



COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Approved

21st April 2026, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

1: Present/Apologies

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Leah Stewart (LS)	Karen Thomson (KT)
Jack Eeley (JE)	Carol Hallows (CH)	Christopher Anderson (CA)
Philippa Allen (PA)		

Members of the Coldingham Community: 2

Apologies for absence

Neil Renilson (NR), Karen Thomson (KT) Left at 8pm.

Councillors: Cllr James Anderson (Cllr.JA); Cllr Carol Hamilton (Cllr.CH)

2: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB

The draft agenda was accepted without any amendments.

3: Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval

One minor amendment - the next CC meeting would start at 7.30pm not 7pm due to the CCC AGM being held on the same evening. Subject to the correction the minutes were accepted, proposed (LS) and seconded (CA).

4: SBC's Headstone Testing Programme – Coldingham Priory

Carol Cooke (Parks and Environment Manager) and Diane Munro (Bereavement Officer) from SBC attended to explain the Council's Headstone Safety Programme and the work planned for Coldingham Priory on the 28th April 2026 and 5th May 2026. They explained SBC has a statutory duty to protect public safety in burial grounds and churchyards. The Scottish Government guidance on memorial safety was renewed following a tragic accident in Glasgow in 2018.

Across the Borders, there are 155 cemeteries and churchyards and a very large number of memorials under inspection. At Coldingham Priory itself, there are around 1,007 headstones. SBC recognise the significance of the inspection and safety programme and the need to manage it carefully and with sensitivity with communications, notices, and signage. It was explained that the memorials remain the property of the owner, and that the Council's role is to make unsafe memorials safe, not to repair or re-erect them on behalf of the owner.

The current approach, reviewed and refined after discussions with members and a pilot at Lennel Cemetery, Coldstream comprises three methods of making memorials safe:

- (i) laying them flat - generally only used where the inscription would not be lost by doing so,
- (ii) socketing them into a trench - used where there is no risk of disturbing human remains and where the ground conditions allow it, or
- (iii) cordoning them off with Harris fencing where they are too large or otherwise unsuitable to be moved safely.

Coldingham Priory is seen as a unique and particularly difficult location. Of the three methods only laying flat and cordoning off are appropriate for use at the Priory. Socketing is not an option because digging into the ground could disturb buried remains, which would be unlawful and disrespectful to the historic nature of the site.

SBC explained that with burial records often out of date and very old it was an increasing challenge to contact individual memorial owners. As a consequence SBC now uses wider communications, including advance notices, letters to community councils and elected members, social media, website updates, and local liaison with community groups and friends groups. Where a memorial must be laid flat immediately after an inspection, a sign is left in place to explain why that action was taken and what the owner should do next. Leaflets are also available for staff to distribute.

There followed a extensive discussion and Q&A session which covered a number of topics including:

- Maintenance of memorials with no living relatives - There was discussion about whether some memorials could be propped rather than laid completely flat, so that rainwater would run off and inscriptions would be protected from erosion. It was explained that this is dependent on the exact nature of the failure, and that if a memorial has failed at the foundation then it must be brought fully down. Any re-erection would be at the owner's expense.
- Funding the re-erection of memorials - It was suggested that there may be scope for external funding, including heritage-related grants or community funding, if the Priory and its historic significance could be used to support a preservation bid. SBC agreed that this is a matter for Coldingham Priory and the community to explore if they wish to pursue the re-erection of historic memorials. Members were reminded that Historic Environment Scotland consent would also be needed because the Priory is a scheduled monument.

The inspection at Coldingham Priory would take place on 5 May 2026 with a demonstration of how a test is conducted planned for Tuesday 28 May 2026, at 10.00am. Any memorials found to be unsafe during the inspection would be made safe on the day. SBC kindly agreed to provide an update to the CC post the inspection.

Action: SBC - Provide an update of the inspection including a summary of how many memorials were laid flat and cordoned, and the size of the memorials affected.

5: Matters arising from previous minutes

BEAR Scotland Annual Community Engagement Meeting – KR confirmed that he and CA had attended the meeting. Local issues discussed were the poor markings specific to the two A1 exit junctions to Coldingham – Moor Road and Reston.

Traffic Management Meeting: KR reminded the meeting of the upcoming Traffic Management Meeting on Tuesday, 28 April 2026 19:00–21:00. The meeting would be used to discuss many of the issues that had been raised previously by the community including traffic flow and parking especially where road layout, pavement access, and children’s safety were concerned and in relation to the Pencil Bollards consultation.

Bus shelter and seating areas painting and repair: KT presented quotation from SBC for £995 (no VAT required) to repair and repaint five bus shelters and two benches in the village. KR reminded the CC that where possible three quotes should be obtained for work or items purchased by the CCC to demonstrate value for money. However, given the time it had taken to get the quote and with the weather improving for the works to be undertaken, the CC should in this instance move forward. The Chair asked the CC to vote on whether to approve acceptance of the quote for £995.

The CC voted 7-0 in favour of accepting the quote.

KT was asked by the CC to confirm with SBC if the works came with a warranty or have a call back period within which remedial work would be undertaken.

Pencil bollards LS explained that the community had previously been approached about bollards to mark the children’s crossing points around the village. Key points to note:

- A contacted homeowner was willing to trim back their hedge. They suggested that narrowing the corner or altering the pavement might be a better long-term traffic-calming solution.
- Were blue bollards appropriate or visible enough or were black bollards more suitable.
- The wider traffic problem was more about cars mounting the pavement and the road layout through the village centre
- Legality of the Pencil Bollards re Road and Traffic Regulations in Scotland
- A defunct “no parking after 7.30am” sign and the use of parking bays on the High Street.

6: SBC Councillors Report

No Councillor report was presented due to the absence of both Cllr.CH and Cllr.JA.

7: Defibrillator – Coldingham Telephone Box

KR explained that members of the community had reported through various channels that the defibrillator in the village phone box was out of service and there had been no communication. The First Responders, as part of their routine check, had informed CCC that the battery had failed. They had tried to put a notice on Coldingham People but did not have permissions. KR indicated that when notified he had not considered the full implications and what needed to be done. He thanked KT for putting up a notice as soon as the issue was raised.

The advice from the First Responders to anyone needing access to a defibrillator was always to first call 999. The operator would direct the caller to the nearest available operating defibrillator. The CC agreed that clear communication was important.

KR presented the invoice for £207.28 from the First Responders for the replacement battery. The battery has an expected operational lifespan of 3 years.

The CC voted 7-0 in favour of approving payment.

It was agreed that the CC should explore the options for upgrading the defibrillator.

8: Treasurers Report

CH presented the year-end accounts and confirmed Brenda had kindly agreed to audit them free of charge. CH explained that there was one anomaly in the figures, namely a duplicated amount of £279.21, which had apparently been present since she took over and had not yet been resolved. The accounts otherwise reflected the current position accurately and that the bank balance was showing a slightly higher figure than expected.

The CC vote 7-0 in favour of accepting the presented accounts subject to them being audited and the final clarification of the figures.

Actions:

- Present accounts for audit - CH
- Investigate the £279.21 anomaly CH/KR.

9: Police Report

KR ran through the key points from the March 2026 report – See Appendix B.

10: Microgrants

LS informed the meeting that no new microgrant applications had been received. She was also still awaiting a decision from the PFA regarding when they would use the scheme and confirmed the PFA's last microgrant application had been withdrawn.

11: Wishlist

Playpark Update

JE confirmed that:

- a meeting was scheduled for the Monday 27 April 2026, at 10.00am with Jenny Rudkin from the SBC Parks team and the Kompan contract manager. The purpose of the visit was to measure up and finalise the layout. NR confirmed that he would attend.
- the funds had been transferred to SBC and the purchase order raised. In principal the works could be completed by early July and ideally before the summer holidays and the Coldingham Gala week. Further clarity would be provided at the next CCC meeting.

The community response to the project had been very positive, and the work already completed was viewed as a visible sign of progress.

12: Initiatives

Community Bus Survey: CA explained the community bus survey was halfway through the consultation period with the two local caravan parks. He would provide a full update once he collated and analysed the data.

Actions - CA to present a report at the next meeting once consultation closes.

Village Hall Retrofit: CH and Julie had attended a meeting with the Village Hall Committee regarding the retrofit project. The response from the committee remained divided, with some members supportive and others not yet convinced. The next steps were to invite companies to visit and provide quotes. The meeting also discussed the importance of making sure the building could be returned to its original condition if necessary, especially where electrical or fabric alterations might be involved.

13: Correspondence

The following correspondence were noted.

- SBC had circulated a new link to report potholes <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/roads-pavements/report-pothole-road-problem>
- A convoy system will operate on A1107 between Eyemouth, Coldingham and Pease Lye, between 16 April and 8 May 2026 to facilitate pothole and road repairs
- A new renewable energy development map is available showing proposed, approved and pending projects across the Borders. It can be found on the site <https://borders.maps.arcgis.com>
- Road closures in Eyemouth on 25 April, 27 April and 1 August for the Heron Queen festival.

14: AOCB

CH raised the following:

- Free shop / Food garden at Reston - Coldingham might consider becoming involved.
- Reston Larder: are raising funds to ensure sustainability of the service. As it is used by many from Coldingham maybe CCC might wish to donate some funds.
- Joint Caretaker - There was a suggestion that a caretaker role might be shared and funded by Reston CC and CCC.

All agreed that for any sensible conversation to take place clear proposals were needed. The CC were happy for representatives from Reston discuss the opportunities further at one of the CC meetings.

CA - raised the condition of the pathway sections leading down from the Priory and towards the Manse Road, describing them as in very poor condition. It was agreed that this would also be added to the list for the next road and traffic meeting.

DONM

Tue 19/05/2026, 7.30pm in Hall. Meeting closed.

Appendix A – Treasures Report

Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report 31st March 2026 Year End



Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	165795.60
Expenditure	249222.82
Balance on Account	£56076.54

From 31st March 2025 - 31st March 2026

Budgets

£

SBC - Annual Grant & Paths	1403.00.
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants (£2,000 ringfenced for Cross legal fees)	2000.00
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	2983,28
Penmanshiel Fund	23327.81
TOTAL	£29717.09

Income:

£

17/03/26	Foundation Scotland	£ 10,000.00
09/02/26	Bank Interest (Inst. Access Account)	£ 9.11
09/03/26	Bank Interest (Inst. Access Account)	£ 7.73
12/03/26	Bank Interest 30 day account	£ 1,137.31
	Total	£11,154.15

Expenditure:

£

17/03/26	Bank Service Charge	5.67
11/03/26	Bank Service Charge	4.25
18/03/26	S.B.C. to Payment for Play Park	238946.62
	Total	£238956.54

Carol Hallows - Treasurer
Coldingham Community Council

Appendix B – Scottish Borders Area Command – March 2026 Summary

Community Update

PC Jacobs has

- Continued to carry out high vis mobile and foot patrols in Eyemouth following concerns of youth antisocial behaviour – reduction in reports
- Assisted CID colleagues following reports of theft from local farms
- Assisted Response colleagues and attended domestic incidents, reports of concern for members of the public and reuniting a lost dog with its owner

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Involved in 148 mental health related calls, 30 missing person enquiries, 82 domestic related incidents.
- East Berwickshire – 10 mental health calls and 4 missing person enquiry.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

- Assaults – 0 incidents
- Anti Social Behaviour – 0 incidents in Coldingham. 4 incidents in Eyemouth – Youths kicking cars and caravans and youths being a nuisance at Eyemouth Holiday Park, 2 incidents of disturbance in Eyemouth
- Vandalism/Vehicle Damage – 0 incidents in Coldingham, 2 incidents in Eyemouth involving vandalism to parked cars – crimes reported. No suspects identified.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

- Theft – 0 incident in Coldingham. 6 Incidents in Eyemouth, 4 for theft from the Co-Op, 1 from theft of good delivered outside café by DHL courier, 1 theft of taking fuel without paying. 1 incident in Burnmouth – theft of 10 lobster pots.

Improving Road Safety

- 2 incidents in Eyemouth – 1 for driving with no insurance and 1 for carry a dangerous load

Series and Organised Crime Enforcement

- 3 Drug & General Evidence Warrants executed in Galashiels. Hawick and Selkirk. Proactive vehicles stops led to quantities of Class A, B & C drugs being recovered as well as cash and weapons. 2 males reported for drug supply and offensive weapon offences and awaiting trial
 - 2x illegal knife, an imitation firearm and axe seized during stop and searches
- 1x quad and 2x pick up vehicles stolen from Gordon, Duns and Co'burnspath have been recovered. Enquiries ongoing