COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Approved

17th March 2026, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

1: Present/Apologies

Coldingham Community Council:

Krishna Ramcharran (KR)	Leah Stewart (LS)	Neil Renilson (NR)
Jack Eeley (JE)	Carol Hallows (CH)	Christopher Anderson (CA)

Members of the Coldingham Community: 6

Apologies for absence

Philippa Allen (PA); Karen Thomson (KT)

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

2: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB

The Chair invited comments on the circulated draft agenda and requested suggestions for AOCB. Members agreed the agenda as presented. Following a comment from a member of the community, the Chair confirmed that Village Hall Committee matters would be covered under AOCB.

3: Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval

A single correction was proposed: an abbreviation on page three should read Councillor CH rather than CA in relation to the delivery of the MoU. Subject to the correction, the minutes were accepted, proposed (CH) and seconded (NR).

4: Matters arising from previous minutes

Luckenbooth electrician invoice and Christmas lights power supply

An invoice from the Luckenbooth for electrical call-outs totaling £443.05 was presented to the CC for payment. JE reminded the CC of the context. Last Christmas as per normal the Christmas lights were plugged into an external socket at the Luckenbooth. Unfortunately this time it resulted in repeated electrical faults and loss of power to the refrigeration units. An electrician had to be called out on several occasions including New Years Eve. The CC had previously agreed to consider paying for costs incurred by the Luckenbooth subject to receiving and reviewing any invoices presented. The Chair asked CC to vote on whether to approve the payment of the invoice for £443.05.

The CC voted 6-0 in favour to pay the invoice.

CH indicated that she had already paid the invoice. The Chair reminded CH that due process needed to be followed. Payment of invoices particularly when they involve hundreds of pounds need to be approved by the CC before payment can be made.

The meeting was reminded of the technical options proposed by electrician Alistair Easingwood rewiring the outside socket and creating a separate circuit breaker for the Christmas Lights so that any future outside overloads would not affect the Luckenbooth mains. The meeting was also reminded waterproof boxes had been purchased to waterproof the Christmas Tree electrical leads etc.

The Chair reminded the meeting that there was an action for the options to be reviewed around June 2026 to ensure a more permanent solution could be identified and implemented in time for Christmas 2026.

<u>Traffic management meeting with SBC, BEAR Scotland and Police Scotland</u>

The Chair updated members on progress to hold a public meeting to discuss traffic and road-safety concerns. Police Scotland (PC Granger and PC Jacobs) confirmed availability on 27/28 April. Scottish Borders Council (SBC) declined to attend explaining that they do not attend evening meetings and attendance at previous public meetings had resulted in negative experiences. SBC have offered to meet with a small group face-to-face once the CC has collated community views. Bear Scotland are not available on 27/28 April but are happy to join a follow up meeting with the CC and SBC.

The Chair proposed holding the community meeting on Tuesday 28 April 2026, 19:00–21:00 and confirmed the village hall had been provisional booked.

The CC voted 6-0 in favor of accepting the proposal.

Actions:

- KR Confirm Village Hall booking for Tuesday 28 April 19:00–21:00;
- KR to draft poster and circulate via different media channels with help of CC members.

<u>5: SBC Councillors Report</u>

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

Members discussed and sought an update on the consultation on the former surgery building near the car park. It was unclear whether the public hearing had taken place and if it had what was the outcome.

Action: KR – to seek an update on the status of consultation/hearing re: old surgery and identify whether the public can attend.

<u>6: Police Report</u>

KR indicated that the February 2026 report – See Appendix B for a summary.

Points to note: PC Suzanne Jacobs had been targeting hot spots for anti-social behaviour and giving attention to traffic issues arising from A1 diversions. She had conducted targeted patrols in Coldingham during latest diversion and reported that no significant incidents were observed. The Chair confirmed that the full report would be posted on the CC webpage on Coldingham Info.

7: Treasurers Report

CH delivered the Treasurer's report – see Appendix A. Income for the month was £11,154.15. This included £10,000 of funding from Foundation Scotland for the Play Park, bringing the Play Park funding total to the required amount to progress payment to SBC. Expenditure totalled £542.31, which included the electrical invoice discussed earlier in the meeting.

CH raised an issue regarding three EDF electricity bills she had received. The bills had been delivered to her post box. They were addressed "Care Of Rona / Community Council", covered October, November and December 2026 and totalled £253.22. The bill for November 2025 had not been paid. The bills were in addition to a previously-known Christmas lights payment. A review of historical invoices back to 2016 showed that no other EDF invoices had been paid by the Community Council. It was agreed that the CC would seek advice from Shona Easingwood before contacting EDF if required. CH also clarified that an invoice for Village Hall rental for £15 (not the £35 unclear copy) was located and resolved.

The Chair asked the CC to approve the Treasurer's report.

The CC voted 6-0 in favour of accepting the Treasurers report.

Actions:

- CH upload scans of the EDF electricity bills (Oct–Dec) to the shared drive
- KR to seek advice and input from Shona Easingwood on the nature of the bills and who has responsibility for paying them.

8: Wishlist

Playpark Update

JE provided an update. The CC had previously approved the Play Park design and Equipment List but not the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). SBC had initially requested the CC ring-fence a maintenance sum of £15,000 for 15 years. Following negotiations with SBC a revised figured of £5,000 for playground maintenance for five years was agreed, with consultation on a case-by-case basis for any vandalism or damage beyond standard maintenance. The revised MoU incorporating suggested changes from the CC was circulated to the CC for further comment and or approval. Majority approval was obtained from NR, KR, LS and KT. CA confirmed in the meeting that he was content with the revised version of the MoU. KR and CH had signed the MoU and JE confirmed SBC had also signed.

CH confirmed that due to banking protocol the transfer of £238,946.62 (excl. of VAT) to SBC would require an authorized person to attend the bank in person with documentation to execute the transfer. As previously explained by JE, once SBC were in receipt of the funds they would be able to raise a purchase order with KOMPAN. The Chair asked the CC to vote on authorising CH to make the transfer of £238,946.62.

The CC voted 6-0 in favour of authorising CH to proceed with the bank transfer.

Actions:

- CH to transfer £238,946.62 to SBC and confirm once done.
- JE to maintain communication with SBC/KOMPAN to confirm receipt of payment and Purchase Order issuance.
- The Play Park Team to publicise the Play Park design, the authorisation of payment, and next steps on the noticeboard and social media.

<u>9: Initiatives</u>

<u>Community Bus Survey</u>: CA reported on the bus-survey results which achieved responses from 115 households representing approximately 230 people — roughly half the village population. The survey revealed a high proportion of respondents were over 60 and that regular bus users were split roughly 50/50 between satisfied and dissatisfied. Key findings:

- Reinstatement of evening service 235 - 89% support,
- Preference for the pre-COVID timetable - 91% considered the pre-COVID evening timetable adequate
- Timetable adjustments to enable coordinated connections at Eyemouth (ensuring buses such as 235, 60 and 253 meet to reduce long waits) - 98% support
- Reinstatement of a daily service to Borders General Hospital (BGH) – 94% support.

The survey comments, which numbered about 60 additional written contributions, highlighted social isolation arising from loss of evening services, the negative economic impact on local hospitality, and concerns that lack of transport may drive younger families out of the village. Additional recurrent concerns included the lack of coordination between rail and bus at Berwick and Reston, punctuality issues, cleanliness standards on buses, insufficient evening services for holidaymakers and visitors, and occasional driver refusal to take standing passengers.

CA recommended - to complete the picture – consulting the visitor population at the local caravan parks, particularly over Easter. He suggested contacting the caravan parks' managers (Karen Batterson at Scoutscroft and Emma Noon at Coldingham Bay) to seek permission to leave questionnaires at their receptions. It was also mentioned that there is a Caravan Park Facebook group and it would be worth trying to promote the survey in some way through the site. CCs agreed that a summary of survey findings should be sent to MSPs and MP (Rachel Hamilton and John Lamont) and to SBC councillors to maintain visibility and seek additional support.

A member of the community mentioned they had at one time explored getting the local railways reopened – a line used to exist to BGH. KR asked the member of the community to send a copy of the plans to forward on a contact.

Actions:

- CA - summarise findings and circulate to Rachel Hamilton MSP, John Lamont MP, SBC Councillors and the Community Council;
- CA - adapt and print visitor questionnaires for caravan parks. Liaise with Carvan Park managers at Scoutscroft and Coldingham Bay to distribute.

Village Hall Retrofit: CH and a member of the community provided an update on the village hall retrofit and battery/solar options. Two battery sizes were identified; the smaller (circa 5kW) could potentially be funded fully while the larger would require additional fundraising. An energy assessment application had been submitted in January 2026. The feasibility of external battery siting was discussed; there is a possible external wall by the disabled toilet which might suit mounting battery units, though planning or permitted development constraints would have to be checked with SBC's planning contact (Paul Duncan). CH confirmed the Village Hall Committee were continually being engaged and invited to join the meetings with 3rd parties. The Chair suggested that community consultation would be appropriate when specific proposal started to emerged.

An assessor was due to be invited to visit the Village Hall to evaluate its windows, lighting and fabric and to potentially recommend measures to improve energy efficiency and a member of the Village Hall Committee would be invited to attend and participate in the technical discussions.

Actions:

- CH - schedule assessor visit and ensure participation of the Village Hall Committee
- CH - verify in writing planning/permitted development indicative position with SBC planning officer Paul Duncan for potential external battery siting.

10: Micrograntsh

LS provided an update on micrograhnts. The application form had been updated (now allowing groups and individuals to apply) and a poster supplied by Foundation Scotland for publicity was tabled for approval. LS highlighted that Foundation Scotland's rules allow microgrants up to £1,000 per applicant; larger project applications still need to follow appropriate governance.

The CC approved the poster 6-0 in favour to accept the poster design and agreed for it to be posted on the noticeboard and social media.

LS confirmed she had met with Crystal from the Parents & Friends Association (PFA) of Coldingham Primary School to clarify that the PFA will be treated as a special group and allowed two large-project applications per year. The PFA is to confirm whether they will operate on a calendar year or school year basis.

11: AGM – Confirm Date

The meeting discussed the timing of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). Accounts close at the end of March and the AGM must be held within 60 days thereafter. The group also discussed asking Brenda Alexander if she would audit the accounts as she had done in previous years or be able recommend someone.

The CC agreed to hold the AGM on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 19:00 subject to final confirmation of the accounts and availability of the necessary individuals to prepare the annual statements. The normal CC meeting to follow on from 19:30. The meeting agreed the draft date.

Actions:

- KR- Schedule AGM for Tuesday 19 May 2026
- CH - Contact Brenda Alexander for auditor/independent examiner role; if not available seek recommendation.

12: Actions from previous minutes

The Chair ran through outstanding actions and updates. The bus-survey activity and the Play Park MOU were highlighted as significant items now resolved or underway. Actions around the Village Hall retrofit, pencil crossing proposals (see below), microgrants and energy infrastructure engagement remain in progress.

Pencils/crossing points (traffic calming)

LS reported that SBC officers had visited Coldingham with Cllr.JA and others to survey potential crossing improvements at several locations: Priors Walk/School Road, Westlock Road (near clothing donation bin and woodland), the War Memorial area, and the bus stop/car park entrance. The officers will include the war-memorial-adjacent crossing in their plans despite earlier community concerns, citing evidence of pavement mounting as justification. It was clarified that SBC do not install zebra crossings within the Borders and will propose alternative crossing treatments; the officers will produce a plan for consultation before final decisions are made. The Priors Walk site will require the hedge to be cut back to allow the crossing infrastructure to be installed.

Actions:

- Await SBC's draft plans for proposed crossing points and arrange community consultation when the plans are available.
- Pursue hedge trimming at Priors Walk to facilitate potential crossing; identify and contact the hedge owner (Kirstie Robinson or local maintainer Tommy/Phil).

13: Correspondence

KR summarised the key correspondence received.

- Scottish Community Councils surveying views on giving community councils expanded powers similar to those given to Parish Councils in England
- An initiative by some Scottish Community Councils asking community councils to agree to a unified statement urging Scottish Government to pause certain major energy infrastructure until the impacts on communities is fully understood

- SBC have confirmed that the Zurich insurance cover for 2026 is in place and has the same terms as the 2025 policy. No action is required of CCC.
- The Lavender Touch Charity (a Scottish Borders Charity) is seeking to appoint a new chair several new trustees.

Actions:

- KR - Publicise the consultation on expanding community council powers
- KR - Publish the information on a unified statement for community consideration
- LS - Post trustee request for Lavender Touch charity for community awareness.

<u>14: Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)]</u>

<u>a) Curling stones and curling club concerns</u>

A member of the community presented concerns about the curling stones and the current administration of the curling group. The condition of the club stones had deteriorated (rusted ball bearings) due to damp storage. Replacement stones or bearings had been ordered but not yet received. The individual expressed frustration that the curling activity appears to be a closed group with limited advertising or recruitment of new players, and unclear accountability for fundraising and equipment procurement. The CC clarified its position as separate to the Village Hall Committee and Curling group and asked what help the individual needed from the CC. The CC offered if it were helpful to contact the Village Hall Committee. The CC also advised, as they had done in the past, that the Curling group could apply for a microgrant to aid in the purchase of a new curling set. It was noted based on limited research that a full new indoor curling kit would cost approximately £400. As part of the microgrant application there would need to be clarity on club governance and ownership of purchased equipment.

Actions:

- KR to contact Village Hall committee to relay concerns of the community member.

<u>b) Village noticeboard and storage</u>

Members discussed concerns raised by local groups about the condition and access to the noticeboard. The front of the noticeboard is currently padlocked which restricts public posting; the back section (Community Council area) remains accessible with a key. It was agreed to investigate ownership of the noticeboard and keys, and to consider replacement if required.

Actions:

- Identify noticeboard ownership and keyholders; consider replacement options and costs.

<u>c) Bandstand and local events</u>

A member of the community raised an initiative they were pursuing to secure a bandstand in Berwickshire to enable regular Sunday concerts by local music groups. Previous attempts explored potential sites including areas by the river at Eyemouth or the Ayton Castle estate. With the recent purchase of Ayton Castle there could be the possibility of including performance space as part of redevelopment plans. The council supported the idea in principle and asked to be kept updated.

16: DONM

Tue 21/04/2026, 7.30pm in Hall.

Meeting closed.

Appendix A – Treasures Report

Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report February/March 2026

From 17th February 2026 - 16th March 2026

Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£165,795.60
Expenditure	£10,266.28
Balance on Account	£295,033.08

Budgets

SBC - Annual Grant & Paths	(76.42).
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants *(£109,000 ringfenced for the Play Park Project)* *(£2,000 ringfenced for Cross legal fees)*	£18974.51
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	£1823.42
Play park fund	£134808.00
TOTAL	£155529.51

Income:

09/03/26	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 90 day account	£ 1,137.31
	Total	£11,154.15

Expenditure:

16/02/26	Bank Service Charge	9.97
18/02/26	Carol Hallows Treasurer - stationery	89.29
13/03/26	John and Steph Hamilton - Luckenbooth	443.05
	Total	542.31

Carol Hallows - Treasurer
Coldingham Community Council

Appendix B – Scottish Borders Area Command – February 2026 Summary

Community Update

PC Jacobs has

- been carrying out targeted patrols identified as hots spots for antisocial behaviour following reports from members of the public who felt they were being targeted.
- monitoring local traffic issues and obstructions caused by diversions during the A1 works.

SLO PC Cameron continues his involvement with the Imagine A Man Programme at Eyemouth High School. Focused on challenging trends towards misogyny and unhealthy masculine ideas as perpetuated on social media.

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Involved in 142 mental health related calls, 22 missing person enquiries, 91 domestic related incidents.
- East Berwickshire – 15 mental health calls and 0 missing person enquiry.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

- *Assaults –* 0 incidents in Coldingham. 1 incident in Eyemouth – male assaulted by a female inside the Tavern. Female traced and issued with a recorded police warning. 1 incident Chirnside – disturbance with a property, male arrested and charged.
- *Anti Social Behaviour* – 0 incidents in Coldingham. 2 incident in Eyemouth – nuisance outside Eyemouth Holiday Park, repeated disturbance at a specific address in Eyemouth, 1 incident in Duns
- *Vandalism/Vehicle Damage* – 0 incidents in Coldingham, 2 incidents in Eyemouth involving vandalism property. 1 incident in Co'path – tyre slashed - and 1 incident in Paxton – damage to a car.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

- Theft by Housebreaking – 0 incidents in Coldingham, 1 incident in Co'path, 1 incident in Eyemouth – attempted break-in in Hallydown
- Theft – 0 incident in Coldingham. 3 Incidents in Eyemouth, 2 for shoplifting at the Co-Op and 1 related to theft from a gated yard. 1 incident in Co'path , 1 incident in Ayton.

Improving Road Safety

- 3 incidents – Eyemouth – 2 were for driving with no insurance and no MoT and 1 for not obeying direction arrows in Eyemouth

Series and Organised Crime Enforcement

- 2 Drug & General Evidence Warrants executed in Galashiels and Duns. Led to seizures of class A/B controlled drugs as well as sums of cash. 3 males reported for supply offences and awaiting trail
- 2 formal warnings issued for possession of personal amounts of class A and B drugs .
- 1 illegal knife recovered an 1 male reported for the offence