

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

**Wednesday 2nd September 2020
7.30pm via Zoom**

**Minutes
General Meeting**

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale, Bill Landale, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Elizabeth Willis, Ian Davidson, Clive Warsop, Alistair Dawson, Stuart Blaikie, Alison Rodger, Morag Rodger and Ettie Spencer

Also present: Beth Landon (minutes), Kim Drysdale (finance), Thurston Hodge (Berwickshire Wheels), Andrea Davison and John Hall (Whiteadder Water Sports Centre bid), Pauline Stewart, Heather Bewick, Dave Lochhead and Graeme Walker.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Al welcomed everyone

Apologies: Melvin Landale, Wendy Dawson-Young and Robin Smith.

2. Minutes

At the meeting in June CW had asked for the minutes from 4.3.20 to be changed during matters arising, and then the minutes were approved as a true record. This change was not made as the minutes ought to have been approved, with any changes proposed, before addressing matters arising. As correct procedure was not followed, it was agreed that a comment should be added at the end of the June minutes with CW's amendments to the March minutes. Beth Landon to update minutes from 2.6.20 as per CW email, which was read out and approved along with the minutes.

Minutes of GM 2.6.20 approved – ES proposed, DM 2nd

3. Matters Arising

- **Strimmer** – being used regularly
- **Old Kirk improvements** – work not started yet: the joiner is catching up on his backlog caused by the Covid lock-down and has the job on his list
- **Exploring Music** – plan is to start up again on Friday 3rd October, and then the 1st Friday of the following months.
- **Singing group** - 4 more sessions due, awaiting sufficient lifting of Covid restrictions
- **Riding funding** – applicant requested funding be reabsorbed

- **Kilt making** – funding approved in March, but was reabsorbed, but AL requested that this be made available again, as classes are going ahead. BL proposed, CM 2nd. Kim Drysdale to reverse reabsorption.
- **Duns Golf Club** - new mower now in action, a picture was shared.
- **Longformacus Village hall progress & updating locals** – regular updates have been posted on the community website, circulated via The Herald and put on the notice boards. The hall is being deep cleaned and safety guidelines for the hall have been drawn up – following government and Bavs guidelines.
- **Community newsletter** – BL read out a draft letter which was intended to be sent to all households asking whether people would like to receive a community newsletter by post, with the intention of reaching those not on email.

AD explained that the Community Council have already agreed to send round a questionnaire to the whole community in the next week, to ask people about access to broadband and whether they are receiving updates from The Herald This will cover the question of communication with residents not on email. It was agreed to not send out the letter which BL had drafted, and to put a time limit on responses to the questionnaire. AD will feedback responses from the questionnaire to BL.

It was agreed that a newsletter of some sort was much needed at this time, whether distributed via email, post or a combination. CM requested that the communications include a call for residents to feedback local information to The Herald. BL will invite others to assist him with the production of a newsletter and Thurston Hodge offered assistance from Bavs with the production and delivery of a newsletter if it goes ahead, in lieu of advertising their services.

- **Swimming funding** - £10,000 granted at the meeting in June is enough, so no more funding has been applied for at this meeting.
- **Bird boxes & web cam** – no longer needed, application withdrawn

4. Treasurer's Report

CELCA 1

01 September 2020	£169,680.35
Payments out in transit	£0.00
Payments in in transit	£0.00
Current balance	£169,254.35
Set aside for running costs	£3,000.00
Allocated to projects	£11,6661.91
Available for funding	£49,592.44

Payment of £33,551.06 received from Fred Olsen on the 20th August

CELCA 2

24 August 2020	£86,520.07
Payments out in transit	£0.00
Payments in in transit	£0.00
Current balance	£86,520.07
Set aside for running costs	£0.00
Allocated to projects	£125,627.57
Available for funding	-£39,107.50

Another payment due end October / beginning November

Treasurer's report approved - DM proposed, AR 2nd

5. Applications:

1. **Berwickshire Wheels (£10,000)**

Thurston Hodge presented this application. Berwickshire Wheels (BW) were granted funding for a new vehicle in March, but this is no longer required, and they now have a more urgent need for funding to maintain their current fleet. Income has been lower than usual due to the Bavs charity shops being closed, along with waived fares between April and September. Resilience funding from SBC has been used up and continued funding from SBC and Scottish Government may reduce going forward.

This application will help to cover maintenance and running costs for the fleet from 1st September 2020 to the end of March 2021, which comes to an estimated £11,522.24.

Since the beginning of April BW have been coming to the Lammermuirs once a week, to bring deliveries from local shops, and help with the community hub. Funding was previously granted with the agreement that a weekly shopping trip would be arranged for residents in the Lammermuirs. This has not been possible so far due to Covid restrictions, but is being looked into again now. There are some restrictions to enable social distancing in the vehicles: only two people from two separate households could travel together at 2m, two people from three households if social distancing drops to 1m. Thurston will work with someone the community to arrange this.

The current need for funding is urgent. Once the Bavs charity shops are back up and running, the hope is they won't have to continue to apply to wind farm funds to cover maintenance costs. Thurston hasn't applied to Blackhill Windfarm Fund or ABPCC yet, but will be looking into these.

DM asked whether will they come back to LCF to request funding for a new vehicle, Thurston explained they don't have a plan for who to apply for this, but will probably apply elsewhere if LCF grant funding today.

AL pointed out that LCF doesn't normally fund running costs, although it does fit within LCF objectives, and Scottish Government are not obliged to fund community transport. However, LCF usually fund proportionally, so it would be better if he applied to other windfarms. AL proposed LCF fund half now and they come back in November to apply for the other half.

Dave Lochhead said that the service is not exclusive to this area, but it is valuable to this area, and suggested LCF approve a payment on condition of match funding approved from other windfarm funds.

BL asked whether £5,000 would give them enough until match funding is acquired, and Thurston replied that it would.

ID pointed out that if they get the rest of the £10,000 from other funders, they won't need another £5,000 from LCF if only they only need £11,000 in total.

Thurston suggested an initial £5000, and then the extra £5000 match funding could be then used in the period beyond March.

AL proposed allowing the use of £5000 unconditionally, and reabsorbing the other £5000. Thurston can come to the meeting in November to report back and apply for further funding then if required.

Effectively this means the £10,000 funding for the vehicle granted in March is to be reabsorbed and a new grant of £5000 allocated for maintenance costs.

£5,000 approved - AD proposed, CW 2nd

2. Whiteadder Water Sports Centre (£10,000)

John Hall and Andrea Davison presented this application to enable them to re-open the Whiteadder Water Sports Centre. Andrea lives near Oldhamstocks and taught at the centre from 2010 until 2017 when the centre was mothballed. John Hall was her boss then and has been recruited back to try and get the centre going again. John retired in 2013 from SBC's Outdoor Education service. The centre was founded in 2003/4 funded by the National Lottery and Rural Development funding from the EU. SBC and East Lothian Council also funded some joint projects at the centre. It was clear over this time that there was a business opportunity for the centre, but funding for outdoor learning so reduced by SBC, as an austerity measure, that the centre had to close. Whiteadder Reservoir has particularly good and consistent wind quality for beginners learning to sail, hence one reason when the opportunity came up, they put in a bid to reopen the centre.

Andrew Thornhill, who applied for funding, is in the process of forming a Charitable Trust; the application has gone in today. John Hall will be the Chair. Andrea will manage the centre with a partner, and another instructor, and get paid when instructing.

There are other bids for the lease - one from a group in East Lothian, who already run an outdoor education centre. LCF funding would be awarded on condition they are given the lease. They have put an application into ABPCC and will apply to Blackhill Windfarm Fund in October. The plan is to open in Spring 2021, and to get the centre ready in the meantime; some repair and general upkeep work is urgently needed.

AL asked what state the boats and equipment are in, as they have put in bids to lease the equipment as well as the building. Andrea explained that a lot of boats are stacked in the shed, but the sails are in the main building, and need checking. Two Wayfairers are outside, so these may not be in as good condition. The plan is to run courses for children in the summer, after school clubs, weekend courses, and taster days.

AL mentioned that in the past CELCA has partially funded week long sailing courses, for adults and children from 7 or 8 who could swim; some courses could lead to qualifications. These were very popular and most of funding was covered for local people.

Thurston Hodge offered Berwickshire Wheels transport for this.

BL enquired about the LCF funded a boat for disabled people. This is in the harbour in Eyemouth, in a store, and they hope to get this back to the Whiteadder. John Hall explained that this boat is also useful if it is too windy for youngsters to go out on their own, as six children can go out with an instructor. CW asked how they will get enough helmets, lifejackets etc for only £100. These are already in the centre and second hand, so they have put in a bid for them at £100.

Dave Lochhead asked whether the use of the sailing club would be compatible with other activities e.g. wild swimming, families picnicking. Andrea said they don't want it to be exclusive and her partner is a swimmer and may run life-saving skills classes. They have someone interested in running the café too. John Hall explained that the original agreement between SBC and Scottish Water still allows angling and that wild swimming is allowed due to the Land Reform Act. Finally, if there is a resurgence of Covid-19 over winter this may delay the opening of the centre.

ID said this is a community asset which is not being used, so LCF should support it.

£10,000 approved, contingent on successful bid for the lease, and OSCR granting charity status. ID proposed and ES 2nd.

3. Cranshaws Walk (£6,900.00)

Dave Lochhead withdrew his funding application, as the contractor has not invoiced yet, so he is unsure what the final costs will be for the path work.

Dave presented a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The project has about £16k still available, but extensive work has been done recently. The fencing is complete and there is now a route right round the walk. The bridge by the Old School was finished recently, completing the south side. Dave proposed that they have a community walk soon and ask for feedback, before they get to next stage and open to general public. The Community Orchard has been planted thanks to the generosity of the local land owners, Prof. Bill Penny and Melvin Landale, who set land aside for this use. The trees have taken and there has even been some fruit. Signage and picnic tables are still to be done, but Dave is awaiting a final bill for the path work first. It was agreed that an initial local community walk event is a good idea, to be tied in with the now cancelled Ellemford Show on the last Saturday in September. Dave will work with BL on converting the report for a Special edition of the newsletter for the walk and will apply for further funding as needed in November.

No funding granted

4. Christmas Bus (£194.00)

Pauline Stewart presented this application on behalf of Derek Williams. The idea is to put on a bus, which Derek will drive, to take ten isolated local residents to the Volunteer Hall for Christmas lunch. Pauline stressed it is highly unlikely this will go ahead, as A Heart for Duns do not yet know if they will be able to put the event on, so the application is on a provisional basis.

AL pointed out that the Senior Trips funding pot still has funds remaining. However, it was agreed that this may still be needed, and the Christmas Bus application is not only for senior citizens. CM proposed that cost of postcards is added and funding increased to allow for 20 or 25 people, as it will only be paid as per uptake. It was decided that publicity should go out alongside the Senior Trips publicity on one postcard. Thurston Hodge confirmed that even though only 16 people can fit on a Berwickshire Wheels bus, they could put a second vehicle out.

£485.00 approved for 25 people - CM proposed BL 2nd

5. Community Larder (£4,000.00)

Pauline Stewart presented this application to enable the continuation of the community hub as a Community Larder (full name Longformacus Community Larder). Berwickshire Wheels have been delivering from the hub to local people during lock-down. This food came from the Scottish Government resilience fund.

The plan is to build on the success of the hub and have a Community Larder. Overflow food is collected from supermarkets by FareShare and delivered to the Larders, of which there is a network locally.

A recent community survey regarding the project had 36 replies, out of which 88% were positive about the need for it to continue. Local deliveries will go down to about seven households, and the rest will access the larder directly.

CW questioned the hall costs, saying the hall should be freely available for this. CM pointed out that the hall charge is to cover running costs. ES mentioned that costs are subsidised by CELCA for community groups.

ID asked whether it would be in the hall or just the annex. It would be in the hall as there has to be an exit and entrance due to Covid restrictions. Also, the hall can be used by related groups alongside, e.g. Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB), or environmental groups.

Waste food from larder will go to people with pets and animals or compost.

Bavs have also given funding to this.

£4000 approved - CW prop, BL 2nd

6. Winter Fuel (£1,800.00)

This project idea comes from the Community Larder group. Through delivering food to households they have become aware of worsening fuel poverty due to reduced household incomes caused by Covid restrictions.

CM pointed out that the Community Council (CC) has informed the community about SBC Covid aid-funds which can be drawn on for fuel, but they had no uptake. Pauline said people don't like to ask, but they have built up relationships with people through the deliveries which have broken this barrier down and already have families asking for help. People will have to sign a form to access this.

CM asked who will organise this and order fuel etc. Pauline will.

ID pointed out that people can get help through either the CC or this fund.

CW mentioned that a few people have asked for this through the community survey.

ES asked Pauline to keep a record of where it is going to, and show this to AL regularly. AL agreed, this information will be treated sensitively, she will check payments as she did for the school trips. Pauline will keep AL updated.

BL said that confidentiality is very important, this needs to be made clear on doorstep.

CM underlined, rather than giving out cash, coal deliveries would be arranged from Pearson's and part payments would be made directly to the oil company. AR asked whether £60 would be enough. Pauline is aware of 2 or 3 households which may need extra help.

£1,800.00 approved in full – EW proposed, CW 2nd

7. Christmas Dinners (£600.00)

Another application from the Community Larder, to give households a bag of groceries including soup, a chicken, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, a trifle or Christmas pudding and crackers.

AL asked how they will decide who they will go to. To roughly the same people as they have identified as in need of fuel.

CM asked whether these people are being helped by social services. Pauline said that people are losing income, but still have same monthly bills.

SB asked whether people can just pick these things up from the hub. Pauline explained that they can't request items that come through FareShare and that this would be in lieu of a community Christmas celebration.

CW said it is great idea to cheer people who are isolated.

This will target different people to the Christmas Bus lunch outing.

ES asked how they would identify these people, Pauline explained they know them through the hub deliveries and will only draw down on the funding if needed.

Morag Rodger (MR) said that Pauline has relationship with these people and is in the best position to work with them. The Community Larder will work with CAB etc to help people know what financial support is available.

£600.00 approved – EW proposed, AR 2nd

8. Christmas Stockings (£1,130.00)

This is a similar idea to the Children's Goodie bags which were recently distributed through the CC resilience fund. These went down really well.

AL suggested Pauline checks with the schools to ensure relevant books are included. They will get books through Bookbug who supply reasonably priced books to schools suitable for different aged children.

When distributing the goodie bags, they realised they missed five children, but didn't have their details, so it was proposed to increase the amount from 36 to 50 in case more are needed.

AL suggested that Pauline talks to Sharon Baker who will have a list of those taking up swimming lessons - this will help identify local children.

£1550 approved for 50 people - MR Prop, SB 2nd

9. Longformacus Village Hall Fogging Machine (£1,600.00)

Ettie Spencer presented this application from the Longformacus Village Hall (LVH) Improvements Committee (LVHIC).

Bavs recommend that village halls use fogging machines to cleanse public spaces. Bavs have one they can lend out, but it would be better to have one for the community, between Cranshaws Hall and LVH. They will borrow the Bavs one first, and keep this funding to be drawn down if this is needed. This will go onto the asset list once purchased.

SB asked whether the hall has funds to cover this. ES explained they do, but it would be using revenue funding.

AL described it as a reasonable application at present, as cleaning protocols are greater than usual.

CW said that LCF need to know that groups receiving funding are abiding by regulations, and LVHIC have not had an AGM for a long time. ES responded that the money won't go to the LHVIC, it will be to purchase a community asset.

CW pointed out the need for those operating the fogging machine to wear safety equipment. ES explained that they are consulting with Bavs, who will advise on this. AL has read the new protocols re cleaning which the hall will now have in place and will be following.

£1,600.00 approved. AD proposed, EW 2nd

6. Any other business

- **Trustees** - Robin Smith has resigned from the board as he has moved from the area. AL put forward the recommendation to co-opt Mrs Lynsey Jack, Cranshaws, as she has agreed to join, all agreed - CM proposed, DM 2nd
- **School trip refunds** have been given to parents by the school for trips cancelled due to Covid and this is being returned gradually to LCF; to be followed up.

7. Date of next LCF meetings

AGM Tuesday 10th November at 7pm in Longformacus.