

**Lammermuir Community Council**  
**Ordinary Meeting**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7:30pm**  
**Via Teams**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

- **Community Councillors:** Bill Landale, Elizabeth Willis, David Mycock, Corinne Mycock and Clive Warsop
- **SBC Councillors:** Mark Rowley and Donald Moffatt
- **Residents:** Simon Kirkness and Lorna Pate
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Teams host:** Johnny Fisher (also a resident)

Agenda point	Action																
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>BL welcomed everyone            Apologies from Tony Homer, Alison Landale and Morag Rodger</p>																	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting            CM proposed, EW 2<sup>nd</sup></p>																	
<p><b>3. Treasurer's report</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>Bank Balance 11-02-2020</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,888.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£977.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£330.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>WALKING FUND</b> (ringfenced, topped up 11-02-21 £400)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,580.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEFIBRILLATOR</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£256.07 (for spare parts)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY BROADBAND</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,372.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(£372.67 allocated, rest for what comes next)</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Bank Balance 11-02-2020</b>	£3,888.01	<b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	£977.98	<b>SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)</b>	£330.03	<b>WALKING FUND</b> (ringfenced, topped up 11-02-21 £400)	£2,580.00	<b>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF)</b>		DEFIBRILLATOR	£256.07 (for spare parts)	COMMUNITY BROADBAND	£5,372.67		(£372.67 allocated, rest for what comes next)	
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<p>COMMUNITY WEBSITE £1,069.70</p> <p>A covid funding update was also shown, with a breakdown of what this has been spent on.</p> <p><b>CM proposed Morag Rodger as a third signatory on the account to replace Alistair Dawson. MoR has agreed to this. All agreed to this.</b></p>	<p>CM</p>
<p><b>4. Suggestions for use of held funds</b></p> <p>BL relayed two suggestions from TH:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Access SBC litter picking kits and start a campaign through The Herald for a community litter picking effort of set periods of time. SBC provide coloured refuse bags, which can be filled and left at road side and SBC collect them.</li> <li>2) Buy wild flower seeds and set up a project to sow them in suitable places around the community and look after them</li> </ol> <p><b>Litter picking</b></p> <p>EW had received an email from SBC, informing that they cannot do this at present due to Covid restrictions on household mixing, and they will notify when ready to restart the scheme. LCC can then ask for kits and organise groups.</p> <p>BL thought it good to emphasise the desire to be a community with minimal litter, so any schemes to promote this would be helpful.</p> <p>MR agreed with the idea, but suggested LCC buy litter pickers, as there are plenty of funds available. He recommended not to wait on SBC, as there has been a lot of interest in the scheme and the kits are only available on loan for short periods, so this would avoid the wait and they would be available year-round to the community.</p> <p>A conversation followed about the details of such a scheme, how to deal with the waste, how to make the kits available, where best to buy them from etc, with general agreement to go ahead with LCC buying what would be required.</p> <p><b>EW volunteered help work out the details along with TH if he needs assistance. A budget of £200 was agreed for the project.</b></p> <p><b>Wildflowers</b></p> <p>CM pointed out that some areas need to be mown at times in the year.</p> <p>MaR suggested this should be brought back as a worked-up idea and pointed out the need to be careful to use a regional, native flower mixes.</p>	<p>EW</p>

<p>SK mentioned a resident in the village had offered assistance with planters on entrance and exit to Longformacus village. CM said LCC had looked into a similar project previously, but SBC was very hesitant to put anything at the roadside. CM also pointed out that environmental grants have been received from SBC, and these are now part of the walking fund which is set aside, so a planting scheme would be an appropriate use for this.</p> <p>BL will feed back to TH and ask for this idea to be developed and brought back to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Further ideas:</b>  <b>Bigger fridge for larder</b>  CW brought up idea of a larger fridge which he had mentioned at the previous meeting. At the OGM on 11.2.21 it was agreed that all matters relating to the Village Hall were not within the remit of LCC, but for the Hall Trustees, therefore this suggestion could not be taken up.</p> <p><b>Commemorative bench</b>  EW suggested donating funds for a bench to the Cranshaws Community Walk project. This could have a commemorative plaque to mark the contributions of all those who worked for the good of the community during the pandemic. Alternatively, a gazebo or picnic table. BL asked EW to discuss this idea to Neil Anderson.</p>	<p>BL</p> <p>EW</p>
<p><b>5. Website</b></p> <p>Update on the idea of running a Facebook page alongside the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JW had a chat with SK and Heather Borthwick in Cranshaws and will speak to the people who manage the Facebook pages for the village halls. He will continue to pursue this.</li> <li>• MaR mentioned that the community is not just comprised of the two villages, rather most residents are scattered in the hills and there is a need to think about the wider area.</li> <li>• JW suggested the audiences for both village halls will draw in people from the wider area.</li> </ul>	<p>JW and SK</p>
<p><b>6. Police reports</b></p> <p>BL had not received this yet and will chase it up</p>	<p>BL</p>
<p><b>7. Planning applications</b></p> <p><b>Rowanside</b></p>	

<p>EW asked for opinions on the proposed new windows for Rowanside, The Row, details of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. CW said it depends on how they fit in with the setting, but it was not made clear in the plans what they will look like. MaR said that SBC usually ask that traditional styles and materials are used. CW will send a response to EW who will submit to SBC stating that LCC are happy for this to go ahead if the windows are in keeping.</p> <p><b>Approved applications</b> Applications for alterations to The Manse and for the holiday cottages have been approved.</p> <p><b>No decision on old post office yet</b></p>	<p>CW and EW</p>
<p><b>8. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</b></p> <p><b>Road repairs</b> CM reported that the road to Rigfoot has now been patched up.</p> <p><b>Analogue phone service</b> BL passed on concerns from TH about British Telecom (BT)'s plan to stop the analogue service.</p> <p>MaR has no update from last time, but said the information is in the public domain and no amount of campaigning will stop it. As fibre is rolled out there will be no need for copper cables, and if copper were not removed consumers would end up paying for the maintenance of both. He understands there is a commitment that copper will not be removed until fibre is installed.</p> <p>MaR and DoM had a meeting with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, who said that fewer than 200 properties across whole of South of Scotland which will not get fibre. The understanding is that fibre will be in place over next three or four years, after which the copper cables will be removed.</p> <p>CM asked about issue of power cuts disconnecting properties. MaR said that point to point wireless is very power dependant, even more so than fibre. This will be an issue, but this is not avoidable.</p> <p>DoM pointed out that the emergency services masts all have battery back-up and all sites have plug-ins for a generator for more extreme circumstances. MaR added that these masts are only for emergency use, none have a mobile operator attached to them in the Lammermuirs, so power cuts would be an issue for non-emergency communication.</p>	

<p>DoM also added that the spread of mobile coverage is going to be improved. MaR said that although the planned new mast would be available to mobile operators along with the existing ones, none of the operators will make use of them as they do not have fibre. DaM pointed out this is because they cannot offer data packages with the mobile contracts.</p> <p><b>R100</b>  CM had not heard about any work starting to connect any other properties for further R100 voucher take up. Emails about the voucher scheme and offer of assistance to the community from LCC had gone out via the Herald, but CM had not heard of any take up.  MaR reported that Borderlink are busy with getting individuals connected. He added that R100 is running three years late and will be silence on this until after May elections.</p>	
<p><b>9. Correspondence received</b></p> <p><b>Regional transport survey</b>  EW asked for community councillors to email her over the weekend with any thoughts on this survey, which she had previously circulated, and she will collate responses and submit them.</p>	EW
<p><b>10. AOB</b></p> <p><b>Longformacus Playpark</b>  EW had received an email asking about possibility of LCC being involved with the project to refurbish the playpark in Longformacus.</p> <p>BL explained that this project is in its early stages, with initial proposals being considered and a consultation to follow, in the meantime LCC need to make a statement about how involved they wish to be.</p> <p>Lorna Pate (LP) and Simon Kirkness (SK) attended the meeting to present their ideas:</p> <p>LP, SK and Karen Kirkness (KK) have been working on the plans. The playpark is owned by SBC, who have no budget to upgrade the park. LP spoke to Neil Pringle at SBC who explained the way it has worked, for example in Reston, is that the initiating group formed a subcommittee within the community council to apply for funds. There is a need to be a registered group, have a constitution, a bank account, have so many unrelated members of the group, etc, to apply to some funding bodies. In Selkirk they set up their own charity to apply for funds and it took a long time. Therefore LP, KK and SK are putting out feelers for any group which is already set up in the Lammermuir community which may be willing to be a covering body for their project.</p>	

<p>A discussion followed, points of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCF have granted funding already, as they do not require the applicant to be a charity, however they have asked for project funding to also be applied for from other funding bodies</li> <li>• It may be necessary to be part of constituted body to reclaim VAT, LP needs to do more research on VAT</li> <li>• LCF cannot be the covering body, as they are not able to be a funding applicant themselves</li> <li>• MaR agreed that it would be better for a one-off project to piggy back on another organisation such as LCC or the Village Hall committee</li> <li>• MaR mentioned that £500,000 will soon be available from SBC to local community groups to assist with bounce back from Covid, along with other funds. He will send LP details.</li> <li>• DoM recommended speaking to the Lotteries Officer at SBC for advice on applying to the Lottery for funding</li> <li>• MaR suggested the group consider a community asset transfer of the park from SBC to LCC, and he did not think the price would be high since the playpark was donated to SBC by the then regional council. This would make LCC responsible for ongoing maintenance, but would give more flexibility.</li> <li>• DoM mentioned the successful example of Brigham Village Hall, which was bought for a nominal amount from SBC by the local community in an asset transfer.</li> <li>• DoM also recommended that LCC form a sub-committee for this, and said that would be allowable to co-opt members (e.g. KK, SK and LP) for a specific purpose to form a steering group, but that LCC would have to pass decisions, as co-opted members do not have voting rights.</li> <li>• CW suggested completing the project in stages, rather than all in one go. LP said there are some cost savings to be made if they complete in one stage, but will bear in the idea in mind.</li> <li>• BL suggested that LCC set up a sub-group made of co-opted members to take forward proposals for the playpark to which there was general agreement. If the project does not go ahead, or if the group go on to decide to set up their own charity, the co-options would lapse.</li> <li>• EW highlighted the urgency to decide in order to apply for the SBC funding mentioned by MaR</li> <li>• CM expressed concern that it was not clear how much extra work this would make for office bearers, especially with regards to dealing with payments and it would add another layer of financial reporting. CM said she was not going to stand for re-election meaning the new Treasurer might have a much bigger responsibility. BL acknowledged this as an important point for consideration.</li> </ul>	<p>MaR</p>
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- MaR suggested LCC establish the sub-group, allowing them to take the project forward under the corporate structure, and ask that they submit a monthly report or minutes from their sub-group meetings, which would then come onto LCC agenda. LCC would then have oversight on decisions, but it would be clear that this is a job for the sub-group.
- LP hoped that the finances would simply entail one main payment out and a few funding payments in. She estimated that the project would take around two years, based on Reston's experience.
- Another consideration would be the Public Liability Insurance would be the responsibility of the sub-group for the next 10 years under a lease agreement
- EW acknowledged that there would be more work for LCC, but reminded everyone that LCC is there to help the community. She suggested an arrangement in which the sub-group do most of the work and the current office bearers have minimal extra work.

**It was decided to co-opt Lorna Pate and Simon Kirkness onto LCC in order to further research and develop the playpark project**, with no assumptions on how long for. Initially they will work out how the project will advance with no other burden on the office bearers.

BL proposed and EW 2nd

#### **Playpark consultation**

There will be a consultation before the next LCC meeting, which will be primarily online due to Covid, with the purpose of getting feedback on the initial plans which have been drawn up. The Lottery "Communities for All Fund" requires about 60 respondents based on size of community. Plans will also be put up on the notice boards and anyone without internet access will be able to access paper copies as needed.

The boundaries for the consultation are yet to be decided, as a lot of the playgroup users do not live in the area, so it would have to be decided whether to include them.

BL suggested they work with JF to publicise this on the website and thanked them for work and wished them well. TH had also mentioned that his wife, Pauline Homer, has extensive experience with Early Years and is happy to discuss this with them.

#### **AGM**

CM asked about news on SBC pushing for an AGM in the summer. MaR said it is fine to hold an AGM online. Election of new members will become possible later in the summer or early autumn, but is on hold at the moment.

**11. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 9th June at 7:30

Meeting closed at 21:44