

Minutes of the Lammermuir Community Council
Thursday 2nd February 2018 at 7.30pm
Cranshaws Village Hall

Present:

- LCC Members: Alistair Dawson (Chair), Corinne Mycock (Treasurer), Tony Homer, David Mycock, Cheryl Philipson, Clive Warsop
- SBC Members: None present
- Secretary to LCC: Wendy Dawson-Young
- Members of the public in attendance: Forbes Gamley

Apologies:

Bill Landale, Mark Rowley, Donald Moffat

Note: The Chair's Report was removed from the Agenda as the Chair had elected to address individual matters within the relevant agenda points.

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 21st November 2017 Prior to the meeting, CM had requested that more detail be included in the minutes regarding her financial report given at the last meeting. This had already been actioned.</p> <p>TH commented that matters about Crystal Rig IV had been set out very clearly in the minutes. CW commented that with regard to impact on scheduled monuments, the important wordings to be used were 'sense of place' and 'setting'.</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below AD reported that he has actioned the necessary changes to the Constitution and forwarded the revised document to Pauline Bolson at SBC.</p> <p>Following the discussion about the Consultation Document regarding Crystal Rig IV wind farm at the last meeting, AD had sent off comments on behalf of the LCC to the Scottish Government. Whilst these comments arrived too late to be included in the printed response document, they have been posted on the SBC website and the Scottish Government have sent the comments direct to the developers with instruction that they answer the specific points raised. The response will be sent direct to Scottish Government, not to the LCC.</p> <p>An exhibition seeking to inform the public about the details of the proposed new turbines is to be held next week at Cranshaws Village Hall, Wednesday 7th February, 2.30pm - 6.30pm. AD has requested that this closing time be extended if people arrive on their way home from work and CM undertook to send out information to the community about this. AD will attend the exhibition on behalf of the LCC and stick closely to the line he has already taken in his written submission in response to the Consultation Document.</p> <p>With regard to the negotiations over payments to the community from Aikengal II, AD has sent off the Constitution as requested, but has heard nothing back. Abbey St Bathans, who are also negotiating, have had no response either. AD asked CM if she has a copy of the contract with Fred Olsen and she undertook to search for it.</p> <p>An enquiry from a local resident about Police arrangements for security over Christmas had</p>	<p>CM AD</p> <p>CM</p>

Agenda Point	Action
<p>3. Matters arising contd/ been dealt with by WD-Y and CM.</p> <p>DM had investigated the area to be affected by the planning application for a new roadway for timber extraction in a forestry plantation between Ellemford and Harehead. He could perceive no problems.</p> <p>AD still has the 4000 dog poo bags he was given at a recent SBC meeting. WD-Y to send out an email offering some to any locals who call in to collect them.</p> <p>CM has emailed out the calendar of bins days for 2018 to everyone on her list.</p>	WD-Y
<p>4. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>CM circulated a Financial Position statement. The current bank balance is £4877.59, with one LCC cheque in transit for the sum of £45.38. There is also a payment to the LCC of £100 in transit. Since the last meeting receipts totalling £641.29 have been paid into the account. After taking into consideration ring-fenced monies held for the Walking Fund and Public Arts Strategy, this gives a current working balance of £1052.21. There is a further £4000 ring-fenced with the LCF funds for possible future expenditure regarding Broadband. The sum which has been held for Community Events for some time has been resorbed by the LCF, so if the LCC decides to undertake a consultation process to canvas opinions and priorities from local people, a new application to the LCF will have to be made.</p> <p>CM reported on the situation regarding the closure of the RBS branch in Duns, where the LCC bank account is held. With the closure, we would have to transfer to a more modern account which would not offer a cheque book facility. She has investigated opening an account with the Bank of Scotland. They are able to offer a suitable 'Treasurer's Account' (free banking), with internet banking and branch facilities. It will take in the region of 10 days to transfer the account from RBS to BoS, with the opportunity to maintain the existing signatories. She would then add a third signatory once the account is up and running. AD asked if everyone present agreed to the transfer to BoS. FG asked if the LCC needs to have a bank branch locally. CM explained that an RBS internet account would only allow for one signatory, when two are required to make payments. BoS will provide a cheque book, cash card and internet banking. It was agreed to transfer the LCC account to BoS.</p>	CM
<p>5. Broadband</p> <p>AD reported that improving Broadband provision for rural areas has suddenly become a big issue, with quite a lot happening within the UK Government, Scottish Government and Scottish Borders Council. Community Broadband Scotland, which was not delivering, has been axed. Since the last meeting, AD had received a letter from John Lamont asking for comments to be sent to the Scottish Affairs Committee and AD has answered on behalf of the LCC. Comments are available via the Scottish Affairs Committee website.</p> <p>CW reported that fibre cabling has recently been brought into Longformacus from both directions (from Duns and from the telephone exchange) using overhead fibre on new poles. Fibre will be delivered direct into each house. AD reminded everyone that the aspiration is to have R100 in place by 2021, which should see all properties in the LCC area provided with superfast Broadband.</p>	
<p>6. Wind Farms</p> <p>There was no further discussion, the matter having been covered in Point 3 above.</p>	

Agenda Point	Action
<p>7. Village Boundary Markers</p> <p>It was agreed to go ahead with the final stages of planning for the new village boundary markers. AD reported that he has emailed SBC with an outline of what is proposed asking for advice about the process to be followed. It may be that planning consent will not be required, in which case, out of courtesy, the LCC will approach Mark Charles, the Ellemford Estate and Mayshiel. CW volunteered to speak to Mark Charles (following consultation with FG about exact location of proposed signs in Longdformacus) and DM to approach the Ellemford Estate. AD will contact the Factor at Mayshiel. The new Cranshaws signs will be on the other side of the road to the existing village name signs. DM and AD will consult about the exact positioning of the Ellemford signs. AD will progress the whole matter and liaise with others as required.</p> <p>The signs may have to be a little smaller than originally proposed and Cel-Tec at Greenlaw have been asked to revise their quotation accordingly. The quotation includes six signs and the posts for erection. It was proposed that the signs could be installed and then a quote for the surrounding stonework sought from Billy. AD will make an application for funding at the next LCF meeting.</p>	<p>CW DM</p> <p>DM/AD AD</p> <p>AD</p>
<p>8. Community consultation</p> <p>AD introduced the subject by reminding everyone that one of the major roles of the SBC and LCC is to consult with the population about what they want for their community.</p> <p>TH spoke about why he is keen that a new consultation be undertaken, the last process having happened some 8 or 9 year ago. He noted that LCF funds are spent largely on low-level applications for projects of a minor nature, and suggests that the LCC can assist by allowing local people to put forward their views about what they feel would benefit the area. Mark Rowley had made it clear that it is not the LCC's role to plan for the community, but it can facilitate and support. If we provide evidence based knowledge about what people want, we can help deliver tangible improvements. The LCC could identify areas in which LCF money might be invested, but has no control over the LCF. The key issue would be getting people to engage with a consultation process. The priority should be to help people be constructive and articulate a vision.</p> <p>AD asked CM to explain how the consultation had been undertaken last time. BAVS had assisted by organising a brainstorming session and then people were asked to rank the things that were important to them. FG pointed out that a new consultation would be good because there were so many people new to the area since the last exercise. CW pointed out that the LCC had new people around the table who had not been involved last time.</p> <p>CM pointed out that the LCF is not allowed to allocate funds for things which should be provided by the SBC and that all decisions on funding have to be passed by Fred Olsen for approval. The problems that rural communities have in spending large sums of money from wind farms was acknowledged. Funding streams for community projects are also becoming available via SBC due to changes in policy about community involvement in decision.</p> <p>AD asked TH about how the public consultation might be managed. TH felt we should ask people who have experience to come in and manage the process. It was agreed that TH would investigate ways of taking the matter forward. It will be necessary to advertise any consultation through the post, to ensure 100% coverage of the local population.</p> <p>CM pointed out that the difficulty with regard to spending wind farm income would always be the lack of people in the area willing to come forward and take on responsibilities.</p> <p>AD thanked TH for introducing the subject and taking on the job of moving the matter on.</p>	<p>TH</p>

Agenda Point	Action
<p>9. Website</p> <p>AD reported that following Keith Noddle's confirmation that he has insufficient time to oversee the development of the website, CM had approached Paul Bright from Rigfoot. However, he has declined taking on the job. AD/WD-Y have not had time to get quotations from professional website companies, but will do so. CW pointed out that a lot of money had been spent in the past setting up a website; it had become unusable when the company concerned folded. TH felt there should be a clear procurement process and specification for the website in place. We need a serviced website. Keith has the domain name lammermuirlife.org. There are some funds already ring-fenced in the LCF, but once we have an idea of the costs involved a decision can be made about making an additional bid.</p>	AD/ WD-Y
<p>10. Police Reports</p> <p>Police reports for November and December were presented to Councillors. There were no incidents reported for November. There were 17 calls to the Police for the beat area which includes Lammermuir CC area during December. These included requests for advice or assistance, reports of vehicular accidents and a report of a neighbour dispute.</p> <p>No report has as yet been received for January. It was mentioned that tragically there had been a suicide in the area after Christmas.</p>	
<p>11. Planning</p> <p>The LCC has received a letter seeking comments on a planning application for major alterations to 12 The Row, Longformacus. The house is 'C' listed, but forms part of a row of cottages which together are 'B' listed. AD asked if the Community Councillors felt we should respond. It was agreed that the properties on The Row form a special group of buildings and that comment should be made in general terms, asserting the importance of maintaining the integrity of the buildings. The LCC would, however, trust in the expertise of the SBC Planning Officers in making a decision. It was also noted that other properties along The Row had been informed of the planning application, whereas properties to the rear, who might overlook the planned extension, had not been. AD will respond on behalf of the LCC.</p> <p>Mark Rowley had informally raised the matter with AD of the possibility that a communications mast for the emergency services would be sited up the track opposite Rigfoot Farm. AD has suggested to MR that it might be better sited further up the hill near the Community Workshop. It would not be visible to residents there and electricity is already on site. It would appear that permission has been sought from Ellemford Estate.</p> <p>There were no other planning applications to discuss.</p>	AD
<p>12. Correspondence received</p> <p>Information has been received about the voting process for projects which have been chosen as a result of the call for bids from the Localities Bid Fund. CM will email details out to people locally. TH commented that a lot of local projects which have recently lost funding are making bids.</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are setting up a Community Asset Register and are looking for volunteers who might help in an emergency, eg. people with 4 x 4 vehicles, boats etc. CM will also circulate this information.</p> <p>We received very late notification about a Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting. SBC are very keen that CCs to become involved and that the burden of local decision making is passed down to local groups.</p>	WD-Y/ CM WD-Y/ CM

Agenda Point	Action
<p>13. Any other business</p> <p>Evelyn Mycock had commented to AD about the poor state of the stonework on Ellemford Bridge. He will photograph the damage and send this to the relevant person at SBC.</p> <p>CM informed the meeting that the three defibrillators kept within the area need to have their batteries checked and possibly have the pads changed. This used to be undertaken by First Responders. It was considered likely that either the Fire Service of St John's Ambulance might be able to do this for us. TH volunteered to investigate and if he could find someone willing to do the checks, organise for this to be done.</p> <p>CW mentioned that the Friends of Duns Primary School had contacted him to 'advertise' their bid for money from the Localities Bid Fund.</p> <p>AD informed Councillors that there was to be a public meeting about the impact of the closure of RBS branches in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Following the fencing off of the picnic area by the Mayshiel Estate and the removal of the picnic tables, AD suggested that some of these might be collected and placed behind Cranshaws Village Hall, where they could be used for outdoor events. AD undertook to contact the Chair of Cranshaws Village Hall (Neil Anderson) and liaise with DM about moving the tables.</p> <p>CP raised her concerns about the lack of white lines on the road over the moors near Mayshiel. This makes the road very dangerous in fog. AD undertook to write to East Lothian Council about the matter.</p> <p>CW and FG reported that there are a number of deep potholes in Longormacus. It was recommended that they photograph the holes and use the system on the SBC website to report them.</p> <p>WD-Y is struggling with workload as she is Secretary to two other organisations in addition to the LCC. Two people have come forward in response to a search for a new secretary for the LCF and it was agreed that one of the two should be approached about taking over the secretarial role for the LCC. The LCF job has been advertised at £15/hour, so the payment for the LCC would need to be the same. If necessary, an application for funding for this could be made to the LCF to top up the funds received from SBC.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>TH</p> <p>AD/DM</p> <p>AD</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AD</p>
<p>12. Date of next meeting</p> <p>The date and time of the next meeting was set as Thursday 5th April at 7.30pm. The meeting will take place in Longormacus Village Hall.</p>	