



## **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minute of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council held on Thursday, 16 September 2021, in the Old Marriage Room, High Street, Coldstream.

**Present:** Alison Campbell, Iain Dickson, Diana Findlay, Colin Milne, Wendy Myers, Fiona Shepherd, Jannette Sim, Joy Thomson, Henry Wallis; SBC Councillor John Greenwell, SBC Councillor Donald Moffat, SBC Councillor Mark Rowley.

**In Attendance:** Jenny Wilkinson, SBC Clerk to the Council.

**Apologies:** Colin McGregor, Jeanette Milne.

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SBC Councillor John Greenwell, the Returning Officer for the recent election, welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the now re-established Community Council. As Returning Officer, Cllr Greenwell chaired the first part of the meeting until a Chairman had been appointed. Cllr Greenwell explained that in February 2020, there had not been sufficient nominations for the Community Council to continue, so it was good to see it up and running again. There was a round of introductions.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

2.1 Copies of the Notice of Uncontested Election had been circulated with the agenda. This Notice gave details of those valid nominees who had now been elected to the Community Council. The membership of the Community Council was thus confirmed as:

- Alison B. Campbell
- Iain Dickson
- Diana E. Findlay
- Colin S. McGregor
- Colin B. Milne
- Jeanette V.M. Milne
- Wendy Y. Myers
- Fiona Shepherd
- Jannette Sim
- Joy E. Thomson
- Henry Wallis

2.2 This left one vacancy on the Community Council which could be filled by co-option at a later date if the members of the Community Council chose to do so. **Noted.**

2.3 Copies of the Community Councillors Code of Conduct had been circulated with the agenda.

**DECISION**

- (a) **ALL those present agreed to abide by the Community Councillors' Code of Conduct; and**
- (b) **NOTED that the 2 members of the Community Council who were absent from the meeting would be asked to agree to the Code at the next meeting.**

**3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Greenwell invited nominations for the post of Chairman of the Community Council. Fiona Shepherd, seconded by Joy Thomson, proposed that Iain Dickson be appointed as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Iain Dickson be appointed as Chairman.**

*Note: Iain Dickson took the chair for the remainder of the meeting; SBC Cllr Mark Rowley joined the meeting.*

**4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman invited nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman. Jannette Sim, seconded by Iain Dickson, proposed that Henry Wallis be appointed as Vice-Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Henry Wallis be appointed as Vice-Chairman.**

**5. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**

The Chairman invited nominations for the post of Secretary. Fiona Shepherd, seconded by Iain Dickson, proposed that Alison Campbell be appointed as Secretary and this was unanimously agreed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Alison Campbell be appointed as Secretary.**

**6. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER**

The Chairman invited nominations for the post of Treasurer. Iain Dickson, seconded by Colin Milne, proposed that Wendy Myers be appointed as Treasurer and this was unanimously agreed.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Wendy Myers be appointed as Treasurer.**

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 The Chairman asked the SBC Councillors to give an overview of their position and how they liaised with the Community Council. Cllr Rowley explained that this was his first term as a SBC Councillor and held the Portfolio for Economic Regeneration & Finance, which included housing, tourism, the Regional Economic Partnership, South of Scotland Enterprise, and the Borderlands Growth Deal. Councillor Moffat explained that he had

been a SBC Councillor since 1989, with a break until 2007. During his time with the Council he had been Chair or Vice-Chair of a number of Committees. He deal with enquiries and complaints from individuals in the Ward about grass cutting, potholes, etc. With 9 Community Councils in the Ward, in all his time on the Council, he found that if the Community Council and SBC Councillors worked together, then that made a difference to the local area. Cllr Greenwell then advised that while he had no Executive role on the Council, he was Champion for Armed Forces & Veterans, Equalities & Diversity, and Men's Sheds. He was heavily involved in the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and was recently appointed chair of the Autism Strategy Group which was being set up by the Health & Social Care Integrated Joint Board to review the Autism Strategy, which had been developed in 2015. His other role in the Council was as Convener of the Licensing Board. His main interest lay in the "Meeting of Minds" Charity which supported families with children with complex needs.

- 7.2 The Chairman then led a discussion on how to get the Community Council up and running and get a programme of work in place. Having been in abeyance for 18 months, it was important that the people in the town knew that the Community Council was back, what it did and the role of Community Councillors. Kerry Hague had volunteered to do the social media for the Community Council and this was welcomed. A press release was needed to let local people know the Community Council was up and running and a Facebook page would also need to be set up. Another avenue was the Coldstream Community News, where the Community Council could request a dedicated space. Four editions of the News were published each year. Joy Thomson advised that she was one of the original editors and was happy to write an article, and could liaise with Johnny on the amount of space the Community Council may need in each edition. With regard to public attendance at meetings of the Community Council, Jenny Wilkinson advised that the meetings were open for the public to attend and it was up to the Chairman to allow members of the public to speak on any particular matter. Jenny suggested that having an item on each agenda where members of the public could raise issues may be useful, as well as enabling people to submit questions in advance of meetings. In terms of contact email addresses, it would be preferable for generic email addresses to be set up or resurrected if they were already in place, with access to these given to all Community Councillors. This would mean personal email addresses were not given out in public.
- 7.3 The Chairman then asked about funding for the Community Council. Jenny Wilkinson advised that SBC gave each Community Council an annual grant to cover expenses such as hall hire for meetings, admin costs, etc. Jenny would ask Clare Malster, SBC Strategic Community Engagement Officer, to contact Iain Dickson with details. The new Treasurer, Wendy Myers, would contact the previous Treasurer to get the bank details and signatories would also need to be changed. Clare could also give details of the various funding sources which could be available for applications from the Community Council for specific projects. Cllr Greenwell added that Coldstream Common Good Fund held assets of Coldstream Museum, Home Park & Home Park Play Area, Home Park Pavilion Site & Pitch, and Lees Mill & Lees Mill Play Area. There were however no funds available for

distribution. As Chairman of the Community Council, Iain Dickson, would become a member of the SBC Coldstream CGF Sub-Committee or could nominate another member of the Community Council to attend meetings.

7.4 There was further discussion on:

- New cemetery: timelines had slipped but it was hoped to be on site within the fortnight.
- River bank at Leet Water and Tweed: accessibility of the river bank was an issue and consideration needed to be given to siting the biodiversity area elsewhere; Jason Hedley, SBC Chief Officer Roads was the contact.
- Accident outside Community Centre: road calming measures; Philippa Gilhooly, SBC Team Leader – Traffic & Road Safety was the contact.
- War Memorial: maintained but not owned by SBC; advice and grants could be available from the War Memorials Trust.
- Wall knocked down at Community Centre: owned by Community Centre and possibly listed.
- Police report: need to pass on contact email address for future reports.
- SBC Officers attendance at Community Council meetings: best to have phone/online conversation first about any issues, followed by site visit if required. Attendance at CC meetings would depend on availability.
- Items for CC meeting agendas: advise Secretary of particular items.
- Play park: **need to get "No cycling" and "No dogs" signs; the Chairman to investigate this.**

7.5 Colin Milne raised the issue of accessibility and the acoustics in the Old Marriage Room and asked for a different venue to be considered for future meetings, preferably on the ground floor. Various other venues were suggested – Leet Room in the Community Centre (potential issue with acoustics there), British Legion, the library and the Church Hall. The grant from SBC could be used to pay for any hire charges. There were mixed views on the various venues available. **The Chairman undertook to investigate the suitability and cost of other venues for future meetings.**

7.6 Joy Thomson advised of the Twinning Committee meeting the previous evening on which various other committees were represented. Joy asked about the possibility of the Community Council and the Community Trust putting on a social event at the Community Centre between the light up date and Christmas to improve liaison and communication between the different associations in the town. At one point, there were 65 different organisations. The Community News intended to print an updated list of these in the next edition. It was important that any public events or meetings did not clash and the possibility of a town diary was raised.

7.7 Jannette Sim raised the issue of a drain which flooded on the Tweed Green when there was heavy rain and sewage then came up. It was supposed to have been fixed but this was still happening. Cllr Moffat confirmed that the Community Council should contact Scottish Water as they would deal with

this, not SBC. **Alison Campbell to contact SBC for Scottish Water contact details**

- 7.8 Cllr Moffat advised that the biggest number of complaints he had received in summer was the grass not being cut. The only access to the water was from the Cauld and this was an unsafe area for younger children. The state of Jacob's Well and Nuns Walk paths was not good and needed sorted. Fiona Shepherd also spoke about potholes with Home Terrace a particular disgrace. The state of the roads and pavements in Coldstream was shocking. Cllr Greenwell advised that he had received assurance from officers that the team would be out in the next couple of days to do remedial work and then this would be added in to the programme for permanent repair. Concern was also raised about the double yellow lines which had worn away and needed to be replaced.
- 7.9 Alison Campbell gave details of the Flags petition which had been taken to the SBC Audit & Scrutiny Committee in December 2020 where it was agreed that a simple protocol would be put forward by SBC to Presenting Coldstream as to when flags would be flown. It was agreed by those at the meeting that it was an appropriate matter to be considered by the Community Council now that it was in place. Alison passed around details of the email trail so far and undertook to pass round the protocol for discussion and approval at a future meeting. Any comments in the meantime to be fed to Alison so she could brief SBC. Fiona Shepherd added it would be good to fly the flags from time change to time change and made it clear that the saltires were flying because this was Scotland and not for political reasons. Perhaps going forward a flag with the Coldstream crest could be flown but there would need to be liaison with the Lord Lyon on the use of this crest.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the Community Council normally met on the third Thursday of each month which meant the next meeting would take place on Thursday 21 October 2021 at 7:00pm, with the venue to be confirmed. The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for putting their names forward and reforming the Community Council. The Community Councillors represented a good cross section of the community and the gender balance was also noted. Coldstream was a great little town and close to everyone's hearts, with a lot of potential and it was for the Community Council to drive this forward.

*Meeting concluded at 8:25pm.*