

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

**Tuesday 10th November
Following AGM via Zoom**

**Minutes
General Meeting**

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

Also present: Beth Landon (minutes), Kim Drysdale (finance), Robert Landon (Zoom host), Karen Kirkness, Selma Moncrieff Gordon, Alistair Gordon, Anna Dabrowka, Jonathan Wood, Christine Gilchrist, Stuart Blaikie, Pauline Stewart, Dave Lochhead, Rachel Sutherland, Jonathan Black, Johnny Fisher, Mark Rowley (present as ordinary community member, not in any other capacity), Bruce Gilchrist (briefly for comments on Owl boxes)

1. Welcome/Apologies

Al welcomed everyone
No apologies

2. Previous Minutes

No changes

Minutes of GM 2.9.20 approved – ID, proposed, DM 2nd

3. Matters Arising

- Beth updated the June minutes as requested
- Work on the **Old Kirk** (Heritage Centre) has not yet started. ID explained that the joiner had a backlog of work due to Covid and that supplies of Perspex required for the work are hard to get hold of at present.
- **Exploring Music, singing group and kilt making** are on hold due to Covid
- **Golf Club** community sessions are due to start in spring
- **LV Hall improvements** are waiting for a start date from the builders
- **Berwickshire Wheels** fund has not been drawn down yet. Beth Landon to contact again to ask what is happening with the promised shopping trips. They have applied to PACT (Preston and Abbey Community Trust) for match funding.
- **Whiteadder Watersports Centre** group have won the bid with SBC and are waiting to be accepted by OSCR. AL has contacted OSCR to check on progress but

has not heard back yet. There is a condition that they can't draw down on LCF funding until their charitable status comes through, but AL raised the question of whether LCF could waive this condition if they don't have enough funds to enable them to get the building wind and water tight over winter, and cover insurance. They haven't yet requested to draw down any funds. It was decided to keep the condition that they need charitable status before accessing the funding allocated and that Beth Landon will contact them to check on charitable status, and on whether the council will cover the insurance until this is in place (assuming that SBC are also waiting for OSCR before transferring the lease).

- **Christmas bus trip** is not happening as the lunch at the Volunteer Hall is not going ahead.
- Pauline Stewart has started taking applications from residents signing up for the **Christmas dinner packs and Christmas Stockings**. AL reminded her to talk to Sharon Baker to check that everyone on her list for swimming lessons have been contacted and let Beth Landon know.
- **Fogging machine** is no longer needed as cleaning can be achieved to protocols with current equipment. Funds to be reabsorbed.
- **Refunds from cancelled school trips** have all been returned.
- **Funding pot for postcards** – CM suggested having a pot available for publicity of any project funded by LCF. One mailshot costs around £180. It was agreed to set aside £2000 for this for the coming year, and to continue to encourage sharing postcards where possible. This will enable 11 - 12 runs. **EW proposed, MR 2nd**.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kim Drysdale presented the current financial position:

CELCA 1

	04-Nov	£	154,817.81
Payments out in transit		£	-
Payments in in transit		£	-
19/20 Participants contribution		£	135.00
Current balance		£	154,682.81
Allocated to projects		£	119,299.83
Set aside for running costs		£	3,000.00
Available for funding		£	32,382.98

Half of the money allocated to winter fuel has been paid out already

CELCA 2

	04-Nov	£	104,666.69
Payments out in transit		£	-
Payments in in transit		£	-
19/20 Participants contribution		£	-
Current balance		£	104,666.69
Allocated to projects		£	118,787.19
Set aside for running costs			
Available for funding		-£	14,120.50

Aikengall payments are expected around March and September and will be payments of £25,00 each time.

No questions.

5. Duns Playfest funding transfer to 2021

John McEwan has been in touch to request for the funding to be transferred to the event in 2021, as the planned event in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid. CM and Kim Drysdale pointed out that these funds have already been drawn down, on presentation of invoices, but these will not have had to be paid, so Duns PlayFest currently hold the funds. It was agreed to not ask for these funds to be returned at this point, but to leave them with Duns PlayFest on trust for the event in 2021.

ML proposed, SB 2nd

6. Broadband update and additional funding

CM has spoken to Borderlink, who are able to access vouchers for households not covered by R100, and they are waiting to find out how to access these on behalf of the community.

Mark Rowley explained that R100 is contracted to BT Openreach to supply superfast broadband to all but around 200 households in the Borders. There is now a voucher scheme to help fund connections for those who won't be reached by R100 at all or for whom it will be delayed. Households not covered by R100 can apply for a voucher of up to £5000 and can aggregate this with neighbours. Households coming under R100, but not until the end of 2021, can get an interim grant of £400.

Properties in more difficult-to-reach locations may be eligible for an additional subsidy of £250. In some cases, rural addresses may be eligible to combine Scottish Government funding of up to £5,000 with funding from the UK

Government's [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme](#) (GBVS) which provides £1,500 for rural homes and £3,500 for rural businesses, which can also be aggregated. This information is available on Scotlandsuperfast.com and residents are able to check their internet speeds there too.

CM has sent the superfast link round the community already and a few households want to take this up. The plan is to extend the previous scheme where households are connected using a combination of funding from the vouchers and LCF. In light of the response only £5000 is now estimated to be needed, rather than the £8000 stated on the agenda.

Mark Rowley suggested that this should only be used in areas where R100 won't reach, to keep within LCF articles of association.

£5000 approved. EW proposed, ML 2nd.

7. Wet Weather clothing for Primary School nursery– alternative use of school trips fund

Christine Gilchrist requested that the funding which has been set aside to fund school trips could be used to purchase fleece-lined wellies and water proof clothing for children at Duns Primary School Nursery. These would be of use for trips to Duns Castle Estate and on a daily basis when raining for playing outside at the nursery.

Christine is from Longformacus and works at the nursery. They would normally fundraise to cover such costs, but that isn't possible due to Covid restrictions.

Mark Rowley suggested, given the current economic situation, that LCF build a bit of extra funding into this in case others need to apply, to prevent the need for another application.

AL explained that no form was required as this would be an alternative / additional use of school trip money, set aside by LCF, in which there are more funds available. Therefore, in principle more funding than estimated can be drawn down with out waiting for another meeting, as long as it is for families from the Lammermuir community.

Alternative use of school trip funding was approved for use by both Duns nursery and Duns Primary School with unanimous agreement.

8. Top-up funding for Whiteadder Watersports Centre

AL herself, put this on the agenda in case further funding was required to make the centre wind and water tight for winter, but hasn't heard back from the group yet, so they can come back in March if need be.

9. Applications:

Swimming Membership & Lessons (£2,500)

Sharon Baker applied for further funding for 3 x fully funded children's lessons and 5 x 70% funded memberships.

Approved in full. ML proposed, SB 2nd

Cranshaws Community Walk Supplementary (£3,736)

Dave Lochhead presented this application for funds for tree planting and a willow maze, to supplement the Community Walk. Money allocated to the 1st phase has not all been used yet. ~ £9000 still remains for stock fencing and any remaining funds will be used to enable wheelchair access, requiring another ~500 yards of

path. Further funding may be required at a later date to complete this. Rachael Sutherland is a local landscape architect and will do winter pruning of trees. She will publicise this via The Herald and run it as a pruning lesson in January or February. Planting will require assistance, so a call for volunteers will also go out via The Herald. The idea for a maze for children in the orchard came from the open day walk. Saplings are coming from the Woodland Trust and are oak, rowan, birch, wild cherry, hazel and hawthorn and 100m of hedge mix. Labour costs are to cover payments to a local man who will undertake upkeep if needed, although they may manage with volunteers. Rachel is developing an idea for an environmental education programme, with information boards. AL suggested a link with Lammermuir Live on this. AL thanked Dave and Rachael.

Approved in full. BL proposed and ES 2nd.

Winter Fuel Assistance (£3,600)

Pauline Stewart presented this application for a further 2 rounds of winter fuel assistance for those who need it in the community. The round previously applied for has now been filled and they have already had another application since it was full.

AL suggested increasing each round from 30 to 40 households and all agreed.

£4,800 approved. ML proposed, CW 2nd

Owl Nesting Boxes (£535)

Alison Landale presented this application for funding for 5 Barn Owl nesting boxes for the CELCA area. Information was found from a Barn owl support group. The quotes were for durable, environmentally friendly, recycled plastic (Stockboard) nesting boxes.

Christine Gilchrist mentioned that a local person made owl nesting boxes which they have put up and that it takes a year before owls come to the boxes.

BL has also offered to make them.

ML suggested doubling or trebling the number of boxes funded as there were a lot of takers for them in the meeting. The Lodge at Whitchester would also like one. Dave Lochhead has already made and put up owl boxes around the area but agreed that more would be welcome. He said the quote was reasonable.

ID and Mark Rowley thought it would be better to have a local person make them. A discussion followed about the relative merits (providing local work, sourcing local materials, avoiding use of plastic) and disadvantages (time delay, how to decide whether designs are suitable) of finding a local person to make them. It was agreed that ID would follow up on this with Christine and Bruce Gilchrist.

AL asked whether a CELCA trustee could make a box, and all agreed this is allowable. CELCA trustees and anyone from community can have a box, as long as it is going into a suitable site.

AL and CM will work out how to publicise this once it has been decided where the boxes are coming from.

£1000 approved. ML proposed, ID 2nd

10. Any other business

- **Transparency** – a member of community has requested that copies of funding applications are made available to the community via the website. Beth Landon suggested uploading redacted versions of application forms to the website ahead of each meeting, with personal contact details scrubbed out. All agreed. Approved applications will have names attached. **BL proposed, ML 2nd**
- **Accessibility** – CM raised the issue that in a lot of funding applications provision for disabled access is not considered. Accessibility is also not usually mentioned on postcards. This is needed to make events inclusive to the whole community. ID suggested that this should be a standard question on the application form. It was agreed that Beth Landon will come up with the wording for a question, send it round trustees by email for comment and update the application form.
- **Events allowed under Covid restrictions** – CW asked to revisit the issue which was discussed in the AGM regarding which events are allowed under current restrictions, in particular he asked how yoga be run without masks (as seen in the photo shown in the Chair's report). ES explained that Amanda, the yoga instructor, is a member of the Yoga society and is following all the guidelines and has fully risk assessed the classes. Masks are worn when they arrive, temperatures and contact details are taken and masks can only be removed when they are on the mats which are socially distanced.

Mark Rowley said yoga isn't allowed in tiers 1 and 2 (national Covid restriction levels)*. He commented that the only place where everyone should be looking for advice to keep our community safe is the Scottish Government website, and that at the moment no indoor gatherings are allowed.

It was suggested that Mark Rowley, David Green (Bavs) and ES discuss this outside of the meeting.

Al asked whether this may apply to café, and asked ES to wait until this is clear before restarting this. Mark Rowley thinks there is a stronger case for a café to be allowed, but suggested ES speak to the council's environmental health officer as a fall back first.

AL asked ES to check into this further and AL will speak to David Green if needed. ES and AL will communicate about this.

- AL expressed appreciation for **Alistair Dawson and Wendy Dawson -Young**, who have recently moved out of the area, saying they have been marvellous

assets to the community in all the things they have done. AD was chair of the LCC and got the community Website up and running (Johnny Fisher has now agreed to take this over). All their input over the years in many areas such as art projects, Watch Promotions, music events, etc has been much appreciated and they will be much missed.

11. Date of next LCF meetings

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 in Cranshaws

*Following the meeting ES contacted David Green from Bavs who confirmed that Yoga is allowed under tier 2 restrictions: Please note yoga in Longformacus Hall is now in straight line and the mats are 2 metres apart.

I am very happy to confirm that yoga classes are allowed under Protection Level 2. The Scottish Government website says, in specific guidance on Level 2, "Organised exercise (such as exercise classes and non-contact sports) are permitted indoors, provided appropriate safety measures are followed. If masks are not worn, mats must be 2 metres apart."

Exercise classes as you know, includes yoga (and Sport Scotland themselves describe yoga as a non-contact activity).

I hope this is helpful, but if you wish to read more, here is the government link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-2/> Just scroll down to sport and exercise; and it is then the last paragraph relating to adult sport.