



Meeting Minutes - Approved

17th June 2025, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

1: Present/Apologies

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Alice Fisher (AF)	Philippa Allan (PA)
Jack Eeley (JE)		

Members of the Coldingham Community: 15

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

Police Scotland - not in attendance.

2: Agenda & AOCB items

Agenda – The draft agenda had been circulated, posted on the noticeboard, and made available via email. The Chair invited councillors to approve the agenda and add any other business (AOCB) items.

Additional items proposed:

- Ellie Phillips is going to check the grit bins on the Moor Road (Resilience Group action).
- The blue bus shelters require repainting.
- The phone booth housing the defibrillator is deteriorating and requires repair and painting.
- The Chariot Way is reportedly impassable and needs clearing.

3: Previous Minutes

The Chair requested approval from community councillors for the minutes from the 15 April 2025 meeting. These were the most recent as the May meeting was cancelled due to the absence of a quorum of community councillors.

A minor amendment was proposed regarding the planning application for the poultry farm, to better reflect community feedback gathered by Philippa Allan.

It was noted that only two community councillors had been present at the April meeting. Those who had reviewed the minutes were satisfied, and approval granted with the proposed amendment.

4: Playpark - Update and Funding

Background & Community Support

JE introduced the main agenda item: a proposal to upgrade the village play park. This project stemmed from the community wish list exercise conducted in March 2024. Out of 86 responses, 75% of residents selected a new play park as a community priority.

In response, a Community Council subgroup was formed, including JE, Robbie Broomfield, Jan Walker, and Hollie Dougall. They began engaging with the school, collecting feedback from children on what kind of equipment they'd like to see. This input formed the basis for a supplier tender process.

Supplier Selection

Three companies were invited to tender. All three visited the site, but one failed to meet the technical brief and one declined to quote. Only KOMPAN submitted a fully compliant proposal that matched what the children had asked for. Their representative, Diarmuid McNamara, was present at the Community Council meeting having met with community members during a drop-in session earlier that afternoon. JE confirmed that the proposal was now ready for council consideration.

Funding Request

KOMPAN's quotation is £218,237 excluding VAT. JE asked the Community Council to ringfence £75,000 of its wind farm funds to strengthen future funding applications. This amount would demonstrate a clear commitment to co-funding when applying for grants.

Dermot explained that the quote would remain valid only until the end of December 2025. However, the Council would need to provide full payment to SBC by then so the order could be placed—even though KOMPAN would not be paid until after the project was completed and inspected.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required between the Council and SBC. This legal document would confirm that SBC will purchase the equipment on the Council's behalf and commit to maintaining it. While a similar MOU was already in place for nearby villages, Coldingham's version had yet to be finalized. Councillor Carol confirmed that she and others were chasing this and hoped to receive a draft by the end of the week.

Community Feedback & Questions

Inclusivity and Age Range - A key concern was ensuring the design met the needs of all age groups, not just young children. JE acknowledged this and said some equipment was appropriate for teens, but they were also considering adding seating or a hangout space. A "trim trail" or outdoor fitness zone might be developed as a Phase 2 in the future.

Use of Existing Equipment - Some residents asked if the current swings and other play structures would be removed. JE explained that, ideally, they would be retained if space and design allow. The kids still enjoy using them, and they are in good condition. However, final decisions would be based on the completed layout and available budget. Diarmuid confirmed that integration would be feasible.

Funding Opportunities

Multiple residents and councillors discussed funding sources, including:

- Foundation Scotland (with a grant deadline in September)
- National Lottery and People's Postcode Lottery
- Energy companies seeking sustainable project partners
- Commercial donors, such as local caravan parks

Diarmuid added that 95% of the equipment is made from recycled materials, including ocean plastics like fishing nets, which makes the proposal highly attractive to sustainability-focused funders.

The Chair pressed the team about their capacity to manage funding applications. JE and Robbie acknowledged that they would welcome support. Several councillors and attendees offered to assist, and the Chair urged them to prioritize the September 2025 Foundation Scotland application. Diarmuid also agreed to support the process by supplying documentation about the equipment's recycled content and sustainability credentials.

Decisions Taken by the Community Council

JE formally recommended that KOMPAN be accepted as the preferred supplier. The Community Councillors unanimously approved this recommendation.

Funding Commitment - A lengthy discussion followed regarding the size of the Council's financial commitment. JE initially proposed £75,000. Some councillors suggested going higher—up to 75% of the total cost—while others emphasized the need to balance funding across multiple community priorities.

The Chair proposed that the community council ringfence £109,000, which is 50% of the total project cost, until 31st December 2025. This sum would remain allocated for the play park initiative, conditional on matching funds being raised from external sources by that deadline. The proposal was accepted and put to the vote. The Community Councillors unanimously approved to ring fence £109,000 for the play park initiative until the 31st December 2025.

There were no objections from the public, and several residents voiced strong support for the project.

Next Steps & Project Oversight

Action: The subgroup will now:

- Begin submitting funding applications immediately.
- Prioritise the Foundation Scotland September deadline.
- Return with a full progress update at the August Council meeting.

The Chair emphasized that if the team encountered any issues—particularly with resources or grant writing—they should request help without delay. With the funding now officially committed, it was essential that momentum be maintained over the summer months.

5: SBC Councillor Report

Councillor Hamilton updated attendees on the ongoing "Live Borders" consultation. Community members were encouraged to participate to have their voices heard regarding future decisions about local libraries, museums, swimming pools, and community centres.

Regarding the local community centre, no final decision had been made, but usage was encouraged to strengthen the case for its retention.

Dave Jones, a long-time community member, delivered a heartfelt update regarding efforts to raise the Berwickshire Flag at Lamberton. He explained the origin of the idea dating back to 2000 and emphasized his desire to see it realized. Despite past delays due to political changes and the absence of an official county flag, David and Carol have persisted in their advocacy.

Action: Councillor Hamilton agreed to start the conversation again with other Community Councils, but encouraged others to send letters of support.

6: Treasurers Report

AF provided a brief update. Since 1 April 2025, the CCC had received a £500 grant from Foundation Scotland – part of a cost-of-living support package for local organizations. CCC had also awarded a microgrant to the PFA for children's water sports activities, although the financial impact fell outside the current fiscal year.

See Appendix A – Treasurer's Report.

7: Matters Arising / Actions from Previous Minutes

Deteriorating Building Near School

- Concern was raised about a derelict property on School Road.
- SBC reviewed the condition and deemed it not yet legally actionable.
- SBC recommended that concerned residents contact the owner directly.

Microgrant for Penmanshiel

- A £1,500 grant application from the school Parent Fundraising Association was approved outside the meeting.
- The funds will support a three-day adventure event for local children.

Planning Application – 24/00423/FUL

- A porch extension application was reviewed. The CC councilors voted unanimously via correspondence not to object to the application.

Road Safety & Electronic Signage

- SBC have offered to erect a new 20mph flashing sign. The proposed location was shared with those at the meeting. Members of the community and community councillors suggested that the proposed location would be ineffective. The sign needed to be located closer to the entrance to the village on the approach from Eyemouth to be effective.

Action: The Chair will follow up with SBC to explore an alternative location in line with the wishes of the community.

8: Coldingham Paths

Progress is being made on identifying and scoping a Coldingham Path project. However, some confusion remains over responsibility and ownership of local paths and booklets describing local walks. The conversation revealed a tangle of overlapping initiatives by:

It was mentioned that Gilly Simmons produces a booklet on local Coldingham Paths, available from the village bookshop.

Action: CCC, with support from Mike Fenty and Norman Wood, to organize an event to discuss paths with various interested parties.

9: SBC Planning Applications

Planning application 25/00650/FUL - The replacement of the wind turbine at Press Mains had been received for consideration. The Chair explained that the documentation states that turbine will be slightly larger and quieter than the existing, non-functioning one. He had also circulated to the councillors responses from the SBC planning officer to questions he had submitted regarding Landscape and Visual and Environment matters. The CC councillors voted unanimously not to object to the application.

Action: CCC to submit a "no objection" response to SBC.

10: Correspondence

BEAR Scotland – Temporary Diversion Measures from 17-20 June 2025. A diversion will be in place due to roadworks. BEAR Scotland will reinstate all agreed traffic management measures utilised and tested on the last diversion, with improvements based on feedback. Members were encouraged to report issues to BEAR Scotland via the Community Council.

Berwickshire Charity Truck Run – The Berwickshire charity truck run is scheduled for July 5 2025. Six marshals will manage the event as it passes through Coldingham. Updates will be posted on the organisers's Facebook page. Donations can be made at the Luckenbooth and the Anchor.

11: Police Report

No report received.

12: AOCB

- Coldingham Surgery Consultation – Clarification will be sought regarding a recent consultation potentially affecting the local surgery.
Action: KR to check the CCC email account for any new consultation updates.
- Update on Flats at Applin Cross – One block has been condemned and is expected to be demolished due to safety concerns. The other remains inhabited.

Action: CCC to follow up with Berwickshire Housing Association to confirm next steps, ownership, and future plans for the site.

13: DONM

Tue 19/08/2025, 7pm in Hall.

Meeting Closed

Appendix A – Treasurers Report

Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report

April - June 2025

1st April 2025 to 17th June 2025.



Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£500.00
Expenditure	£1,617.75
Balance on Account	£138,386.01

Income

- £500 Cost of Living Grant, Foundation Scotland

Expenditure

- £1,500 Grant to Coldingham Primary PFA - Summer Kids Watersports
- £12.75 bank charges
- £105 Tommy Higgins Unspent cheque
- £200 Gifts for 5 x Long Service Community Councillors

Coldingham Community Council

Alice Fisher, Treasurer,