



## COLDINGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes - Approved

17<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7pm Coldingham Village Hall

#### **1: Present/Apologies**

Coldingham Community Council:

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

Councillors: Cllr Carol Hamilton (Cllr.CH)

Members of the Coldingham Community: 4

#### **Apologies for absence**

Councillors: Cllr James Anderson (Cllr.JA); One member of Coldingham PFA

#### **2: Agree Agenda and Items for AOCB**

The Chair invited comments on the circulated draft agenda and requested suggestions for AOCB. The draft agenda was accepted without amendment and proposed (JE) and seconded (CH). No items were proposed for AOCB.

#### **3: Previous Minutes – Corrections/Approval**

Attendees were asked if there were corrections and or amendments to draft minutes for the Jan 2026 meeting. A small wording issue on item 14 of the previous minutes was noted (use of “competent business” versus “council business”). No other changes were requested. The minutes were accepted with the proposed change, proposed (KT) and seconded (CA).

#### **4: Matters arising from previous minutes**

A1 Diversion Members of the community had been in touch re an incident on the Moor Road involving an articulated lorry. The incident occurred on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The Moor Road was in use as part of the designated diversion route for North bound traffic. The Chair had sought an update from Police Scotland and BEAR Scotland. BEAR Scotland said the incident was weather-related (ice on the road), their teams had responded swiftly and re-opened the A1 within 15 minutes to enable the safe flow of traffic. The Community Police officers confirmed they were aware of the incident. In addition they had been monitoring the diversion route through Coldingham on late shifts and reported no issues in Coldingham. The Chair acknowledged that social media discussion and local concern remained significant and confirmed he would arranging a joint meeting with BEAR Scotland, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and the police to discuss traffic management and safety of the mandatory diversion route – a long standing action that had not been progressed.

Members of the community raised concerns with the recurring problems with the diversion route, including private land runoff and flooding from Law Farm. The question was asked whose responsibility was it to pay for the repairs BEAR Scotland and or SBC? The Chair confirmed this question had been asked before and should be asked again. There should be a case for investment from the authorities on a designated route particularly when as the community have been repeatedly told there are no alternatives. It was agreed that an open meeting between the community, SBC, BEAR Scotland and Police Scotland would provide the opportunity for concerns to be aired and the exploration solutions.

**Action:** KR to schedule joint community meeting with BEAR Scotland, SBC and Police.

### **5: SBC Councillors Report**

Cllr.CH provided updates on local projects and council business. The Bantry Project, the Harbour Master Plan for Eyemouth, and focus groups shaping a new primary school were all progressing. The Chair mentioned they had met a representative from Scottish Enterprise focused on developing regional opportunities arising from offshore and net-zero investments. The Chair suggested that improved engagement and communications by those responsible for the Harbour Master Plan with the surrounding communities, could be beneficial in raising the profile of the opportunities for local businesses and the development of jobs and skills development.

Cllr.CH indicated that Harbour Master Plan remains at the feasibility stage with wave mapping and tidal analyses still outstanding; public engagement events were planned — specifically a consultation on the beachfront and boundary scheduled for Wednesday 25 February (open to all). Cllr. CH also mentioned a Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) careers event at the high school coming up which could be a gateway to exposing local pupils to opportunities.

**Actions:** Cllr.CH to liaise with the Harbour Master Plan leads to encourage wider community engagement.

### **6: Wishlist**

Playpark Update – JE and Robbie Broomfield (RB) provided an update on the playpark project with a focus on the actions from the last meeting. Key points covered:

***Design Overlay/Detailed Design:*** JE explained the initial drawings had suggested a footprint that looked too large. He and RB had visited and physically marked the site and requested revised scaled drawings from KOMPAN which were provided. KOMPAN indicated that the layout should be treated as indicative; the hard surfacing (wetpour) footprint and 6-metre clearance requirement around the play area were immutable constraints. KOMPAN would assign a Contract Manager post placement of the order. Following a site visit to finalise the positioning of the equipment a detailed construction plan would be produced. The plan would have to be signed off by SBC, KOMPAN and the CC before construction could commence. The CC were reassured that the construction drawing would mitigate layout risks.

**Decision:** The CC voted 8-0 to approve the original indicative site plan dated 20/01/2026 on the understanding that a construction drawing would be produced post placement of the order and the CC would be involved in its sign-off.

JE confirmed that in addition to the indicative site plan the CC also needed to sign off the equipment list and costings. Both items would be attached to the MoU which when signed would allow an order to be progressed.

**Decision:** The CC voted 8-0 to approve the equipment list and costings - total of £238,946.62 excl. VAT for the removal of existing equipment and the supply and installation of new equipment and surfaces - dated 20/01/2026.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** – JE explained that SBC had issued a revised MoU. The original MoU signed by the CC in October 2025 had never been signed by SBC. The Chair expressed concern as the CC had not been informed that SBC had not signed the MoU. Furthermore, SBC Legal had had to be chased repeatedly, including by Cllr.CH, to deliver the MoU or potentially jeopardise the fund raising attempts of the community.

JE explained that the new MoU contained a number of amendments including a clause requiring the CC to provide a £15,000 fund to cover equipment replacement for vandalism or defects not covered by warranty.

A number in attendance expressed strong dismay with the clause and the way SBC had introduced it. No evidence or precedent had been provided by SBC to support its introduction. The CC considered the clause disproportionate and were appalled at the proposal that SBC could draw down the funds at will. Some considered the approach taken by SBC unprofessional and self serving.

RB explained the time constraints facing the CC to resolve and sign the MoU. RB had received confirmation that the draw down dates for two grants awarded by SBC to the playpark could be moved to the end of March 2026. If this date was missed the funds would be lost. The CC therefore had around six weeks from the meeting to finalise the MOU, transfer funds and raise the purchase order. There was an urgent need to agree and sign the MoU.

Following extensive discussion several suggestions to put to SBC were agreed. These were to propose the inclusion of a mutual agreement clause; request evidence from SBC on historical vandalism costs across playparks they maintained to justify the requested funding level, and propose an periodic increase in the maintenance funds set aside by the CC rather than a lump sum.

The Chair suggested that the quickest way to solve the MoU issues was for a face to face meeting with the necessary players from SBC and asked Cllr.CH if she could help. Cllr.CH offered to escalate the matter within SBC and request a meeting be convened.

RB clarified the installation timeframe: KOMPAN typically quoted an eight-week installation period; the key local event constraint was the annual Gala last Sunday in July (26 July 2026), and members wanted any disruptive site activity avoided around the Gala days.

Funding and contingency were discussed: total cost excluding VAT was approximately £238,900; VAT would be reclaimable via SBC if SBC placed the order. The Community Council and fundraising had raised the necessary contribution. verify the need for the CC to set aside contingency with KOMPAN.

**Actions:**

- Cllr.CH to escalate the MOU concerns within SBC, request a meeting with relevant officers (legal/policy/parks) and seek an alternative clause that requires mutual agreement for draw-down of community-held funds.
- Community Council to propose an amended MOU clause: CC holds restricted funds; SBC can draw only by mutual agreement.
- All CC's to review MOU drafts promptly on circulation to allow signing within the funding window (target: mid- March transfer date).

**7: Microgrants**

LS presented an update on microgrant funding availability and proposed simplifications to the award tiers based on a pre-meeting discussion (minuted) that took place with KT, KR and CH and LS. After reconciling accounts with CH, KR and KT, the available microgrant pot for 2026 stood at £4,406.48 (including a new £1,000 contribution from the NnG East Berwickshire fund). The current CC policy capped individual awards at £250, groups at £500 and large projects at £1,500 and included a rule restricting successful applicants to one successful award within 12 months. LS proposed equalising small awards so that individuals and groups could each apply for up to £500 to simplify administration and increase accessibility.

**Decision:** The CC voted 8-0 that applicants (individuals and groups) for small awards could apply for up to £500.

Members discussed the potential special treatment of the Coldingham PFA who had received two large project awards amounting to about £2,500 over the period since August 2025 and the CC had recently received another application. The PFA has recurring needs for trips, coach hire and school-wide activities which carry large per-event costs due to rural transport constraints. LS presented two options (i) allow the PFA two large-project awards per year (i.e., two grants of up to £1,500), or (ii) allocate a £3,000 ring-fenced pot for the PFA from Penmanshiel funds or similar sources. Members were mindful that any dedicated allocation should be transparent, accountable and not disadvantage other groups.

The CC debated fairness, precedent and the administrative overhead of a recurring pot versus discrete applications. Several members argued that rural schools face higher transport costs and fewer alternative opportunities; giving the PFA some certainty for trips and educational visits was therefore socially valuable. Others were concerned that singling out one group might upset other community groups.

**Decision:** The CC voted 8-0 to ring-fence £3,000 per annum (2 x £1500 projects) for the PFA. The fund had to be used for whole-school benefits only (not restricted subgroups) and the PFA would still have to submit an application and comply with reporting requirements.

It was agreed LS would update public communications about the microgrant policy to reflect the streamlined small awards (individuals and groups both up to £500), the large project cap at £1,500, and the PFA ring-fenced pot.

**Actions:**

- LS to update the Microgrant policy to reflect the changes to award levels
- LS to update the microgrant application materials, community noticeboard and social media to reflect the revised award levels and to publicise the availability of funds.
- LS to meet with the PFA to explain the new arrangement and clarify accounting and eligibility.

**8: Treasurers Report**

CH presented the Treasurer's report – Appendix A - and highlighted key figures. The bank balance was reported as £284,421.24. This included the amount ring-fenced for a set of specific activities including the playpark. The total income since the last meeting was £29,502.27 and total expenditure minimal in the period. KR asked if there was any explanation for the two recent receipts from Penmanshiel: £15,862 received 22 December 2025 and £9,465 on 28 January 2026. CH explained that historically the Penmanshiel allocation often arrives as a recurring grant and sometimes includes a surplus payment. KR said he would email the fund administrators to clarify the payment breakdown and include CH on the email.

CH requested that members submit outstanding receipts for reimbursement and asked the CC to approve her petty expenses for Christmas gifts and stationery.

**Decisions:**

- The CC voted 7-0 to approve payment of CH petty expenses of £89.29
- The CC voted 7-0 to accept the Treasurers report

KR indicated that the accounts would need to be audited shortly. In the past this had been done by Brenda Alexander. CH agreed to liaise with Alice Fisher to obtain contact details.

**Actions:**

- Members to submit outstanding receipts to the Treasurer for reconciliation prior to year-end audit.
- KR to contact Penmanshiel fund administrators to request clarification of the recent payments
- CH to liaise with Alice Fisher to seek Brenda Alexander's help to examine the annual accounts.

**8: Police Report**

KR indicated that the January 2026 report – See Appendix B for a summary - showed a series of shoplifting incidents at the local petrol station and the Co-op; police reported progress in identifying three individuals described as prolific shoplifters. There had also been reports of car vandalism in Eyemouth and nearby areas across late January 2026.

## **10: Planning Applications**

Two planning applications were discussed.

**26/00055/FUL** – The change use of the existing Butcher Shop on Bridge Street to a holiday let. The CC had voted on this application out of meeting due to the submission date. The CC voted 8-0 No Observations. KR confirmed a response had been submitted to SBC Planning.

**Bee Edge Poultry Unit:** KR informed the meeting that SBC had written to confirm the application had been approved. He reminded the meeting that the landowner had come to a CC meeting to explain their application and answer questions from the Community and CC. The approval came with 16 conditions, many addressing animal welfare, nuisance and drainage. Community concerns raised previously about noise and potential runoff impacts appear to be acknowledged through some of the conditions. The CC hoped the planning conditions would address drainage and mitigation to prevent environmental harm (one member had referenced seahorse mortality on the west coast resulting from poor runoff control).

## **11: Initiatives**

**Community Bus Survey:** CA reported progress on a community bus/transport questionnaire distributed across the village; responses were still being returned and a notable mix of anger, apathy and interest had been observed. Some outlying hamlets (Bogan Green, Abbey Park etc.) still required canvassing and leaflet delivery.

There had been limited engagement with St Abbs residents so far, and CA suggested expanding distribution to include St Abbs if response volumes warranted it. Anecdotal reports indicated that bus services sometimes failed to meet local needs (crowding, poor coordination with train arrivals, early departures preventing hospital appointments). CA mentioned he had bumped in to and discussed the survey initiative with John Lamont MP and Rachel Hamilton MSP. Rachel Hamilton had shown an interest in the initiative and was open to understanding the results and visiting the community.

The CC agreed to increase survey distribution in local hubs, to make the questionnaire available online, post copies to local cafés and the spa, and to collate the results for a formal submission to transport providers. The CC also discussed coordination with neighbouring Community Councils such as St Abbs and Coburnspath for larger transport initiatives.

### **Actions:**

- CA to continue distribution of the transport questionnaire, extend distribution to St Abbs (liaise with St Abbs contacts), make an online version available, and collate responses for analysis.
- CA to prepare a short written brief of the transport issues (bus timing/coordination concerns, connections to train station) for circulation to the Council and potential partners.

**Village Hall Retrofit:** CH and Julie McMillan reported on a visit to Folden Hall where the retrofit measures included bespoke heating solutions and electricity generation. The visit revealed

useful models for community building retrofits; Folden Hall had underfloor heating with liquid gas and onsite energy generation and was an example of good practice. The Village Hall had applied for a feasibility visit from a retrofit specialist who could survey the hall and advise on funding and technical options. Applicants were told that the offer had an estimated eight-week lead time and was fully funded (no 20% match required). CH confirmed a more detailed update would follow once the survey had been completed. The CC emphasized that any decision regarding retrofit work would have to come from the Village Hall committee and therefore ongoing engagement was imperative.

**Actions:** - CH to circulate the retrofit survey outcome and next steps once the specialist visit is complete.

### **12: Actions from previous minutes**

The Chair ran through the actions. Several actions were reported closed: playpark measurement work, planning observation submissions, and village retrofit scoping. Updates were provided on:

- Village Hall Parking – SBC had responded that they were unable dedicate or prioritise parking for elderly members of the community in the village hall public car park.
- Coldingham Cross: Andrew Redden had apologised for not responding due to a 7 day work week running for 8 weeks.
- School Pencil Road Markers: Cllr. JA had followed up on his request and was awaiting a reply.
- Bus Shelter Maintenance - KT was in touch with a new contact at SBC.

### **13: Correspondence**

There was no substantive new correspondence to discuss beyond routine communications referenced in agenda items. The Chair noted that an early-learning survey from SBC had been shared with the PFA and posted on community channels.

### **14: Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)**

A community member informed the CC that St Abs lifeboat had been taken out of service for a six week retrofit in Liverpool. It was suggested that this information should be publicised across local beaches and community channels as a safety notice.

The Chair reminded members of the importance of public notification for safety-sensitive items and that community channels should be used to alert swimmers and beach users about lifeboat service interruptions.

#### **Actions:**

- Chair to continue to follow up on outstanding local infrastructure items (village car park, Coldingham Cross, bus shelter contact) and report progress at the next meeting.

**16: DONM**

**Tue 17/03/2026, 7pm in Hall.**

**Meeting closed.**

## Appendix A – Treasurers Report

### Coldingham Community Council - Treasurer's Report January 2026

*From 16th Dec 2025 - 17th January 2026*

Opening Balance from 2024/25	£139,503.76
Income	£154,641.45
Expenditure	£9,723.97
<b>Balance on Account</b>	<b>284,421.24</b>

#### Budgets

	£
SBC - Annual Grant & Paths	1403.00
Penmanshiel Wind Farm, Macro Grants (£109,000 ringfenced for the Play Park Project) (£2,000 ringfenced for Cross legal fees)	£25,416.68
Foundation Scotland - Microgrants & Cost of Living	£2,981.28
Play park fund	£124,808.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154608.99</b>

#### Income:

		£
22/12/25	Penmansheil Fund	£15,862.03
31/12/25	Scoutcroft / 80's night	£640.00
31/12/25	Simpsons Malt	£2,500.00
09/01/26	Scoutcroft Chailidg	£354.00
15/01/26	Sands Co. refund	£50.00
21/01/26	Scottish Borders	£600.00
28/01/26	Penmansheil Fund	£9,465.78
01/11/25	Bank Interest (Instant Access A/C)	£10.59
12/12/25	Bank Interest (Instant Access A/C)	£9.60
09/01/26	Bank Interest (Instant Access A/C)	£10.27
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,502.27</b>

#### Expenditure:

		£
16/12/25	Bank Charges	4.25
05/01/26	S & A Easingwood	55.98
12/01/26	Bank Charges	4.75
06/01/26	Village Hall Rent	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£134.98</b>

Carol Hallows - Treasurer Coldingham Community Council

## Appendix B – Scottish Borders Area Command – January 2026 Summary

### Community Update

Community officers assisted with reporting and identifying 3 prolific shoplifters from the Eyemouth area responsible for multiple thefts from the Co-Op and Penny Petroleum – value of stolen goods in excess of £1000.

### Protecting Vulnerable People

- Involved in 167 mental health related calls, 20 missing person enquiries, 98 domestic related incidents.
- East Berwickshire – 8 mental health calls and 1 missing person enquiry.

### Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

- Assaults – 0 incidents in Coldingham. 1 incident in Eyemouth. Forceable entry and householder assaulted, suspect arrested.
- Anti Social Behaviour – 0 incidents Coldingham. 2 incidents in Eyemouth. 2 incidents in Duns.
- Vandalism/Vehicle Damage – 0 incidents in Coldingham, 7 incidents in Eyemouth involving vandalism to vehicles and property. 1 incident in Grantshouse and 1 incident in Whitsome.

### Reducing Acquisitive Crime

- Theft – 0 incident in Coldingham. 14 Incidents in Eyemouth relating to shoplifting at the Co-Op (11) and Penny Petroleum (3). 1 incident in Chirnside and 1 incident in Whitsome.

### Improving Road Safety

- 5 incidents – Eyemouth – driving whilst using a mobile phone, no insurance, no MoT, obscure numberplate and non legal tyres. Drivers fined and issued with penalty points. 1 incident in Duns.

### Series and Organised Crime Enforcement

- 1 Drug & General Evidence Warrants executed in Galashiels and positive stop and searches. Led to seizures of class A/B controlled drugs and 4 figure sums of cash recovered.

1 person reported for drug related offences and another for a possession offence.