COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Approved

16th June 2026, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

1: Present/Apologies

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Leah Stewart (LS)	Karen Thomson (KT)
Christopher Anderson (CA)	Carol Hallows (CH)	Neil Renilson (NR)
Philippa Allen (PA)		

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

Members of the Coldingham Community: 4

Apologies for absence

Jack Eeley (JE)

2: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB

The agenda was confirmed as issued. The following items: dog fouling, brown tourist signs, and the tap at Coldingham Priory were added to AOCB.

3: Connect Berwickshire Youth Project

The Chair welcomed Jenny Bryans (JB), a Rural Youth Worker for the Connect Berwickshire Youth Project. JB explained the project operates three drop-in centres and currently engages with 400 young people across Berwickshire. The drop-ins are intended to be welcoming, youth-led spaces offering PCs, practical and financial support, cookery sessions, games and occasional trips. JB covers Reston, Auchencrow, Grantshouse, Coldingham and Cockburnspath. She had recently taken up a 1 year research project - funded by Drone Hill. This will involve going into schools and village settings to meet young people (10 – 20yrs old) to learn more about their lives, how they spend their time, and what support they need. JB was to due visit Eyemouth High School at the end of the month.

JB sought the help from the CC on how best promote Connect Berwickshire's work and enquired about access to village hall. She hoped to use the space as a base for contact and activities. Ideas discussed included using the village Facebook page and Coldingham Gala related publicity to spread the word and contacting:

- Coldingham Primary, the PFA, Guides and Brownies, and various other local youth groups.
- the Works Plus scheme through Alice Fisher
- Kevin McClure who works a lot with young people
- St Vedas surf school and Eyemouth Football Association

- Norman Wood re the Village Hall

In terms of events JB could attach herself to, the Coldingham Gala and ColdFest in the autumn were suggested. JB said she would keep the community updated as the project develops, and the Chair asked her to stay in touch if the promised support did not come through.

Actions:

- Share details with relevant local contacts, including school and youth organisations - CC
- Help publicise Connect Berwickshire through posters, flyers and village social media where appropriate - CC
- Put JB in touch with Norman Wood regarding possible use of Coldingham Village Hall - KR
- Follow up with CCC as the project develops.

4. Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval

The previous minutes had been circulated in advance. No corrections or amendments were raised. The minutes were approved (proposed PA, seconded CA).

5: Matters arising from previous minutes

A1 Overnight Diversion: Feedback on the recent diversion was largely positive. The works had passed without incident and, compared with previous occasions, the effects on local residents had been minimal. Positive comments had been received from members of the community directly impacted by the diversion. Concerns had been raised regarding speeding along parts of the diversion route. The CC agreed that speeding should be reported to the Police by individuals witnessing the issue where possible, and for future two-way traffic diversions the use of speed restrictions should be considered. The next scheduled diversion would be in the autumn 2026. BEAR Scotland had indicated it would be one-way only.

Bollards & Drop kerb proposal:

LS updated the meeting on the follow up responses to the questions raised by CA at the previous meeting regarding the legitimacy of Pencil Bollards as a recognised road safety measure. SBC provided further clarification on 11 June 2026. The questions and SBC's responses are detailed below:

a) Are the pencil bollards used to indicate to children the existence of a safe crossing point? SBC response – " *Yes, these are locally used to indicate a safe crossing point for an accompanied child to or from school*".
b) Are the pencil bollards used to indicate to motorists that children might be crossing at that point? SBC response – " *Yes the presence of the bollards would indicate to a driver the potential for a pedestrian crossing the carriageway*".
c) Are the pencil bollards a statutorily recognised road sign of piece of street furniture whose message is clear to motorists from other parts of the UK? Are they referenced in the Highway Code? SBC response – " *No these bollards are not statutory. Other local authorities may use alternative bollard types at crossing points, however some local*

authorities also adopt the use of the Pencils. The bollards themselves are approved for use in the road boundary by the manufacturer however they are not a type of approved sign".

The CC concluded that as precedent had been set with the installation of Pencil bollards elsewhere across the Scottish Borders, including Eyemouth, it should move forward with a vote on whether to install them at the Priory Walk / School Road junction.

The CCC voted 7-0 in favour of installing the Pencil Bollards at the Priory Walk / School Road junction.

Pavements, paths, walls and related issues around Coldingham: Cllr.JA explained he had recently been on a walkabout with a resident and sent a substantial list of damaged or problematic areas to the SBC Officers (CCC had been cc'd). SBC indicated that many of the issues could be addressed, although some would need to be scheduled and depended on available resources. The works were largely practical repairs, many related to wheelchair access, lowered kerbs and uneven surfaces. They were not expected to face major policy objections. There was some uncertainty as to whether the work would come from a specific budget line or discretionary funding.

The wall near the Priory: Cllr.CH explained that the wall was not council-owned and that there had been an ownership issue. The owners were said to be keen to carry out the work, but the matter was being delayed by questions of responsibility and land ownership.

Actions: Confirm with SBC agreement to proceed with the pencil bollards at Priory Walk / School Road - LS.

6: SBC Councillors Report

Cllr.CH indicated SBC had recently received a three-year social housing funding settlement, a change from the previous annual process. This should give the council greater flexibility, ability to deal the current challenges in the housing market including lack of demand, difficulties in construction, and a shortage of labour, and plan developments over a longer period. The money could only be used for actual housing build costs and could not be redirected to other purposes such as kitchen upgrades or other retrofit-type work.

Cllr.CH also mentioned the Great Tapestry of Scotland and encouraged members to keep an eye out for upcoming workshops and talks.

7: Police Report : No update - no Police report had been received.

8: Treasurers Report / YE 2026 Accounts

The Treasurer explained that there had been no income in the preceding month and only routine expenditure, including bank charges and the transfer relating to the playpark. The report had been issued in a simplified form due to IT issues, and the opening balance could not yet be shown because the accounts had not yet been approved. The accounts for the month were accepted.

EDF: The Treasurer reminded the CC they had been trying to resolve a billing and metering problem connected with the Remembrance Garden. EDF were currently charging the CC for

a box rental fee and a meter-reading charge even though there was no meter in place. CH speaking to EDF to get to the bottom of the issue and seeking refund for money paid in October 2025. A formal complaint was to be lodged and letter sent to the EDF CEO.

Expenses: Following feedback from the audit of the annual accounts the Chair asked CC's to note:

- All expense claims should be accompanied by a receipt
- For any grants received, provide CH with an acknowledgement and associated paperwork
- For all outward bound payments, i.e. Microgrants, two signatures were needed before the Treasurer could make the payment. LS asked if Adobe Sign could be used.
- If the CC is to pay invoices on behalf of third parties, the CC must receive the invoice itself, with its name on the invoice, rather than the third party passing the invoice on.

The Chair also mentioned an email from SBC requesting completion of a number of matters in order to secure the next SBC grant, worth around £600. It was agreed this would be handled offline and liaised with CH.

Actions

- Pursue EDF for correction of the metering/billing issue and to lodge a formal complaint and CEO letter - CH
- Confirm whether Adobe Sign is acceptable for approvals - CH
- Submit SBC grant paperwork – KR/CH

9: Microgrants

Two microgrant applications were presented by the microgrant sub committee:

i) Berwickshire Marine Reserve were seeking £1,110 to deliver the Scottish Planet Earth curriculum through marine education for 60 pupils at Coldingham Primary School.

LS explained that whilst there is separate funding already ring-fenced for children's trips through the PFA, this application was different because it was an educational project with long-term benefits. The recommendation was to make the full award utilising Penmanshiel funding as the application exceeded £1000.

The CCC voted 7-0 in favour of accepting the recommendation to award £1100 to Berwickshire Marine Reserve to develop and deliver the Scottish Planet Earth curriculum.

ii) Sea the Change were seeking £1,480 towards their annual insurance costs - Public Liability, Contents and Buildings insurance - for its beach wheelchair project based at the community beach hut.

LS explained that whilst the application was more akin to a running-cost request than a project grant, there was still some merit in making a contribution. The recommendation was to award £500 subject to seeing the relevant insurance quotes.

The CCC voted 7-0 in favour not to accept the recommendation to award £500 to Sea the Change.

The rationale for the decision was that the CC did not want to contribute to the running costs of an organisation and risk setting a precedent for the organisation to come back each year for funding for the same item. In addition, it was agreed that the Sea the Change should be covering its operational costs through it own funds.

10: Wishlist

Playpark Update: No update

11: Initiatives

Community Transport: A member of the community present raised the possibility of a community transport or outing initiative such as a day trip or a theatre visit, possibly to Edinburgh. It was suggested that member of the community float the idea to gauge the level of interest.

12: Bicycle Parking

A member of the Community presented a proposal to the CC for the installation of a bicycle rack(s). With the growing number of cyclists stopping in Coldingham, they had witnessed that bikes were often left chained to railings or otherwise parked informally because there was nowhere suitable provided. They had engaged SBC who would consider installing bike parking if a suitable location could be identified and it had the support of the CC. Two locations provisionally identified were discussed - see Annex A.

The CC agreed in principle to the provision of bicycle parking, but not to the specific locations. They suggested the member of the community engage with the community to garner support, discuss alternative locations and invite SBC to site to assess the options. It was noted that the village centre, the car park, the playpark and possibly the Coldingham beach area might all warrant consideration.

The CC made it clear that if any proposals affected existing benches, tables or access arrangements, the individual ensured they had consulted and gained the support of relevant third parties.

Actions: Confirm agreement in principle to the idea of bicycle parking facilities - KR

13: Correspondence

Coldingham Surgery: NHS Borders Consultation Group confirmed that the Pharmacy Practices Committee would meet on Wednesday 15 July 2026 to consider the application. A notice of the final decision would be issued in due course.

SBC Local Development Plan: This was out for consultation until 30 September 2026. The survey can be accessed using the link: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/92a75404c90b4ef89f6767820c50b22e

Alpine Cross Demolition: Berwickshire Housing Society had confirmed they were completing the final works at 1-4 Applin Cross following building demolition. The site will be cleared and left seeded for grass and fenced off upon completion. Evie Copeland – Director of Customer and Communities - had offered to attend a CC meeting in August or September to give an update and explain the role and remit of Berwickshire Housing Association and how it links into Coldingham.

Greener Gateway Awards: The awards are now open. The deadline for submissions is 7 August 2026. Further information can be found at: http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/greenergateway

Actions

- Circulate the SBC Local Development Plan consultation information after the meeting.
- Arrange for Evie Copeland to attend a CC meeting in August or September 2036.

14: AOCB

Request for Additional Dog Poo bins. A member of the community had raised concerns about the growing problem of dog waste being left in plastic bags on trees and in other locations around the village. There was agreement that there were "hot spots" in the village where this was occurring. A request was made via Cllr.CH for SBC to consider additional bins, signage, or other measures to tackle the issue.

Brown Tourist Signs. The tourist signs were shabby, in need of refurbishment and updating. The Chair indicated that this issue including the replacement of the signs, with ones with better and more current information, had been raised several times before. The matter had also been mentioned at the traffic meeting held by the CC at the end of April. It was agreed that this would be dealt with as part of the broader discussions with SBC on road and traffic matters.

Water Tap at Coldingham Priory. A resident had reported that the water tap appeared to be out of service when they tried to water flowers at a relative's grave. A member of the community present clarified that the water is supplied by the Village Hall from a tap at the back of the hall. The water supply is usually shut off during the winter to prevent freezing, and then turned back on in spring. It was suggested that the tap is checked in case it had not yet been turned on.

Coldingham paths and path maintenance. KT indicated that a member of the community had been in touch keen to help with path maintenance. PA suggested putting Tommy in touch with the individual to look at how they could work together.

The Chair commented there were multiple volunteer groups working independently on different paths in and around Coldingham, and maybe more could be achieved if the groups could be brought together to coordinate their efforts. It was agreed that this topic should be brought back to the August meeting, with Mike Fenty, Gillian Simmons from the Coldingham

Society, and the member of the community invited to join the discussion so that resources and responsibilities could be pooled more effectively.

Benches: NR suggested that the CC might consider providing additional benches in visitor-frequented locations around the village, particularly where people might want to sit, rest, or eat lunch while visiting. Sites mentioned included by the Cross and near the boat flower bed. It was noted there were already some benches in the village, some of which are in poor condition, i.e. benches at Dingley Hill, Piggy's Lane, the top of the hill coming up from the sands, and near the post box at the top of the brae, and might need replacement or repair. The CC agreed it would be useful for a proposal for the supply of benches for four locations and repairs/replacement of existing benches - including costs - be complied and submitted for consideration, subject to the ownership of the existing benches.

Help for Heroes themed bench: KT informed the meeting that a member of the community who had created a Help-for-Heros themed bench, wanted to place it on a piece of grass near the entrance to School Road, opposite the entrance to Coldingham Bay Leisure Park. The individual had offered to keep the bench in good order and there would be no maintenance burden on the council. Depending on the ownership of the land in question, approval to site the bench would need to be sought from either SBC or the landowner.

Remembrance Garden: A member of the community present reiterated that while part of the field had previously been cleared, another area still contains burials and remains under a monument order, making development complicated. Earlier work had involved SBC paying for a university-led archaeological dig which identified and removed remains. Development of the Remembrance Garden would require significant archaeological clearance and compliance with historic and monument protections at an estimated cost of £35,000. The Chair suggested the project could only move forward if someone with enough energy and commitment took it on as a dedicated champion, with the CC potentially contributing as part of a broader fundraising effort.

Actions

- Forward Dog Poo Bin issue to Cllr.CH - KT
- Check whether the Coldingham Priory water tap is turned off.
- Put the Coldingham paths volunteer coordination item on the August agenda and invite appropriate groups and individuals
- Present costed proposals to the CC for three or four benches around the village – NR
- Present costed proposals for the repair/replacement of existing benches - NR
- Follow up formally on the Help for Heroes bench proposal with SBC - KT

DONM : **Tue 18/08/2026, 7pm in Hall.**

Meeting closed.

Annex A – Bicycle Parking Proposed Locations

