

Minutes of the Lammermuir Community Council Meeting
Tuesday 19th September 2017 at 7.30pm
Longformacus Village Hall

Present:

- LCC Members: Alistair Dawson (Chair), Tony Homer, Carol White (CWh), Cheryl Philipson, Clive Warsop (CW)
- SBC Members: Cllr Mark Rowley, Cllr Donald Moffat
- Secretary to LCC: Wendy Dawson-Young
- Members of the public in attendance: None

Apologies:

Corinne Mycock (Treasurer), David Mycock, Bill Landale

Agenda Point	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies AD welcomed all present. Apologies were noted as above.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of meeting held on 26th July 2017 TH requested that the draft minutes be amended to include the comment he had made as part of the discussion in Item 10: Village Boundary Markers, which had not been recorded. He does not support the matter of the village boundary signs and feels that their installation would not be a good use of LCF funds. WD-Y to amend draft minutes accordingly. Other than this matter, the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	WD-Y
<p>3. Matters arising All the action points noted in the Draft Minutes have been completed. There were no matters arising which could not be covered during discussion in response to the circulated Agenda.</p>	
<p>4. Chairman's Report (to be covered in Items 7 and 8) AD stated that he only wished to update Councillors about Broadband and the Fallago Windfarm Inquiry. He would give separate reports for these two matters in Items 7 and 8 respectively.</p>	
<p>5. Treasurer's Report In CM's absence, AD reported on her behalf that the LCC presently has £817.17 in the bank, having received 8p interest since the last meeting. There had been no other transactions.</p>	
<p>6. Police Report WD-Y read the Police Report for August 2017, which had been forwarded to CM by PC Stuart Tennant, even though WD-Y had given new contact details for the Secretary to the LCC to PC Lee Harper. There had been no incidents of any kind during the month. WD-Y, as agreed at the last meeting of the LCC, had emailed PC Harper on 1st August 2017 to ask why the wildlife incident in Longformacus, which had been reported in the local press, had not been included in the Police Report presented at the last LCC meeting. He had replied to say that he could confirm that the wildlife crime enquiry would be reported on its final conclusion. As no mention had been made once again in the August 2017 Police Report, WD-Y had contacted PC Stuart Tennant to point out that Councillors felt they should have been kept informed. The incident had been in the local press <i>and</i> apparently reported in the Community Council Report for Duns.</p>	

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Agenda Point	Action
<p>...continued/ PC Tennant's reply was read to those present in full. It detailed the incident as in the following extract: <i>What I can do is advise you that as a result of the execution of a search warrant, a male was charged with an offence in terms of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006: Failing to maintain appropriate/suitable conditions for a captive Eagle Owl and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.</i></p> <p><i>The warrant was executed with other agencies, i.e. SSPCA, RSPB etc, so they may have reported other matters separately. At this time, I am not able to confirm this. I will of course update you if indeed they have.</i></p> <p>PC Tennant acknowledged that he could not explain why report had not been made to the LCC earlier and that it was disappointing from a Community Policing point of view. Whilst unable to attend the meeting, he undertook to attend the next suitable meeting of the LCC. WD-Y will inform him of the date of the next meeting.</p> <p>DM commented that should the LCC wish to express their concern about not having been kept informed, he was willing to mention the matter to the Chief Constable, John Scott. This would be not be by way of complaint, but rather to enforce the message that more information on local policing matters would be most helpful to the LCC.</p> <p>It seemed the right time to bring to the table an email received announcing the appointment of the new Engaging Communities Portfolio Holder for J Division, PC Richard Toward. PC Toward is very keen that the members of the LCC complete the 'Your View Counts' survey, which is a local policing consultation document. WD-Y to forward the link to the survey to all Councillors.</p>	<p>WD-Y</p> <p>DM</p> <p>WD-Y</p>
<p>7. Broadband Update AD gave the part of his Chairman's Report covering Broadband.</p> <p>Since the last LCC meeting there had been a meeting of the Broadband Working Group, with Bob Cushing in attendance, and further survey work. AD had also attended several meeting with CBS. However, the situation had been changing very rapidly with various UK Government and Scottish Government announcements regarding provision of Superfast Broadband to remote rural areas. The UK Government had spoken about extra funding being sourced to allow UK-wide connectivity by 2020, whilst the Scottish R100 commitment is to be achieved by 2021.</p> <p>All the local Community Councils with which there had been meetings to discuss various partnerships and ways forward with CBS have now dropped out of the CBS project. AD requested confirmation from Councillors that the LCC should do likewise, and this was agreed. MR commented that as a result of the R100 announcement, no Community Broadband scheme could be thought worthwhile at the moment. Companies tendering for the R100 work are being requested to include in their tenders backhaul provision even for those properties which they cannot access with fibre (probably around 1.5%). The information we have gained from the survey work may allow us to 'top up' any shortfall to properties within the LCC area. MR commented that there had been rumours circulating that companies tendering for the work had been asked to look at the most rural areas first. This may not be true, but we have no option but to wait and see what happens.</p> <p>It was agreed that the only thing we can usefully do at the moment is carry on lobbying because we have NO Superfast Broadband at present. The date for completion of BT work giving coverage for the centre of Longformacus is still being listed as the end of the fourth quarter 2017, although no work has been seen to date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/continued ...</p>	

Agenda Point	Action
<p>...continued/ AD will prepare a statement from the LCC to be posted on village noticeboards and emailed out to residents via 'The Herald' to keep the community informed of what had been undertaken by the LCC and the latest situation regarding R100. It was agreed that this information should also be sent to the various estates that had cooperated over the survey work undertaken by Bob Cushing.</p>	AD CM
<p>8. Planning Matters</p> <p>8.1 Planning Applications Received Since the last meeting, two planning application shave been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Services communications mast at Crichness. Following email consultation with Councillors, AD made representation to SBC that any work on such a mast should not be carried out during the Mar - Aug breeding period of birds if prey. This has been incorporated into the details of the approval. • A planning application for a new door and windows at a property on The Row, Longformacus, had been forwarded by WD-Y to Councillors for comment. None had been received. This application still awaits a decision. • Two large farm buildings have been approved at a site in Cranshaws to replace those barns being demolished as part of the work being undertaken at Cranshaws Farm. <p>WD-Y confirmed that she had set up an account on the SBC website to enable her to quickly check on any applications received for the LCC area.</p> <p>8.2 Windfarms AD gave the second half of his Chairman's report, pertaining to wind farms in the area.</p> <p>He reported that the new turbines which form Aikengall 2 have not as yet started to operate. He has again emailed Victoria Dobie, of Abbey St Bathans, regarding the need for the CCs involved to negotiate the terms of any payouts to the local communities from the development.</p> <p>AD attended and MR represented the LCC at the Public Local Inquiry about the extension to Fallago 1 and permission for Fallago 2. AD felt that the process was all very cynical, as the phasing of the development had been manipulated towards a positive outcome. EDF are already being paid huge amounts of money by the Government NOT to produce electricity at times when the Grid cannot cope with the electricity produced.</p> <p>AD asked MR if he had a feel for how the Inquiry had gone. MR thought the local estates had put together a very good case, calling excellent witnesses who knew the area well. He felt the evidence submitted by the LCC had helped. EDF were seen to make fundamental mistakes about the position/nature of local properties etc, which brought into question how far they could be relied on to reliably assess the impact of turbines on the natural environment. MR suggested that EDF might be asked to trim their application slightly, perhaps for fewer turbines or by repositioning some of them. DM felt that the site visit had been very useful in demonstrating the impact of the turbines on the landscape.</p> <p>It was agreed that now is the time for the LCC to contact EDF to get them to firm up on a commitment to the local community <i>before</i> the Inquiry decision is announced. The LCC could still make representations that might affect the outcome at this stage. EDF had offered assistance with Broadband as a 'carrot', but following R100 this is no longer needed. We should see what else can be negotiated at this stage. AD will contact Margaret Hanson of EDF.</p>	AD

Agenda Point	Action
<p>9. Village Boundary Markers</p> <p>AD felt that, following the last LCC meeting, he needed to point out one or two things regarding the ongoing matter of the proposed village boundary markers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LCC had already debated and made a decision in favour of village boundary markers, although this was now being questioned by some. • It was with general approval of Councillors that he had made an approach to Greenlaw Foundry (which had once traded from the old sawmill in Rigfoot), for a quotation for the signs. <p>At the last meeting, both a lack of support for the project and surprise at the cost had been expressed by some members of the CC and AD had been pressed to obtain two further quotations. Pressure of work for the CC over the last two months had prevented him getting around to doing this. CWh had given him the details of a company in Buckinghamshire which might undertake the work. AD expressed his view that the size, nature and raw material for the job meant that it was unlikely that a much lower quotation would be forthcoming. Personally, he felt strongly that any contract should be awarded locally if at all possible, so that the economy of the Scottish Borders benefited.</p> <p>DM stated that over the years he had come to realise that good quality signs are very expensive. AD reported that although Bill Landale was unable to attend, he had sent a communication to the effect that he approves the project in general terms and with a suggestion that, perhaps, the money which had been set aside by the LCF for the Public Arts Strategy could be used for the purpose of the village boundary markers. The need for additional quotations if an application was to be made for LCF money was debated inconclusively.</p> <p>WD-Y, as a member of the public, stated that as AD had spent a great deal on time on both Broadband and the Fallago Inquiry, perhaps someone else would like to pursue the matter of additional quotations for the village signs? No one took this up, and AD reluctantly agreed to contact the company in Buckinghamshire.</p>	AD
<p>10. Correspondence Received</p> <p>WD-Y had been forwarding emails to Councillors over the last two months to prevent the build-up of a large amount of correspondence. However, prior to the meeting, there had been a flurry of communications, primarily via SBC. She briefly detailed correspondence as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invitation from Laura Bell, a Planning Officer in Forward Planning of Regulatory Services, to take part in workshops about the Main Issues Report. The workshop in Duns will take place in the Duns Council Chamber between 6 and 8pm on Thursday 5th October. Discussion was had about the function of the Main Issues Report, which might be of interest to us in establishing Cranshaws and Ellemford/Rigfoot as settlements with boundaries. This might allow for development of new homes in the area. TH pointed out that it would be beneficial to know if there would be a 'down side' to settlement status. CW felt that if Cranshaws was to be suggested for settlement status, then people in Cranshaws should be consulted. Other possible areas for inclusion on the report might be things such as fuel poverty/use of renewable energy and recreation spaces. AD undertook to attend on behalf of the CC and CWh said that she would also like to attend. WD-Y will book two places. • An invitation from Laura MacDonald, Projects Co-ordinator of Planning Aid Scotland, to attend their second interactive Patrick Geddes learning festival about creating better spaces for people. No one expressed an interest in attending. • An invitation to take place in a consultation about building Scotland's Low Emission Zones. This was not seen as relevant to the LCC area. • An email from Rebecca McNaughton inviting the LCC to join the SP Energy Network, which issues quarterly information to local councils, authorities, emergency services and <p style="text-align: right;">/continued ...</p>	AD/CWh WD-Y

Agenda Point	Action
<p>...continued/ key influencers. Promotion of the hotline number for reporting power cuts was suggested. TH felt that this information was already known by the community. However not everyone may know and WD-Y undertook to contact Rebecca McNaughton requesting posters for display locally.</p>	WD-Y
<p>11. Any other business AD raised the matter of contact from a member of the community, Maureen Ferguson, about difficulties she had been experiencing with shading to her home from the large beech trees by the roadside in Cranshaws. AD had looked at the guidance from the SBC and whilst they can protect trees or deal with dangerous trees, it seems that this matter would be one for negotiation between Maureen Ferguson and the owner of the trees concerned, in this case the Mayshiel Estate. AD undertook to write to her to explain the matter and to provide a contact at Mayshiel Estate.</p> <p>As an addendum to Point 7, CW suggested that AD's letter to community about Broadband should be more than just an email informing people of the situation. He felt it should include a narrative so they can understand the process by which the present situation has been reached, explaining all terminology.</p>	AD
<p>12. Date of next meeting The date and time of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm. Due to uncertainty about the completion date of the work at Cranshaws Village Hall, the hall at Longformacus will be booked.</p>	WD-Y