

# Minutes of the Lammermuir Community Council

## Thursday 5th April 2018, 7.30 pm

### Longformacus Village Hall

**Present:**

- **LCC members:** Tony Homer, David Mycock, Corinne Mycock, Alistair Dawson, Bill Renton, Clive Warsop, Bill Landale
- **SBC Members:** Cllr Donald Moffat and Cllr Mark Rowley
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Also present:** Alison Landale

**Apologies:** Cheryl Philipson, Keith Noddle and Carol White

Agenda point	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>AD welcomed all and introduced Beth Landon.</p> <p>Apologies were noted as above and the LCC were informed of the funeral of John White tomorrow in Melrose and the resignation of Carol White from the LCC. CM passed on the message that Carol is sorry not to make it; it would have been her last meeting as she is been evicted from her house. She will organise the Senior Outing to Alnwick Castle still. All present expressed their appreciation of Carol's time and work on the LCC.</p> <p>AD passed on a message from CP that because of her pregnancy, she wishes to resign from the Council.</p> <p>This leaves 2 vacancies, for those who want to be opted onto the LCC.</p> <p>No points were put forward for AOB.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st February 2018</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b></p> <p>Paul Bright had declined to take on the website only because he doesn't have sufficient broadband speed.</p> <p>CM has requested that the minutes state a Community Consultation had already been posted to every household some years ago. AD said this was in the minutes of the previous meeting.</p> <p>An exhibition seeking to inform the public about extension plans for Cranshaws for <b>Crystal Rig IV</b> which occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> February was extended beyond the original closing time of 6:30pm as requested by AD, to allow for attendance by those arriving after work.</p>	

<p>With regard to the negotiations over payments to the community from <b>Aikengal II</b>, CM has found the contract with Fred Olsen and AD will look through it, to use as a basis for a contract.</p> <p>AD still has the 4000 <b>dog poo bags</b> he was given at a recent SBC meeting. He will put them in the phone boxes and CM will let everyone know they can collect them from there.</p> <p>CM is in the process of changing over the LCC <b>bank account</b> from RBS to BoS. Any cheques or cash which need to be dealt with to be handed in ASAP.</p> <p>CM sent out information to the community to inform them of the <b>Localities bid fund voting process</b>.</p> <p>AD has photographed the reported poor state of the stonework on <b>Ellemford Bridge</b> and sent this to the relevant person at SBC and had acknowledgement that this has been received. CM and DM confirmed that repairs had been undertaken.</p> <p>TH has been seeking advice on the state of the <b>defibrillators</b>. After some effort he managed to get someone from the ambulance service to check them. This person reported that most things about them are out of date, particularly the one at Ellemford. They need to be in waterproof, heated containers, installed by an electrician. The batteries have a 4 year life so all are out of date. Some were wet inside from condensation, and the cold will drain the battery. They also need an attachment to be able to shave chest hair. Ellemford has paediatric tool but others do not. DM mentioned the heated containers don't use much electricity. AD asked if rechargeable batteries may not need replacing. TH informed that even these have a finite lifetime. Action point – TH to find out where to source what is needed and will ask Iain Lothian for advice and apply to LCF for funding to cover costs. AD thanked him for his work on this.</p> <p>Following the fencing off by the Mayshiel Estate of the <b>picnic area</b>, AD got in touch with Neil Anderson to ask if he would like them as picnic tables behind Cranshaws Village Hall, where they could be used for outdoor events. He agreed, but the tables had gone before they could be collected. Cllr DM suggested that SBC may have picked them up. AD said that makes sense as they paid for them.</p> <p>CW and FG had reported <b>potholes</b> in Longformacus. Some have been repaired, but there is still more to do. Cllr DM informed that repair schemes not been happening as funds being used to repair damage from the "Beast from the East". Extra money allocated for this needs to be spent first as it's time limited. Cllr MR recommended reporting them on the SBC website again.</p> <p>WD-Y has now handed over <b>minutes</b> to Beth Landon.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>TH</p>
<p><b>4.Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>CM circulated a Financial Position statement. The bank balance was £4,917.62, with cheques in transit totalling £180 and payments in transit totalling £60. Ringfenced monies: £1,880.00 for the Walking Fund and £2,000 for the Public Arts Strategy. This left £917.62 remaining for the LCC.</p>	

There are further funds for LCC projects ringfenced with the LCF:

- £720 for LCC Secretary - CM will use the CC budget for part of the secretary remuneration and part from the LCF grant, which was successfully applied for at the LCF meeting in March.
- £3,240.00 for the LCC Community Survey. TH asked how community survey amount was decided. Cllr MR said it had been roughly based on the Abbey St Bathans one.
- £15,320.00 was successfully applied for at the LCF meeting in March for Village Markers.
- £13,000.00 for the Public Arts Strategy. The strategy document is available on request. Although nothing has happened to this for some time, it has been recently reinvigorated with a new steering group. Ettie Spencer (a resident local artist) has taken it on. The idea is to ask artists to bid for this funding, on the understanding that they would then bid for further external funding, and with that, produce local art work. TH asked if the amount allocated is meaningful. CM said there had been a plan presented to the LCC involving place names, taking photos, linking with historic place names, which had been costed at the time. The decision was made to not reabsorb.
- Some of the original £9000 allocated to Broadband has been spent. CM encouraged AD to claim mileage from this for meetings he has attended. This was discussed further under agenda point 2.

## 5. Broadband

There has been no substantial change. AD explained that the Scottish Affairs Committee in London, responsible for the enquiry into digital connectivity, have had two meetings so far. The most recent one was on 6th March with industry leaders. Content is available online.

There is still no connection date for the local area. Cllr MR met with Fergus Ewing yesterday, who said he would investigate. However, Longformacus would be getting Superfast relatively soon. There are signs of Openreach activity, new posts and coils of fibre. This will be fibre to the premises (FTTP) because there are no roadside cabinets (which will be better than most other areas which have fibre to the cabinet (FTTC). However, this will benefit only about 30 houses initially. The rest of the community will have to wait for R100, which is due to be completed by 2021.

AD mentioned that now Community Broadband Scotland has stopped we are in limbo waiting for R100. Cllr MR pointed out that R100 will be done from the outside in, in theory starting with rural places like Longformacus. Openreach will not tell us where it is going next. AD ended the discussion on the point that although BT Openreach will not inform us, their engineers might. CM and DM reported on a recent conversation with an Openreach engineer in Coldingham and Eyemouth. Work there is almost finished, then they may be coming this way.

## 6. Windfarms

AD, CM and DM all attended a **Crystal Rig IV** exhibition in Cranshaws. There was a facility to create digital images of how the new turbines would look from different viewpoints. DM asked them to illustrate the view from the road

<p>between Ellemford and Longformacus. There was some reluctance, however, it was apparent that the new turbines would be very visible. Cllr MR recommended that the LCC apply to get this to be recognised as a viewpoint of significance. AD asked whether it is too early in the process and Cllr MR said it is fine to apply at this point. BL asked whether the LCC could put a funding application into LCF to cover any costs for this. Cllr MR recommended not doing so as the funds come from a windfarm, but suggested LCC could fund this.</p> <p>At the exhibition, CM had asked about osprey nest; they denied knowledge of this although AD had explicitly written to the windfarm operator about it. Cllr MR pointed out that the osprey nest would have to go into a confidential index and not be published. CM had queried why Crystal Rig IV needs greater capacity when windfarms around it are being paid to switch off; is it because they make a profit on this? Cllr MR mentioned that there is an offshore one which will also input into the grid at Crystal Rig.</p> <p>AD reiterated that <b>Aikengal II</b> still has no plans on community funding (covered in agenda point 3). He sent off the LCF constitution, as reported at the LCC meeting in February, but has still had no reply. AD action to follow up.</p> <p>AD has received recent correspondence regarding <b>Fallago II and I</b>. The developers had not fully addressed the technical issues brought up at the PLI back in August 2017. Cllr MR said most of the delay occurs once it gets to the minister's desk, so we could be waiting a considerable time for a decision.</p>	<p>AD</p>
<p><b>7. Village boundary markers</b></p> <p>AD reported that funding has been granted by the LCF. AD has written to Mayshiel to let them know that we intend to put up the signs and where they will be placed. DM said he had not yet discussed this with Ellemford Estate and CW has not yet asked the Longformacus Estate.</p> <p>AD reported that Stuart Blackie has sent a new picture, but it may not be suitable. WD-Y will get an image sorted.</p> <p>AD has not heard anything back from SBC roads department, will write again.</p> <p>AD will also write to Cal-Tec to let them know the funding has been approved.</p>	<p>DM, CW</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p>
<p><b>8. Community consultation</b></p> <p>TH said that the LCC need to reach an agreement on what a community survey would comprise, and in preparation for this has arranged to meet with the person who facilitated the community surveys in Preston and Abbey St Bathans (Wendy Reid) and Dunbar CC area. TH will be talking to them over the week following this meeting, then will come to the next LCC meeting and feedback.</p> <p>Abbey St Bathans used demographics to produce a profile of the area, which has proved useful to target sub-populations of the area. LCC may be able to use this strategy as the Lammermuirs have a similarly dispersed population. TH also plans to find out more about the procurement process, as they both used outside people to run the consultation.</p>	<p>TH</p>

TH has not been able to find the action plan online which was produced following the community consultation by PACT (Preston and Abbey Community Trust) although there is reference to it, so he will ask Wendy Reid for a copy of this.

Cllr DM reported on the evenings in Preston and Abbey village halls, where a meal was provided and ideas for what to spend the windfarm money on were sought from residents. These evening were well attended. AL said that in surveys people do not know what to suggest; they need ideas of what has been done in other areas.

AD said the Community Consultation could also be important to ensure that everybody was in touch with "The Herald".

Abbey St Bathans would like to spend a large amount of their fund money on a new village hall, but apparently this is proving difficult. CM said there is no limit to the size of project in the LCF, but there are rules on what is allowed.

## 9. Website

AD reported that WD-Y had been looking into other websites:

- SB website design (Duns) by Jonathan Nicholson. Examples include Gavinton website and Allanton Inn, all look good, but most expensive of those they looked at £1,250
- Border webworks (Duns). Examples include BAVS website and David James 4x4
- Mandarin business solutions (Coldingham) - web designs not great, although this was the cheapest at £500 to £1000: £20 per year to keep domain name, £100 per year to host, £25 per hour for extra work.

Cllr MR recommended Chris McVie (from Duns but now in Stow).

There followed a lengthy discussion about how to take this forward. CM explained there is already a Lammermuir website, set up by Keith Noddle, which can be used as a starting point. This contains information on LCF, LCC and village halls. There has already been a meeting about how to take this forward. CM explained that KN doesn't have time to update, but she and others on the LCC have been taught how to update it. Beth Landon can also update content, but not expand, for £15 per hour. It was suggested that just one person from the community undertakes the updates.

AD said LCC need to take this to LCF for funding, but LCC need to work out how to decide which quote to go for. TH said it would be a balance between cost and criteria. TH suggested identifying all possible developers in Berwickshire and working out a clear specification.

Actions: AD to look at more websites but said we do not want to lose what Keith has done. Could ask professional to take over our website and expand it from there.

AD will take this forward. Beth to update until the next meeting.

AD and  
Beth  
Landon

<p><b>10. Police reports</b></p> <p>AD has still not received the February report. WD-Y has requested it. In January there were 27 calls to Police and in March there were 14, with no CC related incidents.</p>	
<p><b>11. Planning</b></p> <p>AD informed that the planning application for 12 The Row has been approved. AD had sent in our serious concerns, as The Row is unique. Close residents who may have been most affected by the visual changes were not consulted directly. Cllr MR explained that the plans would have been on display in window of the property, but that if there were only 1 or 2 objections which did not met the criteria, the Planning Officer may overlook these and give the go-ahead. AD had submitted serious concerns but not an objection.</p> <p>AD said there is another property on the row with a current Planning Application for the replacement of a back door. No objections were brought up about this application as it is relatively straightforward.</p>	
<p><b>12. Correspondence received</b></p> <p>Diane Brookes at SBC has sent AD a <b>Health and Social care draft</b> strategy, AD offered to send to anyone who requests a copy.</p> <p>Draft rules regulating function of <b>libraries</b> have been received. Cllr MR explained this contained no significant changes, apart from library users now being allowed to speak, rather than just whisper.</p> <p>There is a consultation on updates of <b>licensing procedures</b> in Scotland. AD will look at this in relation to the village halls.</p> <p>Following the “Beast from the East” there will be a <b>Resilient Communities</b> evening on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> April at SBC HQ, St Boswells. AD pointed out LCC is one of the few CCs not to have a Resilience Plan. CM suggested that our local community is resilient even if not done officially. AD and BL to attend.</p> <p>Cllr MR said he has requested official thanks for farm workers, game keepers and estates for what they did during recent bad weather, as these groups were omitted in the thanks given out by SBC.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>AD, BL</p>
<p><b>13. Any other business</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><b>14. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> June in Cranshaws at 7:30pm 13<sup>th</sup> September in Longformacus at 7:30pm</p>	

**AD closed the meeting at 9:40pm**