

**Lammermuir Community Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.30 pm**  
**Via Teams**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

- **Participants:** Bill Landale, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock (DM), Morag Rodger (MoR), Elizabeth Willis, Tony Homer, Clive Warsop, Cllr Mark Rowley (MR), Cllr Donald Moffat (DoM)
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Also present:** Johnny Fisher (Teams host), Alison Landale

<b>Agenda point</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b>            BL welcomed everyone to the meeting.            Apologies from Pauline Stewart.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</b>            The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.            DM proposed, CM 2<sup>nd</sup></p>	
<p><b>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b>            CM thanked AD and Beth Landon for work on the website.</p>	
<p><b>4. Chair's report for the year</b></p> <p>The following report was received from AD, who resigned in November as he had moved from the area, and was read out by BL:</p> <p>This year has been somewhat different to previous years largely because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of the LCC's activities during the year related to this and all but one of the regular meetings had to be conducted <i>via</i> Zoom. Another feature is that this was my last year as Chair of LCC – I resigned in November and as I write this, I am settling into our new house in the north Pennines. Luckily, Bill Landale has stepped into the breach and I thank him for that.</p> <p>At the last AGM, in January 2020, we welcomed Morag Rodger and Elizabeth Willis as co-opted members of Council. With my departure, there are only five full members of Council and two co-opted members. A new election is due but cannot happen yet because of the pandemic. However, the AGM has the power to make co-opted members full members, which will in turn allow another two co-options.</p> <p><b>Covid-19</b></p>	

The nationwide lockdown began in March. The LCC was given £1k by SBC to help locally and this could be topped up as required.

Longformacus Village Hall set up a community hub (later a larder) from which residents could take food if they needed it. Pauline Stewart did a tremendous job in keeping the larder stocked with supplies from FareShare and, together with Ettie Spencer, Heather Bewick and Jonathan Wood, co-ordinated the hub. Two families that were shielding/self-isolating were provided directly with emergency supplies. Relevant information was provided on the Community Website and *via* The Herald. A Local Shopping Service was set up with the help of Berwickshire Wheels.

A questionnaire on internet accessibility was sent by mail to all residents. This was to determine who did not have access to the internet and so needed direct communication for matters relating to the pandemic. This should also cut down time and expense in the future when sending out community-wide information. I wrote to the Heads of local schools asking if we could assist pupils from our region who made be suffering hardship. I got no response.

As I write this, the end of the medical emergency may be in sight, but economic ramifications will continue for some time.

Both village halls were successful in bidding for £10k which SBC distributed on behalf of the Scottish and UK governments.

#### **Broadband**

Most residents of Longformacus now have reasonably fast broadband *via* BT. Many residents further afield have broadband provided by the Borderlink 4G network. This appears to be working well. A new relay has been installed at the Old Sawmill to extend the service to Greenhope. Phase 2 of the Borderlink project has been deferred pending more information about R100 and possible funding schemes in the event of a delay in this.

#### **Community website**

In 2019 LCC commissioned a local professional web designer Jonathan Nicholson of Scottish Borders Website Design to design a community website. This was done, and initial content was loaded. The website went live early in 2020 and has been kept up to date by me and Beth Landon. With my departure, I am delighted to report that Johnny Fisher has agreed to take on responsibility for the website – he is considerably more IT savvy than me.

#### **Windfarms**

The planning application from EDF to build new turbines at Fallago has been turned down. However, an additional application to extend the life of the existing turbines by five years to 2035 was approved.

Both Fred Olsen renewables (Crystal Rig) and Community Windpower (Aikengal) continue to fund local projects through LCF. The latter funds are reserved for two heritage projects, Cranshaws Community Walk and Longformacus Village Hall improvement. The Community Walk is almost complete; thanks to Dave Lochhead, Neil Anderson and Sheila Pattullo. The village hall has made little visible progress because SBC planning has been slow during the pandemic; thanks to Ettie Spencer and Jonathan Wood for progressing this.

Blackhill Windfarm Community Trust – David Mycock now represents LCC on this.

#### **Planning**

There have been only two planning applications that LCC has been asked to comment on. Firstly, changes to The Manse at Cranshaws, to which we had no objection and secondly, outline planning permission to demolish the Old Post Office at Longformacus, to which we objected.

#### **Police reports**

The pandemic meant that we had no police attendance at LCC meetings. Nor did we receive written reports until later in the year. These have now resumed but in a different format so that they cover a larger geographical area. There were no significant police related events during the year. PC Porter is leaving and being replaced by PC Joanne Swindells. In future, police attendance will be communicated *via* Teams.

#### **SP Energy Networks**

The planned upgrade for the local electricity supply, which should have been finished by now, has been partly completed. Supply to the west of the Whitchester substation has been upgraded but not to the east.

#### **Public Arts Strategy**

For several years, the LCC have had ring-fenced funds for a Public Art Strategy. How this was to be used remained unclear and it had become divisive. The LCC decided that it did not want to carry this forward and asked the LCF to resorb the funding. 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.

Finally, I would like to thank Corinne Mycock for the time and effort she has put in as Treasurer, as 'The Herald' and as my trusty lieutenant. Also, Beth Landon for taking and preparing the minutes and updating the community website and Corinne and David Mycock for their continued efforts with Broadband. The Community Council would also like to thank Councillors Mark Rowley and Donald Moffat for joining our meetings and offering advice.

I wish the Lammermuir area all the best for the future. I will keep in touch *via* the website and The Herald!

Alistair Dawson  
December 2020

BL noted his thanks to AD for Chairing and for the handover.

CM has written to thank AD and Wendy Dawson-Young on behalf of LCC and LCF and sent them a book on gardening and some craft beers.

### **5. Treasurer's report for the year**

The annual accounts have been signed off by Bavs, the independent auditor.

**Bank balance on 31/03/20: £3,143.90**

**LCC funds available: £963.90**

<p><b>Ringfenced funds:</b> Walking fund £2,180.00 Public Art Strategy £0.00</p> <p><b>LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF:</b> <b>DEFIBRILLATOR</b> £256.07 <b>COMMUNITY BROADBAND</b> £372.67 <b>COMMUNITY WEBSITE</b> £1,328.00</p> <p>BL thanked CM for her work as treasurer</p>	
<p><b>6. Election of office bearers</b></p> <p>All office bearers stood down and MR stood in as Chair</p> <p><b>Chair</b> DM nominated BL as Chair and MoR 2<sup>nd</sup> – BL duly elected</p> <p>BL also resumed as Chair of the meeting</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> TH nominated CM as Treasurer and BL 2<sup>nd</sup> – CM duly elected</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> This is a role which has not been filled to date. MR pointed out that the role of Secretary does not need to be filled by a Community Councillor and can be paid. BL asked whether LCC would in principle be prepared to pay a secretary and all agreed. MR explained that the Secretary’s job would be to keep in touch with officers at SBC and to ensure the AGM takes place each year.</p> <p>DM nominated EW as Secretary and MoR 2<sup>nd</sup> - EW duly elected. BL offered payment, but EW offered to take on the role on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Beth Landon will continue as Minute Secretary.</p> <p>The two co-opted councillors, MoR and EW, now have full voting rights.</p>	
<p><b>7. Appointment of auditors</b></p> <p>Bavs (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services) were reappointed as auditors 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>The agreement is on the website and was distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. All the Community Councillors present agreed to abide by this.</p>	
<p><b>9. Date of next AGM</b></p> <p>MR said that it is hoped that elections will be allowed by the summer. A meeting arranged for the purpose of elections would become the AGM. LCC would be encouraged to hold an overdue election ASAP. Date to be confirmed.</p>	

Meeting closed at 20:09

**Lammermuir Community Council**  
**Ordinary Meeting**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 following AGM**  
**Via Teams**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

- **Participants:** Bill Landale, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock (DM), Morag Rodger (MoR), Elizabeth Willis, Tony Homer, Clive Warsop, Cllr Mark Rowley (MR), Cllr Donald Moffat (DoM)
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Also present:** Johnny Fisher (Teams host), Alison Landale

Agenda point	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>BL welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Pauline Stewart.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting, with the following corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr DoM – note apologies for meeting</li> <li>• Council membership – EW and MR are still co-opted members just with full voting rights</li> </ul> <p>EW proposed, DM 2<sup>nd</sup></p>	Beth Landon
<p><b>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b></p> <p><b>Council membership</b> MR explained that LCC cannot have more co-opted members, rather can only co-opt further members for specific roles. Johnny Fisher, resident, volunteered to be on the council as a co-opted member with his specific IT skills, to cover the website, and to host Teams as needed. This will be formally ratified at the next meeting. The issue of the shortage of representation from Cranshaws area was raised. BL would like to co-opt someone from the agricultural community there. BL has approached a couple of people and one is considering. MR explained that technically LCC already has three members from the Cranshaws area as Ellemford comes under this area, and LCC can only co-opt more members for specific roles. BL will continue looking for potential candidates ahead of the election next year.</p>	BL

<p><b>Community Larder</b> EW reported that Longformacus Community Larder is now able to use the fridge in Longformacus Village Hall to distribute fresh food.</p> <p><b>Internet accessibility questionnaire / Broadband</b> CM reminded everyone that LCC needs to keep sending letters as it cannot be assumed that people are seeing emails or notices on boards. MR reported that R100 is going ahead slowly. Estimations via the Digital Scotland Superfast website are only accurate to within six months. MR said the recent postcard questionnaire did not ask the right questions and there is a need to get the message to find out which households still need to be connected, and about the voucher scheme, in the New Year. CM said she has sent this out already via The Herald, although it was agreed that a postcard will also be needed to reach everyone. BL asked whether Borderlink is superfast and MR replied that it can be, and added that the costs are similar between BT and Borderlink.</p>	CM
<p><b>4. Treasurer's report</b></p> <p><b>Bank Balance 10-12-2020</b> £3,524.38</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b> £838.90</p> <p><b>SBC COVID-19 FUNDING</b> (ringfenced) £505.48</p> <p>Two grants of £1000 each were received in total 1<sup>st</sup> – used purely for emergency Covid funding (e.g. Covid information to the community, soup packs etc) 2<sup>nd</sup> – used to fund the digital inclusion questionnaire</p> <p><b>WALKING FUND</b> (ringfenced) £2,180.00</p> <p><b>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF)</b></p> <p>DEFIBRILLATOR £256.07</p> <p>COMMUNITY BROADBAND £5,372.67</p> <p>COMMUNITY WEBSITE £1,194.70</p>	
<p><b>5. Broadband</b></p>	

<p>Covered above. £5000 LCF funding has been set aside to combine with the vouchers, once these are available for applications. Once more households which need to be connected are identified, then the necessary infrastructure can be funded with this in a second phase with Borderlink.</p>	
<p><b>6. Windfarms</b></p> <p>See update in Chairs report to the AGM</p>	
<p><b>7. Website</b></p> <p>Johnny Fisher is now managing this, BL thanked him on behalf of everyone. CM sent a Herald email to let the community know that emails to contact@lammermuirlife.com now go to Johnny. Johnny will contact the people who are responsible for the various areas of the website to ask whether they would like any help with editing.</p>	JF
<p><b>8. Police reports</b></p> <p>None received. The latest which BL has seen is from February. DoM said they are putting out new regular reports. Cllrs DoM, MR and the new PC meet regularly on Teams, and can raise issues. DoM has oversight of community action team. BL requested an up-to-date report. MR suggested BL freshens up contact details with PC and SBC. AD has been in touch with them, BL will follow up.</p>	BL
<p><b>9. Planning applications</b></p> <p>No new applications.</p> <p>Old Post Office – DoM said that the status of applications can be viewed on the planning portal. BL will check.</p>	BL
<p><b>10. Correspondence received</b></p> <p>BL had not received any correspondence.</p> <p><b>Survey on 20mph speed limit</b></p> <p>CM had received a link to a current survey on 20mph limit. CM or BL will fill this out on behalf of LCC, as representing the views of the community, and they asked for relevant feedback:</p> <p>EW said that the area covered needs to be more specific, that it extends too far where not necessary, and people would be more willing to stick to limits if the stretches of 20mph limits were more limited.</p> <p>CW reported someone going over 30mph in Longformacus, and that he thinks it will take time to bed in. He reported the sensor average in Longformacus was 23mph. One resident has put up their own sign. Concern about road speeds have been raised by the community, so 20mph is generally welcome.</p> <p>DoM asked for everyone to keep an eye and highlight which parts should be 20mph and which should be 30mph, and feed this back to SBC. He also informed that the monitoring strips measure average speed and also gather information on numbers of cars, what highest speeds were etc. This is an 18-month trial and new traffic orders will have to be applied for at the end of this period, so feedback will be taken into account.</p>	BL / CM

<p>MR said the survey is being undertaken by the Transport Department at Herriot Watt University in Edinburgh, and therefore is independent. They will feedback to SBC.</p> <p>AL said she had spoken with the new residents at the Dawson's house, who had reported cars coming down the hill at 50 / 60 mph towards the house.</p> <p>MR said Rigfoot and Ellemford should be deemed as a combined settlement which should have a 20mph speed restriction.</p> <p>TH asked for LCC to see the survey response before it is submitted, but it was agreed that as this is a tick box survey, and three or four increasingly detailed surveys will follow, that <b>CM or BL will fill this in based on feedback received at the meeting.</b></p> <p>TH also raised an issue of a <b>poor road surface down the hill from Rigfoot to Cranshaws</b>. MR said the most effective way to report this is via the "Report It" section of SBC website, which will get it directly into the work load. <b>TH and DM to report this directly.</b></p> <p>TH asked why Cranshaws had a 20mph limit put in place when it was not previously 30mph. MR explained that when he saw original list of settlements across the borders and Cranshaws was not mentioned, he highlighted that and it was decided to include it in the trial. DM said the 30mph signs were taken away when the school closed.</p>	DM / TH
<p><b>11. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Duns Medical Group</b> – MoR mentioned that this surgery is closing in March which is worrying for people. Merse Medical Practice will remain open. CM pointed out that LCC cannot do anything about it, other than note concern. It is an NHS decision as to where people will be allocated to for their GP surgery. All patients registered with Duns Medical Group have received a letter about this matter.</li> <li>• <b>Longformacus Village Hall / Community Larder</b> - CW mentioned that MR and CW have asked for LCC to act as a conduit for money to the village halls. It is his opinion that LCC has work to do to become relevant to residents of Longformacus and that the village halls need oversight from LCC. He brought up the issue that was minuted at the meeting in October - LCC were asked to provide oversight to the Longformacus Community Larder, but decided not to. He suggested LCC should encourage the village halls to reconnect with community.</li> </ul> <p>BL responded that this is issue is historical now and there is a positive attitude towards the Larder. He would like LCC to look forward and not be too critical about things in the past.</p> <p>TH said that the Longformacus Village Hall Committee is a properly constituted body and it is for people locally there to make that work, LCC can encourage them, but issues are for the hall committee to resolve.</p> <p>BL responded by saying he wants LCC to encourage co-operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DoM is now on SBC's Planning and Development Committee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12. Dates of next meetings</b></p> <p>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 7:30pm on Teams</p>	

Meeting closed at 21:30