

Lammermuir Community Council
General Meeting
Held via Zoom due to Covid-19
Thursday 8th October 2020
Minutes

- **Participants:** Alistair Dawson, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Bill Landale, Tony Homer, Clive Warsop, Morag Rodger, Elizabeth Willis, Cllr Mark Rowley
- **In attendance:** Karen Kirkness and Jonny Fisher
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon

Agenda point	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies AD Welcomed everyone. No apologies.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd July 2020</p> <p>Nobody had any corrections and the minutes were accepted as a true record. BL Proposed, DM 2nd</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</p> <p>Fridge in the Community Larder: AD investigated this and went back to Pauline, who asked if LCC would like to engage with management of hub and larder. LCC decided not to do so and AD fed this back to Pauline. AD said to Pauline that if they decide to have a fridge, she would need to take this forward with H&S documentation etc, and provided her with information on this, but this hasn't happened yet (discussion continued under item 6 – Covid Update).</p> <p>Covid business fund: which SBC are distributing on behalf of both UK and Scottish Governments. MaR and CW reported that both village halls applied for 10k and they understand both were successful.</p> <p>Financial help for parents AD has been in touch with heads of both schools to make them aware of the financial help available for vulnerable families in the area with uniform etc, but received no response from them. MaR offered to put AD in touch with new head of Berwickshire High School.</p>	MaR

<p>Internet Accessibility Questionnaire This has been sent round and CM has the results (comes up under point 7)</p>	
<p>4. Council membership</p> <p>The last election was nearly 4 years ago and at that point LCC had the full 10 members. Now there are only 6 plus 2 co-opted members. AD will be moving out of the area imminently and so will have to step down from membership and from being Chair, leaving only 5 members. Usually a Vice-Chair would step in to become Chair, but there isn't one currently. BL is willing to step in as Interim-Chair and AD is willing to support him by email.</p> <p>MR advised LCC can't have an election at this meeting, but can do so at the AGM in December. At the AGM the co-opted members can be made full members, then LCC can co-opt 2 further members at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>It was decided to accept BL as Vice-Chair now, with a view to becoming Interim-Chair at the AGM, CM proposed, MoR 2nd</p>	
<p>5. Treasurer's report</p> <p>Bank Balance 08-10-2020 £3,666.68</p> <p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL £913.90</p> <p>SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced) £572.78 07-08-2020 £1000 paid in by SBC</p> <p>WALKING FUND (ringfenced) £2,180.00</p> <p>Goody bags and digital inclusion questionnaire have been paid for through SBC Covid funding.</p> <p>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF)</p> <p>DEFIBRILLATOR £256.07</p> <p>COMMUNITY BROADBAND £372.67 (ringfenced for planned Borderlink Connection)</p> <p>COMMUNITY WEBSITE £1,194.70</p>	

<p>No questions and AD thanked CM for her continued excellent work as Treasurer.</p>	
<p>6. Covid 19 update</p> <p>Support for people self-isolating AD had call from Berwickshire Community Assistance Hub regarding two people who tested positive in Longformacus and were self-isolating, but had no provisions. AD put them in touch with Pauline (Community Larder) who has provided for them and will continue to do that for them for as long as needed.</p> <p>MaR expressed encouragement that the hub is working as it should do. SBC strongly supports these hubs.</p> <p>BL asked what the obligations of community members who test positive are, as far as letting people in the community know. MaR said they don't need to tell anyone, just self-isolate. The people who got in touch did so via the Berwickshire Community Assistance Hub, and they passed it onto AD, purely for LCC to direct them to available assistance. SBC won't drop a line to CCs about positive test results, only when there is a need to be met.</p> <p>CM asked who would be the contact going forward with AD leaving. AD will get in touch with all contacts and give them BL's email</p> <p>Longformacus Community Larder A long discussion followed, picking up on discussion under agenda item 3 above. CW and MaR described the advantage of how the hub was initially set up with the ability to pop in without doing it publicly. They are both of the opinion that LCC needs to act as a conduit for funding given to halls and are risking being bypassed by opting out of involvement in the hub.</p> <p>AD pointed out that the hub was set up by the hall committee and is functioning well. CW and MaR said BAVS had to put pressure on village hall committee to apply for the Covid fund, would this have happened otherwise?</p> <p>MaR said LCC has a role here. With increasing lockdown, the economic effects will get a lot worse, especially as furlough reduces and hospitality venues close, LCC need to keep this on the agenda and keep reviewing it.</p> <p>CW would like to see a fridge at the larder, and to expand the range of what is available. MaR sees a fridge in the larder as important in its aims to reduce food waste (although DM said there wasn't evidence that a fridge would achieve that). MaR pointed out other venues have fridges and BAVS have dealt with the red tape involved, there just seems to be a lack of appetite to have a fridge here.</p>	<p>AD</p>

<p>EW said Pauline is in process of contacting the village hall trustees about changing the way the larder is run and improving food storage. Health and Safety will come and assess the way food is stored and advise about a fridge. Pauline is arranging Food handling certification for volunteers to help with insurance and to enable them to have a fridge if they decide to.</p> <p>AD asked CW to bring this back to CC if not resolved.</p> <p>CW expressed concern that the larder may close for a time while the hall improvements are being carried out and said the larder should be the priority.</p> <p>MaR understands the village hall is struggling to get building control consent. They have planning permission, but need this too before work can start. He is helping the village hall committee with this, but they won't get contractors on site within weeks. For the foreseeable future it won't become a building site, and larder should continue.</p> <p><i>Break as free 40min Zoom meeting ended:</i></p> <p><i>AD proposed LCC use some of Covid money to get a Zoom subscription. MR suggested looking at Teams instead, as there is a move amongst public bodies to not engage on Zoom (comes up under point 10 - police reports), but on general principle this would be a good use of the Covid money. CM said there is funding available. Action on BL to pursue Teams. AD said LCF could use this too.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that AD would get back to the hall committee and say LCC would like to see the larder continue to operate through the building work and if possible, to install a fridge.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>BL</p> <p>AD</p>
<p>7. Digital Inclusion Questionnaire</p> <p>MaR had suggested using this opportunity to gather more detailed information on internet access for local households, but it had been decided to keep it simple and just ask whether residents need internet access and whether they would prefer to receive Herald updates and the Lammermuir Life magazine via post.</p> <p>Five responses were received in total: 1 telephone call asking for all information by post, 1 email asking for Lammermuir Life by post, but Herald updates via email and 3 new signed up to receive Herald updates via email. CM said this was a disappointingly low response, so they may not have got the extra info MaR wanted anyway.</p>	

<p>AD concluded that mailshots are not needed, but CM was worried people would be missed if information isn't sent by post.</p> <p>A discussion followed about whether more detailed information ought to have been gathered, and whether this is SBC or LCC's responsibility. MaR said that community engagement in a questionnaire could be improved if residents feel something meaningful would come out of it, as happened with the last one on digital inclusion, which resulted fibre being brought into central Longformacus. He also said it is CCs role to gather this information and pass it onto SBC, so they have the information needed to get action.</p> <p>CM said she and DM have worked very hard to get Borderlink up and running, but there hasn't been much engagement with that. MR pointed out that no other CC area he is involved with has a better record on getting community engagement on this than our area.</p> <p>MaR said LCC now needs to drill down and find out which people still have a problem with internet access. AD said this could be obtained through a second questionnaire.</p>	
<p>8. Broadband update</p> <p>There is now a new voucher scheme to help fund connections for those who won't be reached by R100 at all or for whom it will be delayed (possibly until the end of 2021). 238 properties across the South of Scotland won't be covered by R100 and these households can apply for a voucher of up to £5000. This can be aggregated with neighbours. Households coming under R100, but not until the end of 2021, can get an interim grant of £400, which can also be aggregated. Difficult to reach areas may be eligible for an additional top-up of £250. This information is available on Scotlandsuperfast.com and residents are able to check their internet speeds there too.</p> <p>MaR reported that Borderlink now have the information to enable them to claim these vouchers. Other service providers can also access this, but it makes sense to work with Borderlink as already in the area. AD, DM and CM have developed a spreadsheet with Borderlink, so they know which households aren't connected yet and can let them know this is available. AD agreed that Borderlink should be able to come up with a scheme to cover these households using the vouchers. CM suggested applying to LCF for a need top up if needed.</p> <p>AD thanked CM and DM for their efforts on this.</p>	

<p>9. Scottish Power (SP) Energy Networks update</p> <p>Work on the local power distribution upgrade was due to finish by October. Although the eastern end on the LCC area has been upgraded, the Ellemford end has not. It is thought that this is due to safety concerns over old switches. Action on AD to find out what is happening.</p>	AD
<p>10. Police report</p> <p>None available PC Porter PC is leaving and being replaced by PC Joanne Swindells. AD received notification that in future police reports will be communicated via Teams. MaR said they will restart written reports in about 6 weeks time AD will pass on the Vice-Chair’s contact details</p>	AD
<p>11. Planning</p> <p>Longformacus Old Post Office Plans for this to be demolished were circulated prior to the meeting. The consensus was that because there was no obligation under the planning permission to replace the building, and this could result in a gap site or something unsuitable being built in its place, that it is the view of LCC that planning should be refused until a plan comes forward for the replacement dwelling. Action on AD to get back along these lines.</p> <p>MR pointed out that over 25% of village is B&Bs and holiday lets. CW said that once balance to non-owner occupied there is a problem with lack of community engagement etc</p>	AD
<p>12. Correspondence received</p> <p>Relevant correspondence was dealt with or forwarded. Nothing of note for this meeting.</p>	
<p>13. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EW asked whether LCC has any say in putting up “do not litter” signs. MaR Will ask at SBC, but suspects they don’t have any effect. • 20 speed limits: Longformacus and Cranshaws will be one of the first villages to go live on 21st October. Cranshaws was missed originally, as they don’t currently have 30 signs. MaR raised this with officers so Cranshaws is now included on the list and speed is currently being monitored. MaR will send an email to CR with dates for the roll out to be sent round on the Herald. • Whitteadder Water Sports centre – MaR reported that SBC are in discussions with preferred bidder, with meetings planned for next 	MaR / CM

<p>week. MaR doesn't know who the preferred bidder is as he is not allowed to take part in the process.</p>	
<p>14. Dates of next meetings</p> <p>The next meeting was planned for 10th December</p> <p>MaR suggested having this earlier to enable the co-opted members to become full members as soon as possible, as numbers are low, and there was some agreement to this. AD will email BL (not present at this point as unable to re-join Zoom meeting after free time slot ended) to suggest having an earlier date.</p>	<p>AD</p>