



## **COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**16th September 2025, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall**

#### **1: Present/Apologies**

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Alice Fisher (AF)	Philippa Allen (PA)
Jack Eeley (JE)	Carol Hallows (CH)	Neil Renilson (NR)
Leah Stewart (LS)	Christopher Anderson (CA)	

Members of the Coldingham Community: 8

Councillors: Cllr James Anderson (Cllr.JA)

#### **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Carol Hamilton (Cllr.CH); Police Scotland, Karen Thomson (KT)

#### **2: New Community Councilor**

Leah Stewart (LS) was welcomed to the community council. LS confirmed she had received copies of the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and the signed Constitution for Coldingham Community Council. LS confirmed her commitment to abide by the Scottish Borders Code of Code and uphold the signed constitution of Coldingham Community Council and took her place as an official Community Councilor.

#### **3: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB**

The agenda was approved (nominated CH, seconded JE). Under Any Other Council Business (AOCB), two items were proposed: parking issues on the high street and confirmation about renewing the Rail Action Group East Coast Scotland (RAGES) subscription. All community councilors voted to approve the annual payment of £15.

**Action: AF to renew RAGES subscription for £15.**

#### **4: Office Bearer Positions**

Philippa Allan (PA) announced her resignation from the role of Treasurer due to increased work commitments and proposed that Alice Fisher resume the role. AF resigned as Secretary put herself forward as Treasurer and was seconded by Neil Renilson(NR). This left the role of Secretary vacant. KR asked if any member of the community council wanted to take up the role - no volunteers stepped forward. KR identified two options. Option 1 – recruiting and paying someone to undertake the role. Option 2 was the outcome of a discussion with Karen Thompson and involved KT and KR sharing the role. The proposal was to try the arrangement

for three months. Both options were put to the vote with Option 2 being supported unanimously.

**Action: KR to notify SBC of the changes to the Office Bearer positions.**

#### **5: Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval**

The minutes for the 19th August 2025 were approved (nominated by NR, seconded by CA).

KR apologised to Dave Jones for a comment he had directed towards the end of the last meeting. KR confirmed it was a misjudgment on his part. Dave Jones accepted the apology.

#### **6: Matters Arising / Actions from previous minutes**

Traffic Safety – KR informed the meeting that he and two members of the community had met with Police Scotland to discuss road/traffic safety matter specific speeding and to Bridge Street on 29/08/2025. This had led to the pop up policeman figure appearing in the village and one speeding warning issued following speed checks carried out by Community Police Officers. KR confirmed SBC, Police Scotland and BEAR Scotland had all indicated their willingness to attend a community meeting to listen to the concerns of the community to explore what more could be done to improve traffic and road safety in the village. KR confirmed he would start exploring dates.

The Cross – KR had received legal advice confirming land could be transferred to CCC. Any land transferred to CCC would be held by the Office Bearers as trustees on behalf of CCC. AF asked if the CCC be liable for the Cross. KR indicated yes but cover would need to be checked with the current SBC Public Liability policy. Members of the community raised the following points:

- The circular part at the foot of the Cross belongs to SBC.
- Why can't the whole cross be transferred to SBC?
- Some of the land by the garage is common ground.

KR confirmed further work needed to be undertaken regarding liability cover. The solicitors were progressing with the land transfer. The landowners solicitors were investigating the common ground access rights. KR indicated that the slow progress with the transfer presented a financial risk to the CCC in terms of legal fees rising and the cost to CCC of paving a large section of the landowners land in good faith that the transfer of land would take place.

**Actions: JA to provide a contact at SBC Estates, KR to raise issues discussed with Solicitors.**

#### **7: SBC Councillors Report**

James Anderson (Cllr.JA) provided updates on the recent water disruption affecting parts of the community, noting Scottish Water has been reminded about communication failures. Compensation of £45 is available to affected residents. Roadworks and resurfacing at Crosslaw and Cairnross are in progress, including addressing signage and diversion route issues with Google and Bear Scotland.

Neurology outpatient service improvements were reported, with new nursing staff being hired after extended waits. Concerns were raised by members of the community regarding deteriorating road verges along the Moor Road (A1107), which SBC will assess.

**Action: CCC to post information on Scottish Water compensation on notice board and community channels.**

#### **8: Treasurers Report**

AF reported minimal financial movement with a recent grant issued to the Parish Church and small interest accruing. £2,000 remains ring-fenced for legal fees related to the Cross. The microgrant fund is currently depleted due to previous allocations, but the wind farm funding remains available for new applications. See Appendix A for full Treasurers report.

**Action: PA to assist Tommy with completion of his timesheet(s) for reimbursement.**

#### **9: Police Report**

The police report for July noted no assaults in Coldingham, minor antisocial behaviour, and one theft related to metal signs on School Road. Police resource constraints due to mental health calls and accidents were highlighted, explaining limited visible presence locally. See Appendix B.

#### **10: Microgrant Application**

PA confirmed that due heavy work commitments the current batch of microgrant applications were still awaiting evaluation. This would be completed in advance of the next CC meeting. PA also indicated that consideration needed to be given to the evaluation criteria for repeat applicants. It was confirmed that the current Foundation Scotland microgrant pot of £1650 had been fully awarded, but microgrants could still be awarded via the Penmanshiel fund – the CC were operating a rolling monthly microgrant award from this fund for applications up to £1500.

**Action PA and LS to assess criteria for repeat applicants; AF and LS to explore with Foundation Scotland the release process for the microgrant funding pot**

#### **11: Playpark Update**

JE provided an update on progress, highlighting successful negotiations of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SBC Parks and Legal teams, confirming the council's funding role and SBC's responsibility for implementation and maintenance. JE highlighted that planning permission would be required for equipment over 4 metres in height. This would mean the current equipment package might require some minor adjustments to bring items below 4m. A number of community councilors suggested that a planning application should be submitted given the effort being put in to realising the playpark. Cllr.JA confirmed no planning application fee would be required as it was a community planning application.

JE confirmed that total funding applications including the contribution from CCC had yielded approximately £145,000 committed or pending, including contributions from multiple sources and ongoing crowdfunding efforts. The project is advancing with cautious optimism.

**Action: JE to circulate MOU to CCC for review and signing.**

## **12: Safeguarding Policy**

KR stated that he had circulated a draft Safeguarding Policy for review. It had been drafted primarily to support CCC's involvement in wind farm funding applications for the playpark. The draft was created by a member of the Playpark team and it was based on SBC's own Safeguarding policy. KR had reviewed two other policies and incorporated some aspects of them. KR stated that he recognised the sensitivity of the policy's subject matter. Discussions included clarifications around abuse definitions and photography concerns. The policy remains under review, a member of the community with a safeguarding background agreed to review and comment on the draft policy. Approval was deferred pending further input and agreement.

**Action: Collect further feedback for voting at October's CC meeting.**

## **13: Planning Application 25/01107/PPP**

Planning application 25/01107/PPP is a provisional application for the development of two houses. KR had circulated responses from the SBC Planning Officer seeking clarification on the nature of a provisional planning application, how the proposed development aligned with local development plans, the impact on local infrastructure, and whether the development was for residential or holiday use. The application was discussed thoroughly. The CC voted 8-0 not to object to the application.

**Action: KR to submit a no objection response before consultation deadline.**

## **14: Forward Planning – Remembrance Service and Christmas Tree and Lights**

Remembrance Service: Preparations for the Remembrance Service were confirmed, with wreath orders underway and ongoing coordination.

Christmas Tree and lights : Shona Easingwood provided an extensive briefing on the Christmas tree lighting, including new licensing requirements, safety testing (PAT testing), and electrical certifications. Plans include retaining existing lights where possible and troubleshooting issues via scheduled testing, tentatively set for early October. KR and JE confirmed they would help with laying the lights out for PAT testing. The CC agreed collectively to hold a switching-on event on Sunday, 30th November 2025 and explore the supply of Xmas refreshments. JE confirmed that a member of the community had agreed to supply a Xmas tree for this year.

### **Actions:**

- **KR to confirm date and venue for Xmas lights PAT testing and electrical certifications.**
- **AF to confirm switching-on event details and promotion.**
- **JE to coordinate transportation and installation of donated Christmas tree.**

## **15: Initiatives – Wishlist, Community Transport, Resilience Team**

Plans were made to promote a Wishlist village hall event on Saturday 27th September, integrating the Playpark update and community presentations. Posters are to be designed

and volunteers sought for refreshments and logistics. Discussions included engaging local groups and maximising community participation.

#### **Actions**

- **CA to design and print promotional posters for village hall events.**
- **CH and AF to organise refreshments for event days, liaising with Luckenbooth for potential support.**

#### **16: Correspondence – RBL War Memorial Award & BEAR Scotland**

The Royal British Legion War Memorial Award was noted as an honour.

BEAR Scotland advised of scheduled diversions between 25 September and early October affecting routes northbound on A1 from Berrick-upon Tweed to Edinburgh, which will be re-routed via Foulden. The community council expressed concern about potential local traffic impact due to diversions and will disseminate information via social media channels.

**Action: Circulate diversion information via community social media.**

#### **17: Any Other Council Business (AOCB)**

Parking concerns on the High Street were discussed in depth, highlighting safety issues caused by cars parking along narrow sections adjacent to houses. The block-paved area, often mistaken for a pavement, is actually part of the road, complicating enforcement and signage. The community council acknowledged the complexity of ownership and liability issues regarding pavement and road boundaries. Previous attempts to introduce double yellow lines along the High Street have not been successful due to aesthetic objections. Suggestions included improving signage for the playpark car park to reduce on-street parking congestion. A commitment was made to raise these concerns again with SBC and explore signage improvements.

KR apologised for items on the agenda that the meeting did not get to. Where possible they would be placed on the agenda for October's meeting.

#### **16: DONM**

**Tue 21/10/2025, 7pm in Hall.**

**Meeting closed.**

## Appendix A – Treasurers Report

# Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report

September 2025



Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£1,271.95
Expenditure	£3,813.25
Balance on Account	£136,962.46

### Budgets

SBC - Annual Grant& Paths	£196.00
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants (£109,000 ringfenced for the Play Park Project) (£2,000 ringfenced for Cross legal fees)	£25,766.01
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	£0.45
TOTAL	£136,962.46
REMAINING	£25,962.46

### Income

09.09.25	Bank Interest (Instant Access Account)	£11.13
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### Expenditure

29.08.25	Parish Church - Monks Habits	£820.00
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*Alice Fisher, Treasurer,  
Coldingham Community Council*

## **Appendix B - Scottish Borders Area Command – July 2025 Summary**

### **Protecting Vulnerable People**

- Involved in 238 mental health related calls, 24 missing person enquiries, 120 domestic related incidents.
- East Berwickshire – 31 mental health calls and 0 missing person enquiry.

### **Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour**

- Assaults – 0 incidents in Coldingham. 2 male assaults in Eyemouth – Penny Petroleum and Eyemouth Beach
- Anti Social Behaviour – 1 incident Coldingham Sands – Loud youths. 5 incidents in Eyemouth. Disturbance at Eyemouth Holiday Park, (2 incidents of verbal abuse, 2 incidents of nuisance)
- Vandalism/Vehicle Damage – 1 incident in Eyemouth – Vandalism outside Oblo's

### **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

- Theft – 1 incident in Coldingham – Theft of metal signs from property on School Road. 3 incidents in Eyemouth – driver not paying for fuel, theft of plants from a Garden, theft from recycling centre. 2 incidents in St Abbs, 2 incidents in Co'Path, 1 incident Auchencrow.

### **Improving Road Safety**

Four incidents in Eyemouth. 1 vehicle taken without owners consent by disqualified driver, 2 for driving without an MOT, 1 fine and penalty points for use of mobile phone whilst driving. 1 incident in Chirnside – driver driving without insurance.

### **Series and Organised Crime Enforcement**

- 6 Drug and general Evidence Warrants resulting in Class B and A drugs with a street value of £15000 and cash of £1000.
- 3 arrests, 7 people reported for drug related offences. Incidents in Galashiels, Kelso, Eyemouth and Hawick.

### **Campaigns – Samaritans Awareness Month**