In parallel the CCC will continue to build on being open, transparent, and accountable to the community, improve communications and build stronger relationships with the surrounding community councils.

To succeed CCC and the community need to work as one. I therefore encourage the community actively participate with us and to continue to challenge us.

Finally, I would like to thank SBC Councillors, CCC members - past and present - and members of the community for their help and support during the short time we have been running.

Here's to a productive and fruitful year ahead!

Appendix B – Treasurers Report

Coldingham Community Council

Treasurer's Report 2023/ 24 Accounts

1. The accounts for 2023/24 are attached. These relate to the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.
2. The Closing Balance for the Year is £124,424.56. Consists of:
 - a. Opening Balance of £2,157.23.
 - b. Income of £155,047.04
 - a. Expenditure of £32,779.71
3. The total income for the year was £155,047.04 (2022/23 £1,610.00)
4. Income breakdown as follows:

SBC Annual Grant	£740.00
SBC Path Maintenance Grant	£450.00
Penmanshiel Wind Farm Payments x3	£153,857.04

5. The total expenditure for the year was £32,779.71 consisting of:

Village Hall Hire	£ 60.00
Hutton Stone - Cross	£ 15,330.47
RBLs Wreaths	£ 32.00
The Ridge - Cross	£ 7,000.00
Simpson and Brown - Cross	£ 1,118.64
RAGES Membership	£ 10.00
AGF Plant Hire - Cross	£ 550.20
The Ridge - Cross	£ 7,000.00
Path Maintenance	£ 645.00
Simpson and Brown - Cross	£ 720.00
PAT Testing - Village Lights	£ 42.00
Simpson and Brown - Cross	£ 236.40

6. The Accounts have been independently audited by Brenda Alexander.

Following approval at the AGM a copy will be forwarded to Scottish Borders Council.

Funding Overview

Scottish Borders Council - Annual Grant:

Awarded £740 from Scottish Borders Council to fund administration and running costs.
Coldingham Community Council spent £179 on administrative costs and the outstanding £195 for path maintenance. The balance of £374 was ringfenced for the Christmas light repairs.

Scottish Borders Council - Path Maintenance Grant:

Awarded £450 from Scottish Borders Council to fund Path Maintenance.
The total cost exceeded this at £645. The outstanding £195 for was allocated from the SBC Annual Grant.

Penmanshiel Wind Farm:

Penmanshiel Wind Farm granted 3 payments to Coldingham Community Council totalling £153,857.04.
Coldingham Community Council spent £31,955.71 on the expenditure for Cross renovations.

Alice Fisher, Treasurer, Coldingham Community Council

10th June 2024

DRAFT