

The Council members co-opted Bill Renton onto the LCC. In practice this means that his voting rights will start in 6 months time, or after attending 3 meetings, whichever is soonest.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

All agreed they were a true and correct record of the meeting of the 28th March 2017

Chairman's Report: deferred to later point on 'Broadband' and 'Windfarms'

Treasurer's report: CM presented the financial report.

The bank balance on the 31st of March 2017 is £4705.05

Current balances : LCC- £825.05, Walking Fund - £1880.00, Public Art Strategy - £2000.00 (Ring-fenced at the LCF: Comm. Survey £3240.00 and Initial Broadband Funding £4000.00)

Police: The police reports for March and April show there was nothing to report for our CC area.

Broadband:

AD and MR went to a Berwickshire Broadband Meeting on the 23rd of May, to discuss the Superfast Broadband (SFBB) options for Berwickshire. Local Community Councils are potentially putting together a scheme with Community Broadband Scotland (CBS)

Considerations and Questions:

One option is for Lammermuirs to join other Berwickshire Community Councils and together join Border Broadband (what was Ettrick and beyond). Alternatively, we could just join the other Berwickshire Community Councils and sort our own scheme. Both of these options would involve funding from CBS.

Issues:

- does Berwickshire want to be part of Border Broadband (Ettrick and beyond)?
- if we join Border Broadband we will put our funds in their 'pot' and use their business set-up, but also their order of preference re putting the technology in place. We might end up with little control over who, where and when, with our money tied into their plans.
- If we go it alone, we would have to set up our own Community Interest Company (Wendy Reid, Abbey St Bathans, is an expert in this and could be the person to contact to help to set up a Community Interest Company)
- going with the CBS would leave at least 40% of the LCC residents without SFBB. After that, it would be very difficult to service the remaining 'difficult to reach' properties as no company is likely to want to do this because it could never be commercially viable.
- Since the last LCC meeting CBS now says that 100% funding is possible (instead of the previous 11% mandatory contribution). We might also be allowed to specify additional resources, benefits and requirements that could form part of the tender at the tender stage. This may allow us now to specify at least a partial fibre solution
- Their tender deadline has been extended by 6 weeks
- R100 – Reaching one hundred – this is a Scottish Government Manifesto Commitment to get SFBB to every Scottish Household by 2020. If we did nothing at this stage, we should be eventually serviced by R100. However, it is not clear how they will accomplish this.
- B4RN – Broadband for the Rural North – This is Fibre broadband to every house – no longer appear to be interested in providing a service to our area.

We had approached B4RN to scope the LCC area but they are unable to do it. In the meantime MR has contacted a consultant who has looked at the area for other clients and is currently doing a tender for North Skye BB. This consultant, Mr Bob Cushing, expects his feasibility study will cost between £4000 and £7500, plus VAT (£4800 - £9000), depending on the terrain. The existing ring-fenced funding for this at the LCF is £4000.

MR said that he had been in touch with North Sky Broadband and that they had agreed to share 'know-how' with LCC. A Confidentiality Agreement has been drawn up that we need to sign.

Action: AD to sign and exchange. **To do**

Question: Should we go with the CBS scheme that serves part of the community or aim for an independent scheme that benefits the whole community?

FG: We can only put community money into something that benefits the whole community.

AD: Serving part of the community is a dis-benefit to the rest, it essentially takes funding away from them.

KN: A SFBB scheme should be for everybody.

AD put the question 'SFBB for part or the whole of the community' to the vote:

- All voted unanimously for SFBB solution for the whole of the community.

AD put the question 'Should the LCC fund a Broadband feasibility study asap' to the vote:

- All voted unanimously for funding a Broadband feasibility study.

AD put the question 'Should the LCC apply to the LCF for an increase of the ring-fenced 'Initial Broadband Funding' to the vote.

- All voted unanimously for applying to the LCF to extend the Initial Broadband Funding

MR- Advised the CC to intimate to neighbouring CC's that we are having a feasibility study done.

Action: CM to contact LCF to ask for an emergency ring-fencing of extra funds. **Done 31/05/2017**

MR to contact Mr Bob Cushing and introduce AD as the new contact.

We will ask that the survey is done in two parts. An initial feasibility study and cost estimate, followed, if appropriate, by drawing up tender documents.

Windfarm update:

Fallago Rig 1 and Fallago Rig 2 – Public Inquiry commences 8th August. We will need to respond.

MR to write to Fallago to introduce AD as nominated representative.

Aikengall II - still suffering delays with Scottish Power, the expected generation date is now October.

Aikengall IIa – consented but yet to negotiate financials

Crystal Rig IV – developers have advised that they are scoping a scheme of 11 up to 200m high turbines. They'll come to CC some time in next few months.

Blackrig – pre-application on hold, developers will advise what they are doing in coming months.

LCC has an obligation to provide a Board Director for the Blackhill windfarm. There are 8 members of the board, meeting 4 times per year, in the Black Bull, to disburse about £30k annually, normally in small packets to local organisations. They have a website.

Action: CM to e-mail for volunteers using The Community Herald. (the community e-mail service)
Done 01/06/2017

Planning: Cranshaws Ltd – Change of use from redundant stables and alterations and extensions to form visitor accommodation (amendment from previous consent).
The LCC supports improvement to local buildings and enterprises.

Action: AD to respond **Done 01/06/2017**

Village Boundary Markers:

AD – The designs for the plaques have been send to the Greenlaw Foundry, still waiting for a quote. He will chase this.

Action: AD to contact Greenlaw Foundry **Done 01/06/2017**

Correspondence:

The LCC members, their families and friends have been invited for Aikengall & Aikengall II Family Open Day on Saturday the 24th June 2017 from 10am to 3pm

A.O.B: Website:

KN: Expressed his regret that the Website is not progressing; his work commitments are taking too much of his time.

We need to identify small core cluster of people needed to pre-load and then maintain the Website.

WDY: inquired about the costs of commissioning an external company to design the Website.

KN: Initially in the £1000s, maintenance in the £100s a year.

KN: The system he has set up 'World Press' would be easy to work with and to keep up by ourselves.

CM: to help pre-loading since the Website needs to get going asap

KN: to send around 'doodle-poll' to set up meeting.

DONM: Tuesday the 25th of July, Cranshaws Village Hall

Or to be reconvened the moment we have a Broadband Feasibility Study outcome.

Action: CM to book hall.