

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 7:30pm via Teams
Minutes

Present:

- **Community Councillors:** Bill Landale, David Mycock, Corinne Mycock, Tony Homer, Elizabeth Willis, Clive Warsop and Morag Roger
- **SBC Councillor:** Donald Moffat
- **Resident:** Karen Kirkness with sub committee member Lorna Pate
- **Minute secretary:** Beth Landon
- **Teams host:** Johnny Fisher (also a resident)

Agenda point	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies No apologies BL thanked Beth Landon who is stepping down as minute secretary after this meeting SBC Councillor Mark Rowley was unable to access the meeting, having tried several times to join.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st April 2021 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting DoM pointed out his name had been miss spelt (only one t in Moffat) EW proposed, DaM 2nd</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below BT analogue service developments TH went over the notes from a meeting between BT and NHS in the North of England, which applies UK wide: Equipment at telephone exchanges are over 40 years old and BT have issues sourcing replacement parts. All analogue services will be switched off by 31st Dec 2025; some areas may be switched off earlier if more than 75% of properties have fibre. Over the next 12 months BT will be seeking to move to more properties to analogue, e.g. when contracts come up. Communities with no fibre, and no likelihood of fibre soon, may be offered a transitional</p>	

<p>product called SOTAP (Single Order Transitional Access Point). This needs research, but involves BT handing over analogue systems to another provider, which would incur a cost. BT rather than the community will be able to make this decision. TH suggested a conversation with SBC to see whether they are willing to have these discussions locally. TH will find out more about SOTAP.</p> <p>Phone masts DaM suggested a conversation with SBC about further domestic phone masts. CM said Ellemford has been named as one of 10 places planned for these (information from Scottish Government source), although it is dependent on landowner permission.</p> <p>DoM said SBC councillors have been consulted on this plan and it is a domestic mast in Ellemford is highly likely to go ahead.</p> <p>Longformacus Community Park LP gave a brief update on progress: they have been liaising with SBC on options for the park on play / fitness equipment providers and parking and also finalising consultation documents in collaboration with funders and SBC in order to meet their criteria. All LCC residents will have the opportunity to look at the two plans, which set out proposals for where the equipment, benches etc would be in the park area. The consultation will go out via email and on posters on the notice boards. Karen Kirkness has set up a web page on the community website, with help from Johnny Fisher: https://www.lammermuirlife.co.uk/longformacuscommunitypark/</p> <p>Simon and Karen Kirkness have large copies of the plans available on request and have already had views and comments.</p> <p>It is likely that the proposed prices will increase over time as costs of materials are going up (steel has doubled in price since January). They expect an up to 30% increase. For this reason, they want to get on with the project quickly and plan to get the consultation out within the next few weeks.</p> <p>They applied to the Co-op fund for a small proportion of the funding needed last week. This had to happen before the consultation as the funding rounds are only once a year. They will find out whether they have been awarded funding in October, but will not get the funds until next year.</p> <p>Karen posted a link to the consultation form in the Teams meeting chat: https://forms.gle/hDVFckpxZ4j8z1GYA</p> <p>The equipment would ideally be installed by next summer. BL asked whether this is achievable when Lorna, Karen and Simon are all busy already. Lorna and Karen both said this was achievable and pointed out that</p>	<p>TH</p>
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although it is slow getting started (with a lot of background work in gaining permissions from SBC, preparing the consultation, holding meetings with similar projects in Stow and Reston etc) a lot of work has been done already. Operating under LCC will mean they do not have to set up a constituted group which will save a lot of time. Once the consultation has taken place, they will be ready to give the go ahead to the park construction based on what the community prefers.

TH asked whether LCC member would have time to comment tonight, or through consultation process. Lorna said through the consultation process is preferable.

CW said that he had heard verbally that SBC has plans to upgrade Longformacus park already. Lorna had not heard that from their conversations with SBC. Lorna followed this up after the meeting with Neil Pringle (Parks & Environment Operations Manager with SBC), who confirmed “there are no plans to upgrade this play park and any upgrade needs to be funded by the community”.

CW passed on concern from community about not being consulted on the name change (from play park to community park) and asked whether his previous request for certain areas to be preserved in plans had been taken into account, e.g. space for football, rugby etc. Lorna assured him that this was covered in the survey, the plans include a pitch area, and that all community members will get a say on this through the consultation. BL pointed out that the name change was because this is more than just a playpark, so name community park was used instead to make this clear. Lorna explained that this is a working title, which aims to communicate it is not just for children.

Lorna and Karen were thanked for their work on this.

4. Treasurer’s report

Bank Balance 11-02-2020 £3,607.95

COMMUNITY COUNCIL £895.48

SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced) £330.03

WALKING FUND £2,382.44

£197.56 spent on litter picking gear as agreed at last meeting

LONGFORMACUS PLAY PARK – there will be a ringfenced amount as funding comes in

<p>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RINGFENCED AT THE LCF) DEFIBRILLATOR £ 1,113,07 Additional funding awarded from LCF this month for defibrillator pads and training</p> <p>COMMUNITY BROADBAND £5,372.67 £372.67 allocated</p> <p>COMMUNITY WEBSITE £ 882.92</p> <p>MoR has been added as the third signatory, so CM can take Alistair Dawson off as a bank signatory.</p> <p>BL thanked CM, and let everyone know that CM and DaM will be leaving the area sometime this year or early next year. BL thanked them both for all their work for LCC over the years.</p>	CM
<p>5. Code of conduct</p> <p>EW had previously circulated the annual code of conduct agreement to all community councillors. All agreed to abide by this.</p> <p>BL thanked EW</p>	
<p>6. Verge planting</p> <p>Following on from this suggested project at the last meeting, TH had put a brief paper together, which had been shared with BL. TH had also discussed ideas with EW, who has been looking at what other communities are doing with regard to verge planting.</p> <p>TH intends this project to be as much about identifying a valuable activity for community participation, as about the planting. It is too late to plant for growth this year, so there is plenty of time to plan this. The first step would be to ask whether people in the community generally think it is a good idea to plant in visible areas. These areas will be either council or private land. BL agreed this is a good starting point. TH suggested consulting local residents about planting daffodils for next year as a starting point.</p> <p>BL suggested planting not only the verges, as some other areas may be wider and more in public view. Perhaps in the community park.</p> <p>DoM cautioned that not all verges are suitable for bulbs as they do not thrive if the leaves are cut down too early. He advised to check with SBC</p>	

<p>roads department and landowners about appropriate areas which won't need to be mowed (for visibility of junctions etc).</p> <p>EW had been looking at other villages and the main areas where community planting had taken place are the verges. She advised that native plants would be best, e.g. Red campion and Forget-me-nots, which are tall and flower above the level of the long grass. Such plants can be sown as seeds and are not expensive. Longformacus village woods used to be full of cowslips and primroses, but are not now, so she suggested a small number of plug plants of these. 150 plugs cost £98. EW has already planted 50 primrose plugs at end of the drive to Stobswood and found it surprisingly hard to get down to soil through the grass thatch and to find suitable locations, so suggested having a trial sample, and see how they take to start with. EW also pointed out that Narcissus are the native type of daffodil, which would be more appropriate if planting these.</p> <p>BL suggested planting at the approaches to the hamlets and villages. EW said this would be possible in planters, which could also be used within the villages too.</p> <p>CW and BL suggested identifying suitable locations first, but TH pointed out that this project is not for LCC to do, but to invite volunteers to come forward with ideas and who would be willing to do the planting with LCC funds.</p> <p>BL suggested a village hall event, as restrictions allow, with a talk to motivate and stir up interest, then followed up with personal approaches.</p> <p>TH suggested to start by putting a post out via the Herald, Facebook groups and Website, with a brief description of the project idea and to ask who would like to get involved. TH will action this.</p> <p>BL thanked TH and EW</p>	<p>TH</p>
<p>7. Facebook and Herald</p> <p>TH had nothing to report on The Herald</p> <p>JF reported that Lammermuir Life Facebook and Messenger groups are now live, with 40 members at the moment. He encouraged people to join. This acts as an informal version of The Herald, which anyone can update, with more immediate feedback e.g. on road issues. This does not replace The Herald as not everyone is on Facebook.</p> <p>JF has added a Herald page to the community website, under community matters. Zoom meeting links or Herald emails which are about information</p>	

<p>already covered on the website will not be included. Longformacus Community Park also now has a section on the website.</p> <p>DoM pointed out there is a lot of revenue and capital work coming up, and asked how the community is made aware of these. EW gets 100s of emails about roadworks and parking restrictions, most not local, any of local relevance are sent out via The Herald.</p> <p>BL asked about the road closure which happened today. EW said LCC were not notified. CM said even the school bus driver did not know. BL reported this caused major blockages, with around 20 lorries, and asked who should be notified in the council that this was not reported to the community. DoM said to contact Paul Mathewson who is responsible for co-ordinating all the road works in Berwickshire. BL will write to him. EW will check a notification was not inadvertently filed first and let BL know by tomorrow morning.</p> <p>CM pointed out that filtering through all these emails takes a lot of time and thanked EW. She also said that proposed diversions are often not logical or correct.</p> <p>CW asked about the new Facebook page for the community park. He said people from the community had expressed concern to him about the name of this page being the new name for the park, and that the community should be consulted on the name before an official title is published via such a means. JF pointed out that this Facebook page is separate from the general community Facebook group and independent of LCC. Simon and Karen Kirkness originally set up the Longformacus village hall page, but as it was not being used they re purposed it for the park (see section 3 above for discussion on the park name). This page has nothing to do with the village hall committee.</p>	BL/EW
<p>8. Correspondence received</p> <p>EW had previously circulated an email asking for comments on the draft guide, but had not received any. She will therefore not send a response from LCC.</p> <p>There is currently a consultation on proposed changes to the Local Area Partnership. Responses can be made as an individual or as LCC. EW will reply as an individual, unless people get in touch with her about it. BL suggested everyone respond as individuals and EW agreed.</p>	
<p>9. AOB</p> <p>CM asked DoM about news on when SBC want local council elections to be held. DoM said there has been no date suggested yet, although a date may</p>	

<p>be agreed around September time, for elections to be held before the end of the year.</p>	
<p>10. Planning applications</p> <p>Landscaping to garden at Woodside Cottage, Ellemford EW reported that the plans are mostly retrospective: the bank has been moved away from the property and graduated into a terraced area, mainly to reduce the damp at the back of the house. TH said they have finished the groundworks, although works have been halted temporarily. DaM said the work was not very noticeable. No objections.</p> <p>Dwelling houses, land South West of The Old Manse, Cranshaws BL left at this point as has an interest in this. This is a planning application for two dwelling houses and the closing date is tomorrow. DaM said it would be helpful to have a few more houses in Cranshaws. No reservations or objections.</p>	
<p>11. Date of next meeting Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 7:30pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 20:55