

**Minutes of the Lammermuir Community Council**  
**AGM followed by Ordinary CC meeting**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7.30 pm**  
**Longformacus Village Hall**

**AGM**

**Present:**

- Alistair Dawson, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Tony Homer and Clive Warsop
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Others:** PC Porter

**Apologies:** Bill Landale and Bill Renton

<b>Agenda point</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b>            AD welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bill Landale and Bill Renton</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017</b>            The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.            CM proposed, TH 2nd</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b>            Agenda point 3: Matters Arising - LCC Constitution has now been corrected and submitted to SBC by AD             Agenda point 8: Signature from members to abide by the SBC code of conduct for Community Councillors has also now been sent off by AD</p>	
<p><b>4. Chair's Report to the 2018 AGM</b>             I would like to start by thanking Corinne Mycock for the time and effort she has put in as Treasurer, as the 'Community Herald' and for keeping me on the straight and narrow. I also thank Tony Homer for organising refurbishment of the defibrillators and for looking into the possibility of a further community consultation, and Beth Landon for taking and preparing the minutes and updating the community website. The Community Council would also like to thank Councillors Mark Rowley and Donald Moffat for coming to our meetings and offering advice, and to Pauline Bolson (recently retired from SBC) for keeping us right on constitutional matters. Unfortunately, the last 12 month period has been characterised by a frustrating lack of positive progress and influence.</p>	

## **Windfarms**

### *Fallago*

In August 2017 there was a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the Proposal by EDF Renewables for a Time Extension to Fallago 1 (48 turbines) and to construct Fallago 2 (12 turbines). The outcome of the PLI is still not known.

### *Aikengall*

Aikengall I (16 turbines), owned by Community Windpower Ltd, has been operational since 2009. Aikengall II (19 much taller turbines) became operational. Aikengall IIa (a further 19 turbines) was consented in 2016. Construction has apparently started.

### *Crystal Rig*

Planning permission has been applied for by Fred.Olsen Renewables to extend Crystal Rig with a further 11 turbines, four of which are 200 m high. The new turbines are largely to the south of the existing turbines and so would have a greater visual impact on our community.

## **Windfarms and the Lammermuir Community Fund**

Windfarms are encouraged to provide annual community benefit funding equivalent to £5,000 per MW of installed capacity. Despite the large number of windfarms in our area the Lammermuir Community Fund (LCF) only receives money from one generator – Fred. Olsen Renewables (Crystal Rig). We have a draft agreement with Aikengall II Community Wind Company Limited and are awaiting their confirmation.

With the probable increase in LCF funds from Aikengall II, and potentially also from Fallago 2 in the future, we need to think more strategically about how the community uses these funds. It was proposed that the LCC undertake a community consultation. However, due to the probable cost of this, the experience of Preston and Abbey with a similar consultation, and the fact that LCC did undertake a consultation in the not too distant past, it was decided not to proceed.

## **Broadband**

This time last year I reported that LCC had been working hard to try and find a way of providing Superfast Broadband in our area. However, with the demise of Community Broadband Scotland, we are now impotent with regards to providing Superfast Broadband ourselves. We can only wait to see when (and if) R100 provides us with Superfast Broadband. R100 is a Scottish Government commitment to provide 100% of Scottish premises with Superfast Broadband by 2021.

## **Village signs**

LCC proposed to erect new Village signs alongside the roads leading in to each of the three villages. The aim was two-fold: to engender a village ambience that should hopefully reduce road traffic speed, and to give a sense of identity, i.e. that all three villages belong to an area known as The Lammermuirs. In summer 2018, we had the funding, the designs, a local foundry willing to make the signs, and SBC approval of the design and

location for the signs. We had assumed that local volunteers would put the signs in place. However, we were then told that SBC would have to design the foundations and that only external SBC approved contractors would be allowed to put up the signs. This would entail considerable extra funding, and this (community) funding would have gone to a company outside our area rather than the work being done for free by local volunteers. The plan was therefore abandoned.

**Planning**

There have been very few planning applications that LCC has been asked to comment on, and none of them controversial (except Windfarms). We suggested an alternative site for a proposed emergency services communication mast, but our advice was either ignored or over-ruled. We also keep an eye on the SBC planning portal to ensure that we are aware of applications that we have not been asked to comment on.

Comments:

- TH commented on the lack of progress: perhaps we need to think again on the type of activities we focus our efforts on.
- CW reported that superfast broadband is almost ready to go through R100, just in the middle of Longformacus. He had recently spoken to an engineer and who said there is a push on to cover the whole area and that the centre of the village should be connected to superfast broadband by early January. Fibre to the premises as no cabinets.
- CM mentioned that new electricity lines are planned for the area through Scottish Power.

**5. Treasurer’s report for the year**

CM presented the Annual Account which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The accounts end at similar point each year, even though there is a lot of money going in and out of the account. This is due to Fred.Olsen Renewables incorrectly paying money to LCC rather than LCF. LCC then has to transfer the money to LCF. The new Bank of Scotland account is now open the old one can be closed so this won’t happen again.

Financial position at the end of the financial year (1/4/18) was **£1,017.82**. In order to be able to draw down funds from SBC the account balance must be no more than 2 x £540, so that is all in order.

There were no questions on the accounts.

**6. Election of Office Bearers**

<p>The office bearers stepped down at this point and DM took over the Chair to supervise the election of office bearers for the coming year. Both AD and CM expressed a willingness to stand again in their roles as Chair and Treasurer. Accordingly, TH nominated AD and his nomination was seconded by CM. AD then proposed CM as Treasurer, and this proposal was seconded by CW.</p>	
<p><b>7. Appointment of Auditors</b></p> <p>It was agreed to re-appoint BAVS as the independent verifier of the accounts for the coming year.</p>	
<p><b>8. Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils</b></p> <p>AD explained the need for all Community Councillors to sign the Code of Conduct for Community Councils each year and passed around a sheet for those present to sign. He undertook to gain the signatures of those not present at the meeting.</p>	AD

**AGM ended at 7:55**

## Ordinary Community Council Meeting

**Present:**

- Alistair Dawson, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Tony Homer and Clive Warsop
- **SBC members:** Cllr Mark Rowley
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Others:** PC Porter

**Apologies:** Bill Landale and Bill Renton

Agenda point	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>Those present and apologies were as recorded for the AGM, but in addition Cllr Mark Rowley was present for the OGM</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. DM proposed, TH 2<sup>nd</sup></p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b></p> <p>Agenda point 4 – AD has now submitted his expenses.</p>	
<p><b>4. Treasurer’s report</b></p> <p><b>Current bank balance is £4,333.66</b> Less than at the last meeting due to outgoings such as payment to the Minute Secretary, Chair’s expenses and defibrillator costs.</p> <p><b>£453.66 is available for LCC</b></p> <p><b>Ring fenced in LCC account are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1,880 - Walking Fund</li> <li>• £2,000 - Public Arts Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>Ringfenced in LCF account are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £720 - secretary funding – a contingency in case LCC funds run out.</li> <li>• £454.18 - defibrillator funding</li> <li>• £13,000 - Public Arts Strategy - it was agreed at the LCF meeting in November to keep this fund live, even though the original project is no longer going ahead and explore the possibility of using the funds for permanent art installations in the community.</li> <li>• £3,903 – Broadband – retaining this for now for publicising any new developments and in case R100 doesn’t cover everywhere.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Discussion on Broadband:</b></p> <p>MR said there should be a plan B running alongside R100, to cover areas missed out.</p> <p>It is still not clear when the rest of the community will be connected or which areas will be covered, just hints that further roll out of R100 may be coming soon (see agenda point 4 from the AGM)</p> <p>CM mentioned that we have been told that the roll out should work from outlying areas inwards. MR said that this was the preference, but the work has gone to open tender, so it is now up to the contractors.</p> <p>There were no further questions on the accounts.</p>	
<p><b>5. Windfarms</b></p> <p><b>Aikengall II:</b> Community Windpower, the operator of Aikengall II, have expressed their intention to come to an agreement with LCF to distribute community benefit payments. The agreement they have with PACT (Preston and Abbey Community Trust) was looked over in detail at the LCF meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and it was agreed that AD would submit an agreement based on this one. AD has now done so and Community Windpower have acknowledged receipt. He is now awaiting agreement from them.</p> <p>No other changes were reported.</p>	
<p><b>6. Defibrillators</b></p> <p>TH reported that an electrician should be coming to Rigfoot next week.</p> <p>He is considering whether to put an application into LCF for a wider rollout of defibrillators in the community and asked whether LCC want more than the current three.</p> <p>Main points from the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First aiders like one on a road to access easily.</li> <li>• CM and DM are willing to have one in their porch, but there are more remote communities to consider first.</li> <li>• Main issue will be finding somewhere to put them with an electricity supply. TH has names of those to discuss with if LCC want to go ahead.</li> <li>• Where do you draw the line on the roll-out?</li> <li>• The Estates probably all have them for their employees and TH would contact them to ask whether they could be made publicly available, which would affect where we need to cover with new installations.</li> <li>• MR suggested one at the fishing lodge at The Watch – central to a lot of walking and recreation. Owned by Scottish Water / Scottish Angling Club.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best to research how many more we will need to get a price reduction on bulk order rather than installing a few at a time. They are getting more expensive as getting more smart / automated.</li> <li>• There was price a reduction on the recent ones as we were handing back old ones, but this won't be the case for the rest.</li> </ul> <p>It was decided that TH will do some research and bring it back to LCC at the next meeting for a decision to be made. CM offered to help.</p>	<p>TH and CM</p>
<p><b>7. Website</b></p> <p>AD been in touch with Jonathan Nicolson at Scottish Borders Website Design and he is happy to meet with those interested at the beginning of 2019. AD will arrange this. Jonathan Nicolson will then come back with proposals. To start from scratch would be £1500, £125 per year to keep it updated, but Beth Landon may be able to do this.</p> <p>CM mentioned that £1247 are available for this with LCF, so LCC would need to apply for further funding.</p>	<p>AD</p>
<p><b>8. Police reports – covered first</b></p> <p>AD welcomed the new Community Police Officer, PC Porter, who then introduced himself and presented the most recent report:</p> <p>PC Porter is based in Duns and new to community work. His priority is to attend meetings, but may not always make them.</p> <p><b>Current Campaigns:</b></p> <p><b>Home Security</b>  Since October there has been a spate of thefts on motor vehicles, e.g. of power tools, although no incidents reported in this CC area. He asked LCC to pass on the basic advice of locking vehicles and houses to the community. There is an enquiry ongoing, but the police suspect it is opportunists from outwith the area. If anyone witnesses any suspicious cars driving around, especially multiple times, please note the registration number and call in on 101 police number.</p> <p><b>Localities Bid Fund</b>  SBC asked local POs to inform CCs about the Localities Bid Fund. LCC are aware already.</p> <p><b>Telephone Scams</b>  There is a new scam where residents are contacted via their landline, and told about an app they can download to help beat scams, and they talk you though this and ask for bank details then gain access to your bank account.</p>	

No legitimate banks or organisations would ask you to do this. No incidents for LCC area.

**Winter Driving**

Importance of ensuring vehicles are road worthy. Improvements have been made to the Met Office system via website to issue weather alerts.

CM explained about the community communication in place through The Herald and asked if there is anything the police can do to communicate localised incidents. PC Porter explained that Scottish Borders alert is the most reliable way to communicate and the police feed into this.

CM explained that SB alert covers a wide an area, and is not localised enough.

PC Porter will notify CM if he personally encounters anything locally and will feedback that SB alert isn't working very well for us.

LCC can also feed information into SBC to distribute and can email to PC Porter to inform him of anything relevant.

PC Porter will let us know the name of the Wildlife Liaison Officer, who is based in Galashiels, but he is first point of contact, unless there is an ongoing issue in which case best to call 101.

Any questions contact him by email ([midberwickshireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:midberwickshireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)) or speak to him at a CC meeting.

AD to let him know date of next meeting and email police report to CM.

AD

**9. Planning**

**Emergency Services Mast**

New application for another emergency services mast, at Bothwell, was submitted last month. No objections to this.

**Crystal Rig Extension**

Crystal Rig's operators proposed an extension to a substation then withdrew the application.

**Honey cottage**

Application for permission for replacement windows. PVC but made to look in keeping. No objections.

**Extension to The Swallows**

The Swallows at Stobbs Wood are applying to build an extension. No objections.



<p><b>10. Correspondence received</b></p> <p><b>Localities Bid Fund</b>  MR explained that the reason for the fund is that there is directive from Scottish Government that a certain part of the council budget needs to be assigned to participatory budgeting. Localities Bid Fund was launched last year by SBC as an experiment to meet this requirement.  Learning from that has now been applied to the last round of funding.  Notable changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some funds are ringfenced for smaller projects.</li> <li>• It will now fund staff</li> <li>• Projects which are already up and running can apply for funding to develop.</li> </ul> <p>MR suggested that it may be worth applying.  However, after discussion it was agreed to not make a point of publicising this fund locally for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is better to encourage locals to apply to LCF and leave this fund for other areas with less access to funding.</li> <li>• LCF are bound by agreements with windfarms to use funds in the local community, so more an issue of shortage of volunteers to make projects happen.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11. Any other business</b></p> <p><b>Working group set up at LCF meeting in November</b>  LCC are keen there is collaboration with the LCF on the setting up and progress of this working group, with the aim of thinking more strategically about using community benefit funding, especially following the set up of a second fund from Aikengall II, with its own agreement.</p> <p><b>Local Development Main Issues Report Consultation</b>  MR reported that the Local Development Main Issues Report is now open for consultation. Any comments from LCC can be fed back in through MR. Rural settlements need to look at ways they can get more housing as often too few people to keep local bus / play group going.</p> <p>Issues raised with this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only Longformacus is classified as a settlement, so no there is plan for the rest of the area.</li> <li>• Development of infrastructure is needed before housing e.g. transport, broadband etc</li> </ul> <p>MR also mentioned that if a temporary broadband solution was implemented, with speeds below 2 meg, it should not affect rollout to the area from R100.</p>	

<b>12. Date of next meeting</b>	
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7:30pm on Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 in Cranshaws Village Hall	
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Meeting closed at 9:25pm