

CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

15 June 2021– Eckford Hall, 7PM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome by Chair

The meeting was opened by Chair Dinah Faulds who welcomed warmly those present at the first live meeting of the Community Council since early 2020.

2. Attendees/Apologies

1. In attendance

Dinah Faulds (DF) Chair

Peter Jeary (PJ) Treasurer

Carol Spalton

Charlie Robertson (CR)

Douglas Scowen (DS)

Elliot Lewis (EL)

Hugh Wilson (HW)

Four members of the public.

2. Apologies received from

Douglas Scowen

Malcolm McGregor Previous Chair

Jane and Patrick Jenkins

Rachael Hamilton MSP (rec'd post meeting)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Any Matters Arising

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2019 at Eckford Village Hall, were proposed by Charlie Robertson and seconded by Peter Jeary, as an accurate record. This was agreed. There were three matters arising.

2. Matters Arising

Item 10a. Community Fund and Area Partnership - New funding arrangements. These are covered in the Chairman's report.

Item 10b. Community Council Review -the Chair reported that this was still in progress, led by the Area Partnerships. An informal questionnaire to gather Community Councils' views is expected shortly for feedback before the next review panel meeting on 31 August. Topics to be included are current arrangements and changes suggested by the review panel. This will be shared with the Community Council (CC) and placed on the website.

Item 10d. Nisbet Churchyard Renovation – A grant of £4,000 was received from the Localities Fund. The project has been delayed firstly by covid lockdown, then by difficulties in securing a contractor. SBC has now agreed that they could supply labour. It is hoped this contract will be agreed shortly and work will commence in 2021.

4. Chairperson's Report: See attached.

Action: The Chair agreed to send a letter of thanks to Malcolm McGregor, the previous chair, who stood down on 31 April 2021, for his outstanding contribution over 3 years.

5. Treasurer's Report : See attached.

The Treasurer presented his report to the meeting for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2021. Although the receipts/payments balance for the year indicated a considerable positive balance (£2,145.11) this was offset by outstanding commitment deductions (£1,635.02). The available funds at 31 March 2021 was £509.09. This is within limits to avoid implications for future settlements SBC Administration grant payments. The unexpected Covid 19 grant of £1k was used purchase Christmas lights to bring a little joy in the dark days of winter lockdown, with the balance set aside for path and seat repairs to support activities that improve mental welfare. A large expense has been the Website improvement costs (£935.00) undertaken by Sandu Media and diligently managed by Sheila Campbell. As in previous years, funds have been earmarked for the expected significant expenditure items such as replacement defibrillator batteries.

The Treasurer expressed thanks to CR for the considerable amount of work he does on the Jubilee Path and for donating all costs to CC funds.

The Treasurer noted that in succeeding years the CC will be required to report in detail on the expenditure of the SBC Administration grant.

The Report and signed audited accounts were accepted by the members and the Chair thanked the Treasurer for his clear report and his financial management.

6. Appointment / Election of Community Councillors / Ratification of Co-opted members.

In 2019, Marie Hogg (Ulston) stood down and two members resigned, Caroline Cook and Linda Coles the CC secretary, (both representing Crailing).

With Malcolm McGregor completing his term of office a vacancy was also created in Nisbet. All positions were advertised on noticeboards and the CC website, but no-one had contacted the Chair as a result.

Word of mouth recruitment resulted in two new members attending the AGM and being appointed by unanimous approval.

> Carol Spalton representing the Ulstons

> Hugh Wilson representing Nisbet

The Chair welcomed them warmly.

7. Election of Officers:

1. Chair: Dinah Faulds, CR proposed and PJ seconded, unanimously agreed.
2. Vice-Chair: Vacant, no volunteer stepped forward, passed to committee to follow up.
3. Secretary: Vacant There had been no response to the CC advert, so the Chair will continue to deal with emails and correspondence and service the CC until an appointment can be made.
4. Treasurer: Peter Jeary, EL proposed and DF seconded, unanimously agreed.

8. Acceptance of SBC Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

All members in attendance confirmed that they had read and accepted the Code of Conduct. DS had indicated by email to the Chair that he had read and accepted the conditions.

9. AOCB:

1. “Village Master Plans” - Ray Jones from Eckford suggested that villages, and in particular, Eckford, should consider a master plan, covering a period of c.20 years, to develop a sustainable, balanced community in terms of population, housing facilities, and services. There was concern that settlements in the CC’s area were becoming “retirement villages”. A “master plan” would be more ambitious than current SBC plans and would need to involve the whole community plus businesses and landowners. The suggestion generated considerable interest and a wide-ranging discussion followed. Ray Jones agreed to prepare a briefing paper for the next Community Council meeting. The Chair indicated that the new Local Plan Partnerships might provide a delivery mechanism and funding, and thanked Ray for introducing a new concept for the CC to consider that had potential to improve all communities.
2. New Website - Sheila Campbell reported that the new website had been refurbished and tested. New photographs, historical information and stories about all villages are required to freshen and improve the current content. These should be emailed to Sheila. The Chair thanked Sheila for her dedication to running and improving the website.

10. **Date of Next Annual General Meeting:** Provisionally Monday 6 June 2022 at the Lothian Hall, Crailing.

Appendices:

1. Chairman’s Report
2. Treasurer’s Report

Chairman’s Report

Crailling, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council : Chair’s Report, (May 2019 to 30th April 2021)
During 2019, which seems so long ago now, there were two significant developments, which were important for Community Councils in the Scottish Borders and the communities they serve. Both relate to funds devolved to local authorities from the Scottish Government, and linked to the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act (2015), and associated with supporting community based projects. The first was the ‘Localities Bid Fund’, in which any community group, in a given Locality area, (e.g. Cheviot, which CEN CC is within), could put together a bid for monies to support a given project or initiative. The bid was required to satisfy at least one of the themes of the SBC Community Plan. Such a group within the village of Nisbet decided, (with CEN CC support), to apply for a grant to renovate the Nisbet Churchyard. They were successful in being awarded a grant of £4000 and this work is now on-going, (having been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic).

The Second development which occurred in June 2019, was concerned with a much more enhanced role for the Cheviot Local Area Forum, to which, SBC devolved a ‘Community Fund’ in excess of

£160,000 to. Again, this funding was to facilitate community development initiatives across the Cheviot area. The annual fund devolved will be recurrent, though the actual amount may change from year to year. The Area Forum meetings are bi-monthly and CEN CC sends a member to attend and participate in the decision making. Although activities were interrupted last year by the pandemic lock-down, the Area Forum will continue to be an important platform for our community to apply for project funds and be involved in SBC decision-making, as we now emerge from the pandemic.

During 2019, Marie Hogg resigned from the Community Council as she was moving home to another area. During her term of office she had been an invaluable member, representing the Ulston locality and CEN CC is very grateful for her

dedication and the very helpful input she was able to contribute with planning issues on her patch.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, CEN CC has continued to function, although clearly, we were unable to hold meetings, including our usual AGM in May 2020. I would like to thank all the members of the CC for their continued hard work and support during what has been for all, a difficult period. The community council has continued to respond to consultations from the Scottish Government and SBC, including the new Local Development Plan. Planning applications have continued to come in and some, have required a great deal of time and research from members, in responding to them, on behalf of residents. During the first lock-down, CEN CC was successful in securing a grant from the Scottish Government, to facilitate the provision of a temporary community shop, based in the Crailing Lothian Hall and run by members of the Hall Committee. When it closed last autumn, the remaining stock was donated to the Jedburgh Food Bank. Also, I commend and wish to sincerely thank all those residents in our community who during this past fifteen months, have given willingly of their time and experience in ensuring that the many facets of our community activity, were able to continue to function, to the benefit of all residents: the Resilience Co-ordinators in each of our villages and hamlets, (especially those who stepped in to replace someone, or into a new position), the defibrillator checkers for each of our areas who play an important and key role, Jane Vickers for maintaining the CEN Oil Group Purchase Scheme and Sheila Campbell for her continued amazing work with the CEN website, for keeping us all informed and especially for assisting me with the management of the CEN CC email system. Also, what has been of a great help and I am very grateful for, has been the continued support from SBC Officers, our three SBC Councillors and the staff at The Bridge in Jedburgh.

During 2020, two of our long serving members, based in Crailing, retired from the community council: Caroline Cook and Linda Coles. As very dedicated and conscientious councillors, over their periods of office, they have both made an incredible contribution to the work of the CC in many ways, particularly, Caroline, as the attendee on behalf of the CC at the Cheviot Local Area Forum and Linda as Minutes Secretary. They will be a great miss and I express my sincere thanks to both for their service to our community.

I wish my successor Cllr. Dinah Faulds all the very best for the future and have no doubt that she will steer CEN CC during the coming post-pandemic months and years, both carefully and efficiently.

Malcolm McGregor
Retired Chair. June 2021

1May – 14 June 2021

In the 45 days I have been chair I spent 16 in the Orkneys. So I am still coming to grips with the role.

First and foremost I would pay tribute to Malcolm McGregor's outstanding contribution as Chairman. He was an assiduous, particular and devoted Chair, charting us through particularly trying times. The emails of thanks that Malcolm received paid testament to his valued contribution. So I will be delighted to convey our heartfelt thanks to Malcolm by letter, for the huge time and effort he devoted to Community Council matters in the last 3 years. He will be sorely missed, not least by me.

Coming to grips with the email system and website has been the focus of my activities to date. I want to thank Sheila Campbell for her unending good humour during 2 long familiarisation sessions and supplying turn over notes. Thanks are also due to Sheila for her unstinting work looking after the CC website and overseeing the recent upgrade.

I thought you would all be interested in a letter that arrived from SBC regarding the Kalemouth suspension bridge. Considerably more damage has been uncovered during repair work; rot in beams, seized cables and deformities in hangers. Work has halted whilst a desktop assessment is carried out, which should conclude in September. This must be followed by a plan and budget setting, so it is not possible to forecast when the bridge might be re-opened.

Looking ahead I want to push hard to fill the 2 Crailing member vacancies and find a secretary. The constitution needs an overhaul after 23 years and there is the important matter of Local Place Plans to consider how we might as communities by tapping into this resource.

We will be holding our first ordinary CC meeting, I hope, in the next couple of weeks to deal outstanding matters.

Dinah Faulds

Chairman

June 2021Page Break

Treasurer's Report

CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31st March 2021

	2021	2020
Receipts		
SBC Administration Grant	540.00	540.00
SBC Hall Rentals Grant	81.00	100.00
SBC Covid 19 Grant	1000.00	0.00
Advertising on CC Website	0.00	25.00
Donation - Honoraria waived	40.00	160.00
Donation - C Robertson	651.00	588.00
SBC Jubilee Path Maintenance Grant	450.00	450.00
Lloyd Land Rover - donation for Nisbet	50.00	0.00
	2812.00	1863.00

Payments		
Covid 19 Grant - Christmas lights etc.	700.99	0.00
Website Costs	935.00	330.00
Defibrilators expenses	40.00	120.00
Jubilee Path maintenance	651.00	588.00
Notice Boards - Maintenance and Renewal	0.00	25.00
Renewal of Eckford planters	0.00	241.56
Honoraria - Secretary & Treasurer	40.00	160.00
Hall rentals for meetings	80.00	0.00
Presentation to Jed Callant	0.00	48.00
Eckford War Memorial Wreath	35.00	34.00
Plants for village displays	45.00	48.99
	2526.99	1595.55
Surplus for the year	285.01	267.45
Funds		
Bank Balance at 1 April 2020	1860.10	
Add: Surplus for the year	285.01	
Bank Balance at 31 March 2021*	2145.11	
* See overleaf		

Peter Jeary
Treasurer
05 June 2021

Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the Accounts of the above Community Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 showing a surplus of £285.01 for the year and a bank balance of £2145.11 as at 31 March 2021. I find the Accounts to be correctly stated in accordance with the records, vouchers and bank statements submitted to me.

J. Henderson FCMA
Hon. Auditor

* Commitments to be deducted from the balance in hand of £ 2145.11 at 31 March 2021:-				
Covid 19 grant - balance to be spent on seats /path repairs				299.01
Donation to be spent in Nisbet				50.00
Nisbet Churchyard Restoration Project				200.00
Village plants - additional allowance. 4@ £60				240.00
AED Supplies Fund (batteries).				750.00
Plants for village displays 2020 - Crailing (£47.01) and Nisbet (£50)				97.01
Total Commitments				1636.02
Available funds at 31 March 2021				509.09