

**Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association
Lammermuir Community Fund**

**Wednesday 4th March 2020
Cranshaws Village Hall 7.30pm**

**Minutes
General Meeting**

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Bill Landale, Ettie Spencer, Ian Davidson, Stuart Blaikie, Alistair Dawson, Wendy Dawson-Young, Alison Rodger, Clive Warsop

Also present: Beth Landon (minutes), Kim Drysdale (finance), Iain Lothian, Lorna Pate, Rachael Roberts, John Tyson, Sharon Ferguson, Sharon Baker, Heather Bewick, Kathi Branse-Instone, Eric Branse-Instone.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Al welcomed everyone

Apologies: Tony Homer, Melvin Landale and Robin Smith

2. Minutes/Matters Arising

- **Strimmer** – Anthony Philipson, Kenspeckle, Ellemford, and from Duns Lawnmower Centre has agreed to keep the strimmer (a community asset) at his house, service it and lend it to whoever needs it, making sure they know how to use it properly. It has been moved already. AL has Anthony's email address; he will keep a note of who uses the strimmer and check it after each use. People should e-mail him directly, from web site, to borrow machine. A Service will cost around £65, agreed was to pay for this out of the new maintenance budget of £500 and pay for any on-going costs. AR proposed, DM 2nd.
- **Shed** - still available. CW suggested that anyone who wants this should ask the Estate, but to leave it a few weeks, as the Estate may decide the shed is now their property.
- Everyone was reminded to inform CM of any **community assets**.
- **Old Kirk improvements** – work on the window is planned to start on 23rd March.
- **Lammermuir Ladies group** – Lorna reported that they have had three meetings: December - Wreath making (27 attendees), January - Cheese and wine (11), February - Abstract Art workshop (15). Their Facebook group has over 40 members and 33 different people have attended overall. The group meets on the last Thursday of each month. Each meeting costs about £200. Lorna hadn't understood she was meant to put in another application, in

order to be granted the further 50% of the funding for these groups (50% was granted in November). It was agreed to accept this on the basis of the last application and grant the other 50%

£682.26 funding approved, AD proposed, ID 2nd.

- **Clay target shooting** - there are two groups waiting to start this when the weather improves, with a couple of spaces left. Lorna will publicise on the Herald.
- **Longformacus mums and tots, Stitch and Craft and Windmill Café** are all going well. AL thanked Heather Bewick and the helpers at the café.
- **DunsPlayFest** – there will be a free performance of *Whit Like?* in Longformacus on Friday 3rd April, as a taster of the festival. All residents are entitled to a free ticket to the concert ("The Best of Berwickshire") on purchase of any other ticket. A free mini-bus service, by Berwickshire Wheels, will take Lammermuir residents to Duns and back on the night of the concert (pick-up points to be arranged).
- **Singing Group** – 23 attended first time, although number has declined partly due to the weather and choice of night; the only night Longformacus Hall was free. It was suggested Cranshaws Hall could be used. The teacher wants to travel no further than Longformacus. People from outside the area pay.
- **Northumberland Theatre Group** – funds are still available from the one which was cancelled, these will cover September's performance. It may be possible to pay for the Christmas play out of the "Plays and Pantomimes" fund.
- **ReTweed** – Pauline Stewart is at the finishing stages of the production of the reusable sanitary pads and already has some interest. She asked whether LCF want any part in the distribution and AL has let her know she can distribute herself. Pauline will bring some packs to the Windmill café on Saturday and can take pictures there if people agree. She could bring packs to Mums and Tots too.

Minutes approved - WDY proposed, CM 2nd

3. Treasurer's Report

CELCA 1

27-Feb: £145,053.86

Payments out in transit: £429.00

Payments in in transit: £ -

19/20 Participants contribution: £426.00

Current balance: £144,198.86

Allocated to projects: £98,107.25

Set aside for running costs: £3,000.00

Available for Funding: £43,091.61

CELCA 2

28-Feb: £54,560.53

Allocated to projects: £143,629.03

Available for funding: -£89,068.50

AD will contact Community Windpower (Aikengall II) **about** the next payment of £25,000 which is overdue. It is meant to be paid biannually in arrears.

4. Applications:

1. Duns Golf Club (£2,000)

Iain Lothian presented this application for part funding for a second hand mower. £2500 has already been granted by Blackhill Windfarm Fund. Ian Davidson declared an interest as he is a member. Children in the Duns Primary catchment have opportunity to have a free go.

AL pointed out LCF usually fund proportionally to the benefit to the Lammermuirs, however CM mentioned that the Hardens have been adopted into the area as it falls between the cracks with regards to windfarm funding.

WDY asked whether there is anything that could be offered for Lammermuir residents, but Iain explained that there are already many offers available. He will do a mailshot to the Lammermuirs, to inform about the offers, e.g. £27/year for Juniors, 'Open days' to come and try free of charge. With encouragement from the committee he also agreed to offer three free lessons for all ages. In addition, Iain will go to effort to keep the Lammermuir area informed of offers via posters on notice boards, website (send info to AD) and community Herald. SB pointed out that the loss of the golf course would be a loss for us all, as it is our local golf course. He was keen that we support this as if this course disappears it is most unlikely to be replaced.

Approved in full, plus additional £180 added on to cover postcards (2nd class stamp price rise factored in), on understanding of three free lessons for any age. Beth to remind Iain to arrange postcards.

Total funding approved £2180. SB proposed, AR 2nd.

2. Duns Ceilidh Club (£946.12)

Kathi and Eric Branse-Instone presented their application for part funding for portable speakers for their fortnightly ceilidh dance learning sessions and a ceilidh band (plus local bus and publicity) for a larger event in September. They usually meet at the Guy Roberts room at swimming pool costing £28 per night, which is covered with entrance fees (£2 for adults, children free). The aim is to encourage social dancing in the area, which is good for exercise and socialising, and not as hard to learn as Scottish Country

Dancing. Kathi and Eric teach on a voluntary basis. They have developed a relationship with the Small Hall Band, a local folk band which trains young people, and they will play occasionally at the practise sessions, so it will encourage young musicians too. The longer-term view is that once there are enough people in the area who know the dances there can be a monthly ceilidh, cycled around the area, in smaller village halls.

AL – asked why they need four speakers. This is for more sound around the room - one in each corner, then they don't have to have the volume up so loud, enabling everyone to hear instructions. They currently borrow three speakers from their family each time. Around 25 people usually attend, last time there were 30 dancers, four have attended from the Lammermuirs that they know of.

As this is a relatively new project there was some doubt over granting all funding requested. It was agreed to fund the speakers, but not the ceilidh band or bus, and if they want funding for this they can reapply in June, as the ceilidh is planned for September.

Kathi will send information to Beth / AD for the Lammermuir website and information to Beth for PrintSpot.

**Total funding approved: £720 (£540 for speakers plus £180 for postcards to publicise the fortnightly sessions)
ID proposed and ES 2nd**

3. Riding Lessons (£6480)

Rachael Roberts was present to answer questions which arose when she applied in November, but was unable to attend.

This will be for funded riding lessons in Kelso, but only available for people from the Lammermuir community. This has been run in the past by others, including Sharon Baker who explained that these used to be 50% funded for a block of 6 sessions for about £150 and the other half was paid for by participants.

Rachael said the cost now is £125 for adults and £100 for children. Full funding was applied for, with a deal that they get six lessons for the price of five.

It was suggested that in order to relaunch this project back, LCF could increase the proportion of funding to 75%. In future not such a high proportion may be agreed. Community emails have been sent out to gauge uptake and there are now 22 interested: 11 adults and 11 children. This has increased since the last application, but it is covered by amount asked for as there are more children than adults. A block of six lessons lasts six months and can be taken once a week, or once a month as required.

A block of 6x lessons for an adult (£125) 75% funded would be £93.75, the individual paying £31.25

A block of 6x lessons for a child (£100) 75% funded would be £75, the individual paying £25

It was decided to fund 75% for one block of six lessons per person (based on the adult rate of £125 per block). The total cost would be £2750 for 22 people (75% = £2062.50). More funding may be applied for in June. Rachel will arrange for postcards to be sent round and therefore she may get extra people, so to ensure enough funding is available it was decided to allocate £3000.

Total funding approved: £3000

ID proposed, ES 2nd.

4. BAVS (Berwickshire Wheels Vehicle: £10,000.00)

Sharon Ferguson and John Tyson presented this application to fund a new MPV to replace one of their current vehicles. There are high levels of isolation and lack of public transport in Lammermuirs. The buses are available to hire in addition to being driven by volunteer drivers. They have also applied to Blackhill Windfarm Fund - response expected at the end of March, and SB community fund - response at the end of May. They are asking for £30,000 in total, £10,000 from each funder and contributing approximately £4000 themselves (which they will get from their old vehicle). They also provide transport for the Senior Trips in the Lammermuirs.

WDY asked whether we are able to fund this - should the Council provide this service? It was thought by others that SBC are not obliged to provide this service, although there ought to be better public transport in remote areas.

CM pointed out that community transport came out very high on the community survey. Sharon Ferguson mentioned one client in the Lammermuirs who had an early appointment at the BGH, but was told an ambulance couldn't come that early, so Berwickshire Wheels provided transport and picked them up again end of that day.

CW said that although it is a valuable service, should we fund proportionally?

AL suggested having a vehicle which is free for people from this area on one day a week. CW thought this is a lot of money when we have a big deficit on CELCA 2, and in response AD requested to make a statement which could affect the amount of funding available.

A statement from AD on behalf of LCC on Public Arts Strategy was made at this point, as this could make significant funds available:

"The history of the Public Art Strategy Project goes back way beyond my time. As we understand it, the Community Council put in a bid to the Community Fund for a Public Art Strategy project, and this was granted. The money allocated for this has been ring-fenced for many years. However, the people on the Community Council at that time are no longer involved. The current Community Council does not want to take the project forward. Therefore, we would like the funds to be re-absorbed. We feel that if a Public Art Strategy Project is to go ahead, it needs a fresh application to be put to the Community Fund so that it has a mandate from the current Community Fund."

WDY pointed out that we have evidence from the survey that people want community transport, but not about art.

AL asked who in LCC had discussed the project at their meeting, and who had voted, and got a show of hands to confirm this was the will of LCC.

AL (chair) requested any objections from non-Community Council trustees.

No objections were raised to this so it was agreed to reabsorb all the remaining £12,500.00 from the Public Arts Strategy fund (no 129)

In addition - A previously drawn down and ring-fenced amount of £2000, meant for a Public Arts Strategy pilot scheme, is still sitting in the LCC bank account. CM to arrange refunding this to the LCF .

Proposed AD, ES 2nd

AL will contact Rachael Long who had already prepared and presented a suggestion for a possible Art Piece for the area, to let her know funding was no longer available, hence her involvement would cease.

..continued.... Decision on Berwickshire Wheels funding:

The Berwickshire Wheels service will be publicised on the community website and £180 added on for postcards to publicise the monthly bus which will be made available to our local area. BAVS will cover cost and will keep a note of uptake to report back and the meeting in June (Beth to remind Sharon) John Tyson, the driver who transports the Senior Outings and knows the area well offered to be the communities driver

Total funding approved: £10,180

ID prop and SB 2nd – to fund £10,000 for BAVS.

ID suggested that LCF lobby SBC through Clr Mark Rowley for better public transport in rural areas and to mention that LCF decided to fund this as a one off. All agreed to ask him.

5. Yoga (£2,917.50)

£2964.82 remains available for this in the College of Knowledge fund (project 33(17)), so no more needed.

No funding granted

6. Teen Challenge Swimming (£3,360.00)

Repeat of last year's application. Hire of Duns Swimming Pool on a Saturday for residents of Teen Challenge rehabilitation centre in the Lammermuirs. They really appreciate this, and couldn't afford it without funding, there are lessons for those who can't swim and some have already learned. 12 – 14 use this every week, out of 18 residents.

Full funding approved

ES proposed, AR 2nd

7. Senior Trips (£1,164.52)

AL presented this application on behalf of Maureen Ferguson. Funds to cover one trip have been applied for. This is very popular and the bus is usually full.

Full funding approved

ES proposed, CM 2nd

8. Kilt Making (£1,700.00)

Funding for this was reabsorbed in November, but then AL heard that they are running more courses. All for local people. 4 places available. People contribute £100 for material. £180 added for postcards.

Total funding approved: £1880

WDY proposed, and ES 2nd

CM reminded everyone to get to information for the postcards into PrintSpot quickly so they can be sent out in a batch.

5. Community Arts Project

Covered above

6. Any other business

- **Lammermuirlife Website** is up and running. Please send all information to website to AD and Beth.
- **Hall bookings** all now need to be made on the website. Zoe Munroe deals with these for Longformacus and Heather Borthwick for Cranshaws.
- **Longformacus Village Hall improvements** are due to start at the end of May or beginning of June. Work will take place in two phases, with the extension work separate to the main hall work. At the end of summer, the main hall will be closed for a month or so for this.
CW questioned the level of public consultation on the hall improvements. It was pointed out that there has been consultation and funding has already been agreed to give this the go ahead. **AL asked that ES makes sure everyone in the community is kept up to date on progress.**

7. Date of next LCF meetings

NB Some days changed to Wednesdays to accommodate members who find Tuesdays difficult

Tuesday 2nd June in Longformacus

Wednesday 2nd September in Cranshaws

All at 7:30pm

