

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

**Wednesday 1st June 2021
7:30pm via Zoom**

**Minutes
General Meeting**

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

Also present: Beth Landon (minutes), Robert Landon (Zoom host), Max Blinkhorn, John Hall, Andrea Davison (3 representing Whiteadder Water Sports Centre), Sharon Baker, Kathleen White, Karen Birch, Lorna Pate, Christine Gilchrist and Pauline Stewart

1. Welcome/Apologies

AL welcomed everyone

Apologies from Kim Drysdale, Stuart Blaikie and Cllr Mark Rowley

2. Previous Minutes

Approved with the following changes:

Outdoor Classroom

Page 6 Lorna pointed out..... the old park *equipment* will need to be removed

Bavs application - 3 paragraphs from the end (spelling error for the word trial)
....BL suggested granting funding for a 3-month *trial*, and Thurston can report back to the next meeting on take-up and apply for further funding as required. *Thurston agreed to do this*

Minutes of GM 3.3.21 approved – EW proposed, AR 2nd

3. Matters Arising

- **Cranshaws Community Walk** – AL reported that the car park has had at least two surfaces applied and that the planting is progressing well. The car park has taken longer than anticipated, so work has not started on the disabled access yet. Sadly Martin, who was due to do much of the planting, recently died in an accident, so Dave Lochhead has done much of this. AL suggested Dave ought to be reimbursed for this work, and for ongoing maintenance work, which Martin would have done for payment, until they can find

someone to live in Martin's house and take over the maintenance of the orchard and grass.

It was agreed to reimburse Dave for his work out of the funds set aside for the walkway (TH proposed, ML 2nd) CM will look at what Martin was paid last year and a note will be kept of hours worked; appropriate rate taking account of Martin having had accommodation provided in lieu of a higher pay rate.

- **Berwickshire Wheels local community transport initiative** – Thurston Hodge had sent in a report on progress on uptake following funding being allocated for this at the last meeting. Uptake has been low although feedback has been positive, and the low uptake might be due to Covid, so it was decided to keep the funds reserved for this for now. It is estimated that there are sufficient funds to cover the next three months, so no more funding is needed at this point. In his report Thurston suggested having another publicity drive, and AL will get in touch with him about sending out postcards in addition to publicising via The Herald.
- **Farm tours** – DM reported that this will not go ahead because of Covid and changes at Ellemford

4. Playpark update

Lorna Pate reported that the classroom is ready to be installed, but they decided to wait until they know where the play equipment will go before putting it in place. The first funding application was submitted to the Co-op on Sunday. Lorna has spoken to SBC regarding a car park, and was told that the angle of slope of the playpark is 1/5 and a car park would need to be at 1/15, so it would take up the whole area and is therefore not feasible. Taking up the community right to buy for the playpark has been suggested and the group need to do consultation work before applying to the Lottery, so they will ask about this in the consultation. This will not hold back plans, they can still concentrate on the play equipment and apply for funding, then can decide about the park being bought by the community. The first stage is choosing the fitness and play equipment.

TH suggested they ask about the impact of parking in the consultation, and that any further application for funding should demonstrate that this has been considered. Lorna agreed to ask about parking in the consultation, but her contact in the roads department at SBC told her there are not many suitable options. BL mentioned that new car parks must have an electric vehicle charging point and it might be hard to get electricity to the site. CW said he thinks that numbers would not exceed those for the Reivers event in the park and parking was not a big issue for that.

TH also said that as a funder LCF should have an opportunity to express a view on the type of play equipment and asked what at what point in the decision making this could take place. Lorna explained the process: they have had a vision drawn up by both companies which SBC will allow to be contracted, these will be presented to the community to give an idea of what is possible (including equipment for a wide age range). These drawings will be put up in public areas and emailed round, and feedback requested. Then they plan to do another consultation and have public meetings. CM said that LCC is functioning as the governing body for the playpark and so the consultation needs to also be taken to LCC, in particular in relation to parking and the types of equipment, and the next meeting is on 9th June. Lorna is happy to consult with all as needed.

5. Treasurer's Report

CM presented the current financial position:

CELCA 1

	27-May	£164,434.75
Payments out in transit		£ -
Payments in in transit		£ -
Participants contribution		£435.00
Current balance		£163,999.75
Allocated to projects		£138,251.04
Set aside for running costs		£3,000.00
Available for funding		£22,748.71

CELCA 2

	25-May	£118,952.55
Payments out in transit		£ -
Payments in in transit		£ -
19/20 Participants contribution		£ -
Current balance		£118,952.55
Allocated to projects		£120,857.55
Set aside for running costs		
Available for funding		-£1,905.00

AL explained that there is set aside funding, a postage pot and also a lot of allocated funds which may be due to be reabsorbed, for projects on hold due to Covid.

CM suggested reabsorbing the unspent funds for Christmas dinners and stockings (agreed) and has contacted Stuart Blaikie to ask whether the cycle repair funds are still needed, but has not got an answer yet.

Further funds will be available for allocation at the next meeting (September) as the next tranche of windfarm funds will come end of August, which will be around £33,000.

AL explained that Beth Landon had recently received an email from Kirsty Leiper, the newly appointed Community Liaison Manager for Fred Olsen Renewables (operators of Crystal Rig Windfarm). AL and Beth had a Zoom meeting with Kirsty, who was very supportive and offered help for projects or with issues faced by the LCF trustees. Fred Olsen receives a yearly report and also copies of all applications for which they decide whether to approve funding allocated by LCF trustees.

6. Applications:

Abundant Borders (£1,700.00)

Karen Birch presented her application for a survey of the local community which is served by Longformacus Larder. Abundant Border supports communities with food growing initiatives and advice. The core of what they do is to teach people how to grow food sustainably and to cook with locally grown ingredients. Their belief that everyone should have access to healthy food has led to relationships with the local food larders. Longformacus Larder, along with others, enable access to food from FareShare, which distributes food from supermarkets to divert this from landfill. FareShare was initially a food-waste initiative, which has morphed into food aid. A number of larders, including Longformacus, buy in additional food. There is a suspicion that supermarkets are passing on a problem, by not having to pay for food to go to landfill, and so are not taking responsibility for this waste food. Abundant Borders want to find out what happens to this food, does it end up in landfill anyway? They want to follow the chain further and find out whether people want locally grown fresh food, rather than food from FareShare.

BL asked about the budget for staff time and supervision, which seems rather large. Karen explained the budget is an estimate based on similar projects (e.g. a composting survey in Reston and Ayton, which took a morning a week over 20 weeks). BL said it would be better to have a budget tailored to this actual job.

AL asked whether this was only for those who have food delivered or everyone? Karen explained it would include everyone in the CELCA area, not just those using the larder, and would ask why people are not using the larder.

CM asked why they chose Longformacus. Karen explained there is a relationship with this larder, and learning will be applicable to other areas.

AL asked whether Pauline Stewart, who heads up the larder team and has recently started to work with Abundant Borders, would be doing the research. Karen explained that she would and that this is the link with the larder and that Pauline has the local knowledge already.

TH said more detail is needed about costs and about the nature of the work. A further breakdown of costs was screen shared, which had been circulated to trustees on 25th May.

AL relayed some conversations she has had with locals. One said it was useful that the larder delivers boxes of food, but that they would not travel over to Longformacus to pick things up; another felt the quality had gone down and suggested people learn to grow things. There used to be allotments, but these have been decommissioned. AL has also had feedback that paper surveys are not enough – people often do not complete them.

Karen said they would ask about the issues above.

CM asked to clarify whether the research is about food-waste from FareShare. Karen said it is about what use the food is put to. CM questioned why LCF should fund this idea when learning will be used elsewhere and whether this could be funded by Abundant Borders' usual funders. Karen explained that their core funding is to be used for their core objectives (described in introduction above) which does not cover this. This community was chosen because of the natural link. CM added that LCF funds are to be used to directly benefit our community, but this project does not appear to do so. Karen said that residents would be asked what they want to do, so although it would be transferable, but it would be asking about this area.

CW said the project makes sense: the larder is well used, and this data could be used by this community, even if the learning can be used elsewhere.

TH said he remains unconvinced about benefits to wider CELCA area or that costs are good value for money.

AL said it would not be feasible to half fund. BL suggest that Karen presents a more accurate costing for the research, with details on how timing is spent, at the next meeting.

Pauline said the research would be useful for the larder going forward (what changes they can make, is it needed?) which takes a lot of hours to run and is LCF funded.

A vote was held on how to proceed, given the uncertain responses from trustees, with the following options:

- wait for more detail – 5 votes
- project accepted as it is – 1 vote
- not to support this project – 6 votes (including casting vote from AL)

Funding not granted

Swimming (£9,606.00)

Sharon Baker presented her application for renewing swimming memberships, and to pay for children's lessons. Renewal is due at the end of August.

Approved in full (ML proposed, ES 2nd)

Photos had been sent to AL by Kirsty Inkpen (pool manager) and were shared, including one of the CELCA name on a 'Duns Pool Annual Membership' card. AL relayed Kirsty's thanks especially for continued funding while pool was closed due to Covid. AL thanked Sharon for organising the funding again. AL also passed on Kirsty's concern about the encouragement of wild swimming in the Whiteadder Reservoir and mentioned that the third most common cause of accidental death in UK is drowning. Duns swimming pool run lifeguard training courses which take 36 hours over the course of a working week, costs £250 for a course and is internationally recognised. AL suggested encouraging people to do this, so there are more people trained in the community.

CM suggested putting in an application at the next meeting

Ellemford show application withdrawn as will not go ahead again this year due to Covid, although there may be a celebration in the field. **Funding from last year to be reabsorbed – action for CM**

Yoga (£2,271.18)

Kathleen White presented her application to continue with yoga sessions in a Covid safe manner from September until April (15 classes this year and 15 next year).

Kathleen asked about postcards and AL explained there is a fund set aside for postcards now, using PrintSpot.

A number of yoga sessions were cancelled last year due to Covid, then they were able to meet in the hall and had six to nine attending (nine is the Covid safe limit in hall), then they moved to Zoom and the last Zoom class had five or six people taking part; that was at lambing time, so a few were too busy to attend.

Approved in full (ML proposed, ES 2nd)

Paddleboards (£499.90)

Ettie Spencer presented this application for two inflatable paddleboards, to be separate from the Watersports Centre and for anyone in community to borrow, not only for use on Whiteadder Reservoir. Lifejackets would not be included. Max Blinkhorn (Whiteadder Watersports Centre) advised that lifejackets should be included and they cost about £40 each. ES asked to add on two to her application.

BL suggested helping people to buy their own instead, like with the owl boxes, then people can look after their own and there would not be an issue about where they are stored.

ML said a paddleboard would be too dangerous to have available to the community and are available to hire in several places.

Pauline Stewart brought up the issue of insurance.

CW asked whether there had been a desire for paddleboards established. ES explained has this been asked for by the wild swimming group and two families.

Andrea Davison said that Whiteadder Watersports Centre (WWC) has just had six paddleboards delivered, which will be available to rent with a life jacket and wet suit for £20/hour. Children need helmets as well as the paddles are solid. AL suggested that the WWC does not charge as much to community members, as LCF have funded so much of the centre's set up costs. Andrea said it that the costs of setting up are great, so ID suggested altering the use of the application moneys, to set up a fund to subsidise rent of paddleboards. AL said this would be preferable to the community owning them and being responsible for safety.

It was agreed to set aside this funding to subsidise the hiring of paddleboards from WWC for CELCA residents. £15 to paid by LCF, £5 by the individual, when WWC is open, with the correct safety equipment. £495 granted (as a multiple of £15) ID proposed, EW 2nd

TH mentioned the general issue about buying or subsidising kit for a small number individuals and suggested that the funding should be available for other interests. CM explained that in a small community there will always be limited numbers with similar interests and that there have been many successful applications which were enjoyed by only a few local people.

Whiteadder Watersports Centre (£9,420.51)

Andrea Davison presented her application for further funding for equipment etc. to enable the WWC to open. The first year's payment of £6000 will be paid to SBC imminently.

The application includes the funds to pay a cleaner, who needs to be local, as there is no travel budget. They will advertise when the centre is open, but in the meantime Andrea asked for any local contacts. AL said £15/h is a lot for a cleaner, but ES thought it was fair.

TH asked what their constitution says about what will happen to assets if they fold; he wished to be assured that the assets would go back into the local community. Max Blinkhorn pointed TH to paragraphs 86 and 87 of their constitution which states that surplus assets after dissolution and wind-up of the organisation are to be used for purposes with similar objectives. They anticipate that when they come to the end of their time, they would look for another organisation to continue the work.

Andrea explained that this funding would enable them to secure the next £6000 to buy the equipment from SBC. Eventually, when they are paid off, all the kit will belong to the Centre.

Approved in full (ID proposed and ES 2nd)

An email from Max was shared, expressing appreciation and shared frustration with the slowness of lease, and assuring LCF that every action is being taken to open soon.

Defibrillator for Watersports Centre (£1,837.00)

Alison Landale presented her application for a defibrillator to be situated at the Whiteadder Watersports Centre. The WWC had originally included this in their application, meaning their application was for over £10,000. It was submitted in time for the deadline for projects over £10,000. AL had suggested removing this item from their application and asking TH to apply for it to be added to the LCC community owned defibrillators. It was decided that this could not happen and in the meantime the deadline for Berwickshire News notice passed, and it was too late to announce a Special General Meeting. AL put the application in, and Andrea Davison agreed the WWC would be responsible for it.

DM said he thinks AL is compromising herself and the Committee by applying for this on behalf of the centre. CM said she is not happy with the application coming from AL. AR explained that this will be for the community. CM asked whether this could be funded from funds remaining from their previous application (there is £2845 still in the WWC fund) then they could reapply for further funds at the September meeting.

Andrea explained that the money not drawn down yet is needed for insurance.

ES asked whether the defibrillator would be used only if needed for classes, or whether it could be used by anyone passing. Andrea confirmed that it would be sited on the outside of the building and will use their power supply, and would be visible from the road.

ID said it should be a community asset and LCF should fund it.

TH agreed, but asked whether there is anything to constrain community assets to the community boundaries, as the centre is in East Lothian. AL said it is fine if it is for the use of residents from the CELCA area and ES added that it might save the lives of community members.

**Agreed in full – to be a community defibrillator and added to the community asset list.
(ML prop, EW 2nd)**

LCC defibrillator pads and training (£857.00)

Tony Homer presented his application on behalf of LCC for defibrillator pads and training in use of the community defibrillators. AL asked when training will be. TH explained he will need to get pads first as the trainer will want these, but hopefully this year.

Approved in fill (ML prop – EW 2nd)

7. Any other business

- **Wet weather gear** - photos were shown of the nursery children wearing these which were funded by LCF for children from the community. Christine Gilchrist said that the children love wearing them, they are a great asset in all weather and everyone is very grateful.
- **Logo for LCF** – ID suggested asking the primary / nursery school to have a competition to design a logo. Christine Gilchrist and ID to organise this. If there is little uptake a post card will be sent round the community to invite suggestions.
- **Feedback procedure on community website** – this has been set up on the website, to meet the requirements of a complaints procedure as discussed at the previous meeting. A screen shot was shown.
- **Deadline for applications over £10,000 to be changed to four weeks prior** to the meeting, this was agreed. Beth Landon to update the procedure.

6. Date of next LCF meeting

Cranshaws Hall (restrictions allowing) on Tuesday 7th September at 7:30pm