



**COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**19<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall**

**1: Present/Apologies**

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Alice Fisher (AF)	Philippa Allan (PA)
Jack Eeley (JE)	Neil Renilson (NR)	Carol Hallows (CH)
Christopher Anderson (CA)	Karen Thomson (KT)	

Members of the Coldingham Community: 10

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

Police Scotland - not in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Cllr Aileen Orr, Leah Stewart, Jack Eeley

**2: New Community Councillors**

KR reminded the community of the reasons for holding a by-election – to increase the number of community councillors from 4 to a maximum of 10. The by-election had been run and overseen by Scottish Borders Council. The nomination period was from 18<sup>th</sup> June – 16 July 2025. The withdrawal period was from 17<sup>th</sup> July to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.

If more than 6 or more nominations – the number of vacant positions – were received the community would be invited to vote. If 6 or less nominations were received, then after the standstill period those remaining would automatically be given a seat on the Community Council.

Five nominations were received:

Carol Hallows	Karen Thomson
Leah Stewart	Christopher Anderson
Neil Renilson	

A member of the community asked the Chair if they could ask a question Mr Anderson. KR asked the member of the community to direct the question through him. The member of the community asked if Mr Anderson would resign. KR pointed out that the question could not be asked as Mr Anderson had not been sworn in. KR agreed that the question could be asked after Mr Anderson was sworn in.

### **Agreement to Abide by Code of Code and CCC Signed Constitution.**

KR reminded all Community Councilors that:

- Their behaviour inside and outside of CC meetings was governed by the SBC Code of Conduct. As discussed at past community council meetings key to a positive relationship was for members of the community to be respectful to their community councilors
- A complaint could be raised against a community councilor by a member of the community of fellow community councillor.
- All complaints would be taken seriously and dealt with in line with the CCC complaints procedure.

Karen Thomson, Carol Hallows, Christopher Anderson and Neil Renilson each confirmed their commitment to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct and to uphold the signed Constitution of Coldingham Community Council. KR confirmed that Leah Stewart would be sworn in at the CC meeting in September 2025.

The member of the community with the question for Councilor Anderson was invited to ask their question – “would you consider resigning from your seat and save the community and community council from pain”. KR directed Mr Anderson to answer the question only. Mr Anderson stated he had as much right as the other CCs to sit on the CC and had followed due process. He would not resign.

### **3: Agenda & AOCB items**

The agenda was approved by the CC.

The Chair agreed to a request from a member of the community to ask a question to Mr Anderson - time permitting as it was a packed agenda.

### **4: Office Bearing Positions**

KR invited nominations for the position of Secretary. He stated that anyone putting themselves forward need to be IT connected as all CC matters were dealt with electronically. KR acknowledge that CA was not connected and reassure him that all papers would be provided to him in paper format until such time that he was connected.

AF stepped down as Treasurer and put herself forward for Secretary with the support of KT. PA nominated and seconded by CH. All CCs voted in favour of AF becoming Secretary and supported by KT.

PA put herself forward for the role of Treasurer. AF nominated and NR seconded. All CCs voted in favour of PA becoming Treasurer.

**Action : KR notify SBC of holders of Office Bearer positions**

**Foundation Scotland Community Council Panel Member:** PA explained that Coldingham has four panel members on the Foundation Scotland panel – two from the community and two from the community council. Leah was a community representative. It was agreed with FS that LS could take the position vacated by Ethne Turnbull when she stood down. FS would advertise for a new community panel member.

### **5: Previous Minutes**

The minutes for 17 June 2025 were approved (nominated by PA, seconded by KT).

### **6: Playpark – Update and Funding**

Robbie summarised the status of funding activities:

- 79 funding streams assessed, a number rule out due to non eligibility
- 25 applications submitted
- The MoU with SBC had been agreed and the team were awaiting a signed copy
- £270k applied for with a conservative expectation of receiving £50k
- The National Lottery had rejected the application on the grounds that it appeared to be funding SBC.
- The team were applying to three SBC administered grants. It was hoped SBC would consider the -ve impact they were having on other applications during evaluation.
- PA pointed out that Foundation Scotland had four sizeable awards worth apply for. Robbie confirmed that they were already speaking with FS.
- Crowd funding had raised £4.5k already – the community had been amazing

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

- Truck Festival – This appeared to have been a success. It was discussed if the donation to the CC from the Truck Festival might be redirected to the PlayPark fund
- Berwickshire Flag – Cllr.CH indicated no progress had been made
- Surgery Consultation – KR indicated he had found a consultation email dated <>. The closing date from the consultation had passed from the information provided there appear to be further stages to be progressed. KR asked if anyone had seen the consultation and how. A member of the community said they had responded. They had seen it on Facebook. No other member present had been aware of the consultation. **Action: KR to contact NHS to understand how the consultation was advertised**
- Repainting of the blue bus shelters – AF confirmed this could be undertaken by the Resilience Team if paint could be provided. **Action: AF to provide quotes for paint**
- Repainting of the defibrillator phone booth in the village car park – AF confirmed this could also be done by the Resilience team. A member of the community reminded the CC that it needed to be painted Green and White as used by the Healthcare. **Action: AF to provide quotes for paint**

- Meeting with Police Scotland – KR confirmed he had a meeting scheduled for 29/08/2025 with the Alison Granger, Suzanne Jacobs and a members of the community to discuss traffic matters at Reston Road/Bridge Street junction.

### **8: SBC Councillor Report**

Cllr.CH reported that the Eyemouth Harbour Masterplan was about to be launched.; Real Time bus time information was being install at Eyemouth bus stops. The Live Borders consultation was still active and encouraged everyone to participate. Eyemouth Primary School will move on to the Eyemouth Highschool campus. A member of the community asked what was happening to the Family Centre behind EHS. Cllr.CH replied that it was still operational. The new Earlston Primary School has opened. Construction of Hawick High School and Galashiels Academy are progressing.

A member of the community raised the concern about the poor cash machine facilities in the area. Cash machines did not have enough cash to last the weekend. The problem was compounded recently with the technical issues at the Coop and with purchases being cash only for a week. Cllr.JA explained that the banking hub issue was a matter being pursued and requests to double the cash held in machines refused.

**Action: Cllr.JA to send of list of organisations / representatives for CCC and community to lobby.**

### **9: Treasurers Report**

AF read out the Treasurers report - See Appendix A.

### **10: Wishlist**

The CC agreed to hold an open session with refreshments across the weekend of the 27/28 September 2025. The aim would be to revisit the wish list and shortlist a handful of projects to progress. In addition there could be a stand for Coldingham Paths and the Playpark.

**Action: KR confirm village hall booking - dates and time - with Norman Wood**

### **7: Matters Arising / Actions from Previous Minutes**

#### **Microgrants**

- Eyemouth Rotary Club had submitted an application for £500 towards the cost of the Eyemouth Sportive event. 50% of the funds raised go to a charity abroad and 50% is retained by the club to distribute to local projects. PA explained that Foundation Scotland had been consulted on the outcome of the evaluation and guidance on how the application might be reframed to be more aligned with the award criteria. PA recommended the CC not to award on the grounds that 50% of the funds would be going abroad and the application focused on fund raising outcomes instead of local benefits. The CC voted 8-0 to in favour of supporting the recommendation not to award.

- Coldingham Priory had submitted an application for £820 to make ‘Monks’ habits used annually in the Priory Live event attended by 90-100 P6 pupils from across East Berwickshire. PA recommended the CC approve the application. The CC voted 8-0 to in favour of supporting the recommendation to award.

#### **Planning Application – 24/00945/FUL**

- The application for the replacement of a caravan with a mobile unit for farmworkers was reviewed and discussed. KT asked several questions:
  - no. of occupants, sewage treatment etc.
  - How are members of CC expected to review planning applications with no training
- Cllr.CH explained these questions would be covered by SBC Planning as part of any Environmental Impact Assessment. KR explained the CC was one of a number of statutory consultees. All questions were valid and there have been times when questions have been submitted to the planning officer time permitting. The CC were not approving applications but only expressing their view as to whether they objected or not. In some instances when submitting their response the CC would make observations or suggestions. CH indicated that if the application was impacting residents CC would soon know about it. The CC voted 8 – 0 not to object to the application.

#### **Road Safety & Electronic Signage**

- KR circulated a picture showing the revised location - Appendix B that took account of the feedback from the previous meeting. The CC had voted online 4 – 0 to agree the revised new location with SBC.

#### **10: Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

#### **11: Police Report**

No report received.

#### **12: AOCB**

**Question to CC CA:** The Chair asked the member of the community with the question and Mr Anderson not to deviate. The member of the community asked – “considering the events of 1999 and the upset that a number of members of the then CC and members of the community underwent as a result of the actions of Mr Anderson, and the subsequent events in 2007, would Mr Anderson resign from the post of Community Councillor. Mr Anderson responded with a comment around his forced resignation by the CC at the time whilst at the hospital with his sick mother. Mr Anderson confirmed he would not resign.

The Chair made it clear that the behaviour of each and every community councilor was governed by the SBC Code of Conduct, the signed Constitution and Standing Orders. All decisions were made collectively by the CC – no one individual could do anything without the consent of the rest of the CC. The CC had worked hard to improve transparency and accountability. If at any time a member of the community believed a member or members of the CC were not conducting themselves appropriately they should immediately approach the Chair.

Additional questions from the community were asked on the following:

Update on the land agreement between CCC and Mr Reddon. KR explained solicitors were engaged. He and a member of the community had met with Mr Redden to discuss and resolve a minor issue. A revised plan had been submitted to the solicitors. No reply has yet been received. KR had been advised that the CC solicitors - Turcan and Connell - that their costs would be between £600 - £1000. The CC had agreed to pay Mr Reddens solicitors fees and these would be in similar region. AF asked if CCC could have land transferred to it. KR explained he had been advised that it was not an issue and he would keep the CC informed should the position change.

Condition of the kissing gate from school road to the old surgery – The gates were in appalling conditions. **Action: Cllr.CH to chase within SBC**

#### Microgrants

- Could microgrant applications be submitted in relation to the Village Hall – PA said yes. Each application would be assessed against the FS criteria.
- Who owned the curling stones and could a microgrant application be submitted to get them replaced? The village hall owned the curling stones. The curling club could submit a microgrant application – The FS microgrant is up to £500, the CC Penmanshiel monthly microgrant is up to £1500.

**Action: PA to provide copies of the microgrant application to the community members**

#### **13: DONM**

Tue 16/09/2025, 7pm in Hall.

Meeting Closed

## Appendix A – Treasurers Report

### Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report

#### June - August 2025



Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£1,260.820
Expenditure	£2,993.25
Balance on Account	£137,771.33

#### Budgets

SBC - Annual Grant& Paths	£196.00
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants (£109,000 ringfenced for the Play Park Project)	£136,404.88
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	£1,170.45
	£137,771.33

#### Income

09.06.25	Bank Interest (Instant Access Account)	£13.36
09.07.25	Bank Interest (Instant Access Account)	£11.55
11.08.25	Bank Interest (Instant Access Account)	£12.71
15.08.25	SBC Annual Grant	£693.00

#### Expenditure

13.06.25	Gifts for long service - afternoon tea	£200.00
16.06.25	Bank Service Charge	£4.25
18.06.25	Village Hall Rent	£60.00
18.06.25	Gifts for long service - flowers	£132.00
18.06.25	Coldingham Gala - Tables and Chairs	£975.00
15.07.25	Bank Service Charge	£4.25
15.08.25	Bank Service Charge	£4.25

*Alice Fisher, Treasurer,  
Coldingham Community Council*