



COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes - Approved

21st October 2025, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

1: Present/Apologies

Coldingham Community Council:

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

Members of the Coldingham Community: 5

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

Police Scotland: Suzanne Jacobs (SJ), Chris McCloud (CM)

Apologies for absence

Neil Renilson (NR), Alice Fisher (AF)

2: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB

The agenda had been previously circulated. Two items were proposed for AOCB by a member of the community. The agenda was accepted (nominated LS, seconded CH).

3: Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval

The minutes for 16 September 2025 were approved with no amendments. (nominated PA, Seconded CA).

4: Matters Arising from previous minutes

Safeguarding Policy – KR confirmed that since a member of the community experienced in Safeguarding had kindly reviewed and amended the document and a revised version circulated. KR reiterated that the policy remains a work in progress and will require ongoing review and refinement. CH volunteered to be the Designated Safeguarding Officer as she had previous experience of the role and enhanced DBS credentials. The CC voted 7-0 in support of CH taking on the role.

JA confirmed that responsibility for safeguarding the Playpark would transfer to Scottish Borders Council (SBC) once the new facility was handed over. This was no different to the current arrangement.

The CC voted 7-0 in favour of adopting The Safeguarding Policy.

5. Actions from previous meetings

Bus Shelters: – AF is in discussion with SBC regarding repairs to the shelters which need to be completed before painting can be done by the resilience team.

The Defibrillator (phone box): Repainting the defibrillator phone box had not progressed. It was raised that painting it Green and White might require planning permission as it is within the Coldingham Conservation area. It was mentioned by several present that all the other defibrillator phone boxes in the area were Red. Reston had installed a Green and White site in the area reserved for the old style TELEPHONE sign. It was agreed that the phone box would be repainted Red and the installation of a Green & White sign as per Reston's defibrillator phone box explored.

Kissing Gate: Cllr.CH confirmed that a request to inspect the kissing gates at path leading to the Old surgery from School Road had been submitted to the relevant department at SBC and she was awaiting a response.

Action: Cllr.CH to follow up.

Local Banking – Cllr.JA confirmed he would circulate a list of contacts the CC and members of the community could lobby to improve mobile banking services.

Action: Share the list of organizations and representatives for community banking lobbying with the Community Council – Cllr.JA

Christmas Tree & Lights – KR confirmed that the Xmas lights had been checked and PAT tested. There were enough working lights for this year. Shona Easingwood had confirmed the application to SBC was in hand and she had all the necessary paperwork. JE confirmed he was progressing with the selection of a Xmas Tree that had kindly been donated by a member of the community.

Surgery Consultation: KR explained he had finally received a reply from NHS Scotland re the consultation. The consultation had been advertised on NHS Borders social media, website and via an advert in a local newspaper – no mention of which one. There was no further opportunity for the community to comment. The application was in progress and will be considered at the Pharmacy Practices Committee – date to be confirmed.

Action: Contact NHS Borders to understand if members of the public can attend the Pharmacy Practices Committee - KR

Road and Utility works: Updates when received had been posted on social media.

6. SBC Councillors Report

SBC Budget Consultation: Cllr.CH indicated that the consultation was still live and encouraged everyone to participate

Winter Services: Cllr.CH encouraged anyone seeking information on the winter services to access the SBC website as the first port of call for information and to log any concerns or questions through the site. Requests for Salt Bins to be replaced or repaired should be made

well in advance of the winter season. Salt could be requested at any time but again advance notice would help with the logistics of delivery. CH confirmed that a new Salt Bin had been provided for the village car park. There were a number of salt bins on the moor road. KR indicated that SBC had confirmed the Moor Road bins would be inspected.

Action: Follow up with SBC outcome of Moor Road Salt Bin inspection - KR

SB Alerts – The community were encourage to sign up to the service. Cllr.CH reassured the meeting that signing up did open the user up to being bombarded by non helpful messages. The service allowed the user to control what information they receive.

Racism – Cllr.CH informed the meeting that AF had been in touch regarding the racist incidents in Eyemouth that had appeared on social media. Cllr.CH asked if any members of the community had raised concerns with any community councilors to which the response was no. Cllr.CH confirmed that the education system and police have programs and protocols to manage such concerns. In the first instance acts of racism should be reported to the Police. Representatives of Police Scotland present confirmed this indicating that reports could also be submitted online. They also confirmed that there was a School Liaison Officer working with schools to educate children about Hate Crime.

Eyemouth Primary School Relocation: Cllr.JA encourage everyone to take part in the consultation which closed at the end of November. Participation was important as it affected a significant part of the community.

BHA Walkabout: Cllr.JA had been on a walkabout with the BHA Representative.

6: Treasurers Report

KR confirmed the Treasurer’s Report had been circulated. The report detailed a current balance of £162,625.51, and listed the months income, funding receipts specific to the Playpark, expenditures and approved Microgrant applications. The CC voted 7-0 to accept the Treasurer’s Report – See Appendix A.

7: Police Report

SJ and CM provided an overview of recent community policing activities focusing on road safety, including the use of speed awareness devices and partnership work with schools to educate junior road safety officers. Several speed checks had been conducted, and further checks were planned involving the help of the Junior Road Safety Officers (P6/P7) at Coldingham Primary School and re-deployment of the pop-up policeman (Bob). The meeting with KR and members of the community a few months ago was mentioned and this had led Alison Granger having follow conversations with BEAR Scotland and SBC.

Police involvement in welfare multi-agency efforts was highlighted. Mental health-related incidents formed a significant part of their workload, with structured protocols in place for crisis intervention. A Community Psychiatry Nurse was now based in Duns. An isolated incident of antisocial behavior at a Highview Caravan was reported. The offender had been apprehended and legal action pursued. KT raised questions about cycling safety education, which was confirmed to be part of school programs. Further concerns about speeding vehicles

were raised and acknowledged. KR confirmed he was in the process of organising a joint meeting between the community and SBC, BEAR Scotland and Police Scotland to discuss these matters further.

Action: September report to be emailed - SJ

8: Microgrant Application

LS on behalf of the microgrant subgroup summarised the five microgrant applications that had been reviewed and presented their recommendations. A short report had been prepared and circulated to CC members and is summarised below:

Applicant	Amount	Purpose	Recommendation
Coldingham Garden Party	£500	Creation of logo and t-shirt printing	Approve
Coldingham Sands Community Company	£350	Provision and installation of RADAR lock	Approve
Coldingham Brave Bayers	£309.99	Replacement lockable notice board	Approve
Coldingham Primary and Nursery PFA	£1286.36	Pantomime Trip	Approve
Coldingham Primary and Nursery PFA	£1217.60	Trip to East Links Farm	Approve

The CC voted 7-0 in favour of accepting each recommendation.

Action: LS to issue award letters. KR to provide LS with previous award letters for reference.

LS said that the PFA had also submitted a microgrant application for a school trip to East Links Farm for £1217.60. Due to the time criticality of this request the CC had voted on this outside of the meeting, 9-0 in favor of accepting the recommendation to award.

LS raised the need for clarity on how to handle multiple applications from the same applicant within a 12 month period to ensure fairness and community benefit.

Action: Community Council subgroup to formulate a view and recommendation on the policy for repeat microgrant applications.

9: Initiatives

Community transport – CA presented the challenges the community were facing regarding the bus service. The bus service was in steady declining, there was inadequate scheduling, a lack of consideration given to connections between services, and accessibility issues, particularly for the elderly and disabled. Whilst a new timetable was in operation it was difficult to get access to the timetable. The elimination of the 253 direct to Edinburgh – an meant that to make the X7 leaving Dunbar one had to leave Coldingham on the 253 well in

advance. The service to Borders General Hospital was impractical due to the timetabling. There was no bus service to the Reston Railway Station and the Bus Shelters in Coldingham were not suitable for example the one adjacent to the New Inn left occupants completely exposed to the elements.

CA proposed a number of possible actions including public petitions, surveys along bus routes, lobbying Border Buses, and engaging MSPs for transport funding and service improvements. It was also suggested that maybe the local community councils should come together and jointly make their voices heard on the matter.

Actions:

- **CA to draft a community questionnaire regarding bus service usage and circulate for review.**
- **Cllr. CH to follow up with SBC and Borders Buses on public transport strategy, including services for elderly and disabled residents, and report back.**

Village Resilience – CH outlined plans to establish a warm, powered community hub for emergencies, investigating solar panel and battery installations at the Village Hall. Funding opportunities, technical feasibility, and ownership and planning concerns were identified as next steps. Integration with broader disaster preparedness efforts was emphasized. KR indicated that the discussion had raised a number of constructive questions. A proper proposal needed to be developed detailing requirements, full life costs, risks, pay back period, funding sources and confirmation from SBC on planning requirements. It was also important to show that the initiative was fully supported by and wanted by the community.

Action: CH to discuss and seek clarification on the ownership, legal entity, and feasibility of installing solar panels and battery storage at the Village Hall.

10: Safeguarding Policy - Discussed under Matters Arising.

11: Wishlist

Playpark Update – JE reported that the Playpark team had reached approximately 93% of its funding target with just over £201,000 secured from CC and public grants, community fundraising, and charitable donations. It was anticipated that the outstanding sum of £16,000 could be achieved through pending applications. JE explained that SBC required the full funds prior to the commencement of procuring the playpark equipment at the end of December 2025. With some allocations likely to be made in January 2026 this might present an issue. JE wanted to understand if CCC would consider a bridging loan. KR indicated that the CC would not rule it out but need JE to explore all options with SBC, i.e. letters of intent to award from funders, exploring options with KOMPAN etc. The legalities associated with CCC providing a bridging loan against the risk of a funding shortfall materialising need to be understood.

Village Hall Event Outcome – KR confirmed that he had circulated a summary of the Village Hall event outcomes regarding the Wishlist projects. Based on the original survey voting and that at the Village Hall there were nine priority community projects with a combined score of 9 or over. CC's queried what the 'Playfield' project entailed. JE confirmed this was an

amalgamation of a number of suggestions. The original responses were all scanned and on the shared drive and would need to be revisited to understand the exact scope.

It was agreed to have a more detail discussion at the next meeting to enabling a more informed decision to be made.

12: Planning Application – 25/01265/FUL

KR explained that the planning application was primarily for internal renovations to a residential property in Coldingham. The CC had missed the closing date for submission of comment 14/10/2025, but suggested that the CC should still vote and make a submission. The CC vote 7-0 in favor of “No Objection”.

Action: Submit views of CC to SBC - KR.

13: Correspondence

KR summarised the key correspondence to note – most of which had already been circulated to the CC.

- Community Council Scheme Handbook – This had been approved by SBC and circulated. KR encouraged CC’s to review the documents. KT noted that the guidance suggested only three meetings annually plus an AGM. KR stated that this was guidance only. If it was something the CC wanted to look at it would have to be tabled, discussed and voted on.
- Community Council Session – SBC were holding an online session on 21/10/2025. KR had sent apologies on behalf of CCC.
- Notices regarding the A1 Lamberton – Overnight resurfacing and Eyemouth’s Toll Bridge Road closure 3rd-7th November 2025 had been shared on Coldingham People and Coldingham Info.
- University of Strathclyde has issued A Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice survey inviting CCs to participate. The closing date is 31/10/2025. CH confirmed she had already completed the survey.

14: AOCB

- Creel Path: members of the community raised the opportunity to work with St Abbs to improve the Creel Path to maintain year round accessibility and secure the necessary funding to engage a contractor to undertake the work.
- Village Notice Board: It was suggested that the Village Notice Board should be replaced with a plan to liaise with SBC for funding and installation approval.
- Energy Grants: A proposal to engage with grant advisors from other communities was approved to better identify available funding streams, potentially allowing the community to access more wind farm and solar energy-related grants.

16: DONM

Tue 18/11/2025, 7pm in Hall.

Meeting closed.

Appendix A – Treasurers Report

Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report

October 2025



Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£28,271.20
Expenditure	£5,149.45
Balance on Account	£162,625.51

Budgets

SBC - Annual Grant& Paths	£261.00
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants (£109,000 ringfenced for the Play Park Project) (£2,000 ringfenced for Cross legal fees)	£135,474.81 (£24,474 remaining)
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	£0.45
Play Park	£26,889.25
TOTAL	£162,625.51

Movement since last meeting:

Income

17/09/2025	SBC Village Hall Reimbursement	£110.00
22/09/2025	STRIPE Playpark	£ 5,874.87
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 114.81
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 620.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 550.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 500.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 490.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 1,000.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 1,000.00
30/09/2025	PLAYPARK FUNDRAISING	£ 540.00
01/10/2025	LAUDER A PIZZA OVEN PLAYPARK	£ 535.00
06/10/2025	QUIXWOOD GRANT - PLAYPARK	£ 10,000.00
06/10/2025	BERWICKSHIRE CHARI PLAYPARK	£ 2,000.00
10/10/2025	STRIPE Playpark	£ 2,122.57
13/10/25	Coldingham Gala - Play Park	£ 1,000.00
15/10/25	Coldingham Society - Play Park	£ 500.00
20/10/25	PFA - Bake Sale - Play Park	£42
	TOTAL	£26,999.25

Expenditure

15/09/2025	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25
30/09/2025	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WREATHS	£35.00
08/10/2025	COLDINGHAM PFA	£1,217.60
08/10/2025	RAIL ACTION GROUP	£10.00
10/10/25	AF Expenses - Community Event	£51.15
14/10/25	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25
20/10/25	KR Expenses - Community Event	£65.10
	TOTAL	£1,336.20

*Alice Fisher, Treasurer,
Coldingham Community Council*