

**Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association
Lammermuir Community Fund
Scottish charity number SC035892**

**Minute of General Meeting held Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Cranshaws Village Hall 7.30pm**

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale, Melvin Landale, Ettie Spencer, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Alistair Dawson and Wendy Dawson-Young

Also present: Beth Landon (minutes), Kim Drysdale (Financial Administrator), Heather Bewick, Rachel Sutherland, Dave Lochhead, Jonathan Wood, Mark Ewart, Craig Jones, Colin Barr, Elaine Barr, Pauline Stewart and Hazel Smith.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies: Tony Homer, Clive Warsop, Bill Landale, Mark Rowley, Stuart Blaikie and Alison Roger

Alison welcomed everyone

2. Minutes/Matters Arising

The minute of the GM on 4th September 2019 was approved, pending the following amendments:

- AD: WDY did not attend the Broadband meeting, it was AD
- Lily's café: BL proposed not AL

(ML proposed and CM 2nd)

Matters arising:

- **Cycle repair stations** have now been installed Cranshaws and Longformacus
- **Report on community survey** - BL is still collating and will aim to report at the next meeting
- **Wellness weekend** – a report was received from Lorna Brown: out of 100 tickets available, 68 were taken; 38 were locals, mostly families. Some restructuring will be needed to make it viable going forward and local publicity needs to be improved. Possible dates for future events are November 2019 or Spring 2020, 27th and 28th June 2020 (confirmed) and Autumn 2020. Colin Barr reported that he had enjoyed it. CM was impressed with the amenities within the old school and suggested it could be used for other events.
- **Woodland walkway** – Dave Lochhead had a meeting onsite with the fencer last week and has clarified and formalised details. Work will start next week. AL asked whether it is necessary to gather quotes, however Dave and DM assured trustees that the quotes are standard rates.

- **Allotments** –AL spoke to CW today who said that the allotments are almost ready to close. It was stated at last meeting that the fencing was a community asset and therefore available to the community, but Mr Charles would like to keep it. **It was decided that ES will write to him to ask him to donate money to LVH to compensate.** There is a shed which CW bought which is staying there and another dismantled shed which is available if anyone can make use of it. There is also a strimmer belonging to the community. CW will make it available to anyone in the community. **CM will add it to the community asset list and it is hoped it will be kept in the hall basement. Beth Landon will inform CW.**
- AL reminded everyone that as two trustees resigned at the last meeting, we are looking for more to join the committee.

3. Treasurer's Report

CELCA 1:

Current balance	£95,652.37
Allocated to projects	£118,665.79
Set aside (running costs)	£3,000.00
Available for funding	-£26,013.42

Next deposit £33,000 (expected in next two days)

CELCA 2:

Current balance	£69,454.50
Allocated to projects	£16,950.00
Available for funding	£52,504.50

At the AGM (next meeting) funds may be reabsorbed if not spent within two years of being allocated.

The large amount allocated to projects, but still in LCF accounts, is mainly due to several substantial funds e.g. college of knowledge, set aside fund for contingencies (10% of each deposit now built up to £24,859.78), school trips, Public Arts Strategy, Woodland Walk and also an emergency fund.

AD asked about 10% being set aside each time: is it needed for both CELCA 1 and 2, and why do we have a separate emergency fund in addition? He suggested a better use for CELCA 2 was for legacy projects such as the village halls and woodland walk.

Kim Drysdale pointed out that he had only created a set aside fund for CELCA 2 as this was the form for CELCA 1. CELCA 2 will receive ~£70,000 in November and a further ~£100,000 next year, therefore the pot would end up being substantial.

CM said that a buffer was needed to dip into, for example if more is applied for in funding applications than we have yet received from the windfarms, as happened at the meeting in June.

After some discussion it was **decided that this level of emergency fund / set aside fund was more than necessary and that funds would be set aside from CELCA 1 only, and not CELCA 2 (AD proposed and DM 2nd).**

Craig Jones asked where CELCA funding comes from and was given an explanation and list of projects.

Reabsorb – 161 – sound system for LVH. ES said they do not need this as it will be encompassed within the planned hall improvements. **Action for Kim Drysdale.**

4. Application for funding: ReTweed application for reusable, biodegradable sanitary products

Pauline Stewart and Hazel Smith were present and presented their application jointly.

Hazel Smith described the work of ReTweed, a social enterprise supporting women into business. It provides training, skills and business support for vulnerable women, and women looking for a career change.

They have applied to LCF for initial investment for this pilot project, with the aim of it becoming self-sustaining. AL asked if any of the businesses have become self-sustaining. Hazel said that 64 women have now completed their courses and out of these, 32 women have moved into employment and 7 of them have set up their own businesses. One of these has been running for 2.5 years and one had a business already and joined to grow it.

This project will be set up and run by Pauline Stewart, a resident in Longformacus, who completed the ReTweed training in January. Pauline will make and then distribute reusable sanitary pads to via the foodbank or other community projects or to individuals who need them. The project aims to alleviate period poverty and to save textiles from landfill. A supply lasts an average of 3 years. It will cost £3000 to make 1,000 pads. Individual pads can be washed in machine with normal clothes and used again.

Pauline has been in touch with Duns foodbank and Longformacus Mums and Toddlers group. AL asked the foodbank and was informed that only three local residents in last

year have applied to foodbank in Duns, so suggested that LCF could only fund proportionally if the only outlet is the foodbank. Heather Bewick, who runs the Mums and Toddler group, is happy for them to be offered there.

It was agreed that LCF should support the project on basis of it benefitting a woman in the local community to set up a business with good community and environmental aims – so is a good local social enterprise project.

AL requested that the pads are offered to the local community and that Pauline reports back to the AGM in November.

Full funding approved: £3000

ML – proposed and ES 2nd

5. Ellemford Show – joint application to CELCA and ABPCC (Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Council)

Each year Ellemford Show apply to each windfarm fund locally for a different element of the overall funding required. It was agreed that in future only one application for Ellemford show needs to be submitted to both ABPCC and CELCA and the funding will be split between the two. ABPCC have agreed to this already. Blackhill are unable to accept a joint application due to their constitution. **Sharon Baker will be informed as the person who has been applying for funds.**

AD proposed and CM 2nd

6. Report from meeting with artist (Rachael Long) regarding an art installation

There was a display in the hall during the meeting, with ideas from two artists, Racheal Long and Robin Wood.

DM, ES, WDY, AL and BL had previously met with Rachael Long and showed her potential sites above Longformacus and above the woodland walk. She then developed three ideas which would be made out of local scrap metal:

- One representing the Herring Road, incorporating the names of the places along the route
- Three different herons, one on river, one in trees and one flying away
- Pack pony carrying a load

ES, DL, BL had a brief meeting with another artist, Robin Wood from East Lothian. His design was of a sculpture of windows and door of a church type building, without walls. This was just an example of his work, not produced specifically for the Lammermuirs.

ES agreed to get in touch with Robin and ask him to expand the above work, which was very well liked, and to come up with a second proposal for consideration.

There is currently £15,000 available for this project: £13,000 with CELCA and £2000 with LCC. The original aim was to use these funds to attract local interest and further investment in community art installations. However, the committee has decided that the idea now is to start with one sculpture and continue with a rolling programme for the whole community using just the funds we have set aside.

The sites in mind do not all have permission established; this is to be looked into – no-one is allocated this task.

Craig Jones, present at the meeting, is a local estate manager for Horseupcleugh, part of which borders the road between Longformacus and Gifford, with the Herring road passing through it. Craig and Mark Ewart agreed they could ask the estate owner for permission to site art work there. He suggested that a good site may be near Longformacus right on the Herring Road. It is only accessible to walkers who regularly use it. He thought it would be good to have something symbolic to the local area, to cause people to stop and think.

WDY agreed to look up the going rate to pay each artist, (no more than £1000) to prepare a costed proposal; if over this amount she is to come back to committee. The amount to be paid for the completed work can be no more than we have in the budget at present - £15,000 less the £1000 being paid for their proposals. She will draft a letter for Racheal and Robin, which Dave Lochhead will check.

There was a discussion around how to engage the local community in choosing a sculpture design. **It was agreed that once Robin Wood had sent in his proposals a display would be held in Cranshaws Hall. The local to community would be invited to come, see Rachel and Robins' work, and vote to choose our 1st community art work**

7. Update: Longformacus Hall Refurbishment and Extension Project.

ES read out the following report:

1. Pre-planning feedback.

Application made on 17.7 and the feedback has come back very favourable to the project.

Meanwhile the architect is contacting the three local builders we have suggested asking for some pre-approval outline costs. This should take around 4 weeks.

2. Formal Planning application;

Formal application is being made this week (Sep 1st) with a view to procuring an approval by End of November.

3. Formal Building warrant;

The architect will engage engineers to offer proposals then ready their drawings to make formal warrant application. This can happen 3/4 weeks after planning is lodged (Oct 1st) and with determination should be received by January 2020.

4. The stage 2 (detailed) tender stage will take a further 4 weeks moving us into Feb/March

5. The extension build will take 4 months approx. taking us to June with completion of the refurb stage taking a further 6 weeks moving us into August 2020. It is envisaged that the hall will probably be closed for this stage throughout August 2020.

Update on raising further funding for the project.

A letter to Mark Charles – requesting financial support and land behind the village hall.

An application to Black Hill Windfarm Trust – next submission date, late November

An application to TESCO for their community fund – between £10 and £25K available to successful applicants – to be applied for.

BAVS Village Hall Small Grants Fund – to be investigated.

Lottery Funding – still investigating our eligibility

ES asked for the funding for the project to be underwritten at a total amount of £119,000 (i.e. £109,000 further funding), based on their first quote. After some discussion it was decided that although LCF are supportive of the project in general it was not appropriate to underwrite the project in full at this meeting. **For amounts over £10,000 a special general meeting must be held. Three quotes are to be submitted ahead of the AGM (which is a form of a special general meeting), in time to publicise the total being asked for. A decision can then be made at the AGM. ES and Jonathan Wood were thanked for all their work on this so far.**

ES to continue to try and attract 'match funding'

8. Update on Lily's Café

The decision taken subsequent to the LCF meeting in June, to reduce the funding allocated from six to three months, was not communicated clearly enough to Fiona MacPherson, and so she had not submitted an application for further funding ahead of the meeting. In light of this it was decided to fund the fund Lily's cafe in its current form until the AGM on 5th November 2019, i.e. without the baking network.

The initial impression given by Fiona, and welcomed by the committee, was that people from within the community would take over eventually; more recently it appeared that Fiona wanted to continue to be involved in running Lily's Café. The committee expressed appreciation for the work Fiona had done in setting up the cafe, but **decided that from the AGM onwards the community would take over the running of the cafe, and her involvement would cease at that point, provided there is someone willing to be responsible for doing so. ES assured us there is such a person.**

DL suggested Hazel Smith be asked whether ReTweed could support someone from the local community to set this up in a self-sustaining way. It was agreed she was a real inspiration and presented her aims very clearly – however, generally it was decided to allow for those interested to come up with a proposal at next meeting to take over the café completely.

9. Broadband Update

AL recently met Mark Rowley, who had heard from John Lamont MP that there is very little point expecting to get government funding, and advised the community to make their own arrangements for improved broadband in the meantime. AD also attended a meeting with representatives from Digital Broadband Scotland and Openreach, chaired by John Lamont MP: he asked about the rollout of R100, and was told they didn't know what would happen yet as the Scottish Government will not award the contract until the end of this year as they don't know the extent of the current rollout.

In meantime there is Borderlink: recently some new local satellite dishes are already up and DM will have a dish at Rigfoot, which will bounce down to Rigfoot, Ellemford. If able to show you get lower than 2Mb then Borderlink will apply for 'Better Broadband UK' Government Scheme funding vouchers on your behalf. An entry level package will provide speeds of 15Mb. CM pointed out that Borderlink are eager to expand to Cranshaws, but since they don't do cold calling, it would require someone from the community to approach them. All of this will be discussed further at the LCC meeting on the 12th of Sept and Alistair Dawson will contact Borderlink to invite them to explain what is possible. Dave Lochhead noted that a large mast, possibly funded by the LCF could feed a lot of properties. **CM will announce this through the Herald.**

This will be discussed further at LCC.

10. Any other business

- Jonathan Wood asked that if LVH apply for a set amount at the AGM any member of the community could vote, not just trustees. Alison clarified that according to the constitution all those living in the community are members of LCF / CELCA.

11. Date of next LCF meeting

AGM and GM will be held on Tuesday 5th November at 7pm in Longformacus Village Hall (this has been changed from 29th October)