

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 7:30pm via Teams

Minutes

Present:

- **Community Councillors:** Bill Landale, Corinne Mycock, Tony Homer, Elizabeth Willis, Clive Warsop and Morag Rodger
- **Resident:** Karen Kirkness and Simon Kirkness
- **Minute Secretary:** Dianne Repsch
- **Teams Host:** Johnny Fisher (also a resident)

Agenda point	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Apologies from David Mycock and SBC Councillor Mark Rowley and Donald Moffat Welcome to Dianne Repsch who is taking on the role of Secretary Welcome also to Karen and Simon Kirkness</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2021</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting subject to a change to line 4 which should now read: Over the next twelve months BT will be seeking to move more properties from analogue.</p> <p>TH Proposed and CM 2nd</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising not listed for discussion below</p> <p>BT analogue service developments: BL asked if they are going to remove people from analogue and not give them fibre. TH said that a number of different transitional technical arrangements would be offered to people but it would depend on what was being offered locally. SOTAP is basically copper wire from your home to the exchange and would be one of the options being offered. TH also said that he had read somewhere that this would not be for 2 or 3 years.</p> <p>BL confirmed that he had written a critical letter to Paul Matheson who is in charge of the Roads Closure Department saying it was not acceptable for the road to be closed without advising anyone within the community. As of today he had not had a reply.</p> <p>SK asked where the road closure was. BL said between Burnhouses and Ellemford. It was due to road surfacing, was not an emergency and was obviously planned and then exacerbated by a breakdown and oil spillage so it took twice as long. Very bad form on behalf of the Roads Department that no one in the community was notified.</p> <p>SK mentioned that due to the Tour of Britain Cycle Road Race in September there will be more road closures to come but hopefully these will be informed in advance.</p>	

Longformacus Community Park: BL asked Karen and Simon to update the meeting on where the project has reached as LCC are not going to be involved as previously thought and the Community Interest Company would now work with CELCA. Karen confirmed that she had set up a Community Interest Company which was registered with Companies House and now had a bank account. It has become apparent, through the research, that this is going to be a long project and going to involve lots of members of the community who can contribute to the development. The page on the Lammermuir Life website has proved very valuable. Overall no-one is outright against the park being developed although there has been some lively debate on the details. There is a gathering for the community on the 28th August and everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting with Celca on 7th September is the next step.

JF asked if the consultation form should be removed from the website and it was agreed that it should stay in place so people could still contribute

CW said that he knew of some people who would still like to contribute. He also said he had read the feedback and did not think the feedback was unanimous and where had KK got this information from.

KK clarified that the majority of feedback was positive and although there were some very critical constructive comments these were from the minority. 50 had replied 2 of which were very critical and the rest were positive.

BL said that the gathering on 28th August would give everyone a voice to speak on the project.

CM offered her thanks to Karen, Simon and Lorna for taking on this huge undertaking

CW raised concerns about the community interest company being run by 3 people of a certain age which is not representative of everyone in the village.

KK clarified that the meeting on the 28th August is for debate and discussion and to find out who else is interested in becoming involved.

CW said he was raising these issues on behalf of the community and wanted to know who decided who was going to be running the community interest company.

KK confirmed it had not been decided yet as it was still in early stages of the project. The meeting on 28th is to try and bring more people on board, especially people who filled in the feedback forms, and find out who wants to join the community interest company. They had started facebook and twitter accounts to try and get as many people involved as they can.

CW said the six figure sum of 193k is the sort of money you would spend on a town park not a village park and it had shocked a number of people.

BL although the figure of 193k had been mentioned it perhaps wasn't clear that it is not a sum of money that can be applied for all at once. CELCA doesn't have the money to provide this amount in one payment. This is a project that is going to be developed over years and the money coming into the project will be over many years.

CW one other concern was if this project is having a disproportionate amount of money spent on it, and it has been moved away from the council, what happens if any of the key people has to move away from the area. Who is going to take over the project (running the park, insurance and upkeep) and run it in the future.

KK agrees these issues have to be raised and discussed at the meeting on the 28th. This is a grassroots project started by a couple of people who want to put some time and effort into making a positive change and more people will join and be added to the community interest company. KK also said she did not want the sole responsibility so she hopes more people will get involved.

CW the CC meetings are documented and the meeting in the park on 28th does not represent all the people of the community so should it not be a more formal forum.

BL this is a long term project which we call in CELCA a heritage project like the walkway at Cranshaws for example which is also a heritage project. This project is envisioned to last for many years and in that time changes will be made. Some people will come into the community and some people will leave the community but the project has to be looked after and this has to be decided as the project is put together. There will be proposals about the long term maintenance but also the development as a whole. After 5 years the project will not look the same and there will be things added and removed over time as it is an evolving project.

KK said that the people who had taken the time to fill in the form and give candid, critical responses are the people we would like to get involved with the project. Although there were 2 lengthy critical responses these people had also said they would support the development if the issues were dealt with.

CW said he was raising the issues for people he had spoken to in the community and these were not always his personal views. Not everyone is able to speak for themselves.

BL If they did not want to come forward in person they could always write it down.

EW asked Karen if anybody from the community had come forward to say they like or don't like what you are doing and is there room on your committee so they could put suggestions forward?

KK confirmed that she had spoken to Pauline Homer who was interested in contributing and has been very supportive. We would love to have more people on board to distribute the workload as there is so much to do. No-one has so far volunteered.

EW said you have picked it up, gone forward with it, put all the hours in and taken all the flack. Hopefully if more people come forward this would be from different age groups to fulfil the criteria and have different interests in the park.

BL said we have the basis for a lasting long term project that will evolve over many years and thanked KK for all her efforts.

4. Treasurer's report

Bank Balance 18-08-2021	£3,547.95
COMMUNITY COUNCIL	£835.48
SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)	£330.03
WALKING FUND (ringfenced)	£2,382.44
LONGFORMACUS PLAY PARK (ringfenced)	
(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)	
DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training)	£1,028.71
COMMUNITY BROADBAND £372.67 allocated	£5,372.67
COMMUNITY WEBSITE	£882.92

CM

BL thanked CM for her work as treasurer which she had carried out diligently. CM confirmed that she would continue until the elections take place. Once she has moved she will no longer be registered in the area so will need to be replaced at that time. Accounts are finalised and with BAVS for approval.

CM confirmed MR had successfully been added to the bank account as a signatory and Alistair Dawson has been removed.

5. Appointment of Secretary

Dianne Repsch has been appointed

6. Recruitment of New Council Members

BL appeals to everyone to help recruit community council members. BL happy to talk to any potential candidates.

CW asked what medium was being used to advertise the positions. Suggested the noticeboard then BL suggested also the facebook page.

CM said that council members could not be added until there was an election even if there was space for 2 more members

BL suggested that everyone should still cast around to find suitable candidates.

MR mentioned that there was an application process for the areas and were we not full

EW suggested a notice for the notice boards mentioning that there would be elections shortly and there was vacancies for council members

KK said she could not do so at the moment but may consider being a council member in the future.

CW said in the past when he was involved in the council it was 10 people for the council and if it exceeded 10 he understood there needed to be an election. Perhaps Mark Rowley could confirm the procedure

CM said that the whole council had to stand down

CW said he was not talking about standing down just the numbers

EW suggested that BL discuss with Mark Rowley to get him to clarify the position and could BL then let everyone know.

BL agreed to action for the next meeting.

CM mentioned the division between Cranshaws and Longformacus and if there were uneven community council member numbers this would still call for an election.

JF said the constitution is on the website. If the members are less than 10 which is the maximum you are allowed to co-opt members. The co-opted members can't exceed a quarter of the elected members.

BL asked if we can change the constitution and vote on the changes.

JF said it details how to make changes to the constitution on the website.

7. Updates from Council Members: recreation area and verge planting

Defibrillator Project

TH said the money shown in the budget for training was the 2nd part of the project and the 1st part was for replacement pads and batteries. TH is still fighting to get the pads we have already paid for. He is chasing the supplier every week but due to covid all medical supplies are delayed. Once the pads are replaced TH will get training organised.

CW asked if the defibrillators were all working and available to use. TH confirmed they were but they did not all have the pediatric pads although these had been ordered.

Verge Planting

TH said he had received 3 or 4 replies from people interested in being involved in the planting project. A lady who works for Abundant Borders would be interested and thought Abundant Borders might be able to offer some support. TH and BL discussed speaking to Rachel Sutherland as she has horticulture knowledge and might be interested in being involved. TH said before we move this forward we need to find a name to put to the whole enterprise.

BL

<p>BL suggested the easiest route forward would be for the council members or community, to come up with a patch of ground which is suitable rather than start a bigger scheme and then try and find people to become involved. Needs to be a piece of ground not impacted by salt spray or where snow is going to be piled up.</p> <p>TH will go back to the interested parties and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>BL to contact Rachel Sutherland</p>	<p>TH</p> <p>BL</p>
<p>8. Matters arising not listed above</p> <p>BL mentioned that EW had forwarded a link to a community maps website for Gavinton CC which was very impressive. There were interactive maps for walks, planning proposals etc.</p> <p>JF said only worth the trouble of having if people are interested in using it. Local walks probably would be of interest for people staying on holiday.</p> <p>TH said he found it confusing and difficult to use. If you wanted to know about a planning application you would usually go to the SBC website. Not sure enough people would use it to make it worthwhile doing.</p> <p>SK said a useful link on the website to direct visitors to walks would be the Scotways routes. SK has a number of the walks and he puts them in the Southern Upland Way shelter.</p> <p>JF agreed it would be better to use Scotsway walk than try to recreate something ourselves.</p> <p>TH had been asked by his neighbour, Anthony Philipson (AP), who administers the Longformacus Oil Ring, to raise the issue of transferring this responsibility to another local resident, at the meeting. The role of the LOR admin. Is to organise a quarterly oil order for those locals who have enrolled on the ring. Placing a bulk order secures a good price and saves individuals the task of phoning round providers to find the best deal.</p> <p>TH has offered to do the next order in Sept/Oct but in view of the importance of the oil ring to many in the community, he wondered if the LCC would consider offering it's support to the LOR's operation.</p> <p>LOR operates on the basis of an historical arrangement, which would benefit from wider awareness amongst local residents in order that more people have the opportunity to join and as a result enable the size of the order to be maximised, thereby securing an even better price. The current ring seems to focus upon Longformacus, but could usefully be extended to cover the whole of the LCC area. Drawing up a memo that sets out how the LOR operates and creating more robust IT arrangements to support it would be useful updates for the system and assist in the event that the LOR admin needs to change in the future.</p>	

<p>If the LCC were to support the LOR this might involve promoting the existence of the ring, encouraging widespread take up and allowing the use of LCC assets, such as the Gmail account, to support its administration, without taking on any responsibility for its operation. LCC support might also assist with succession planning for the administrator.</p> <p>BL thanked TH for raising this issue and asked how many people were currently in the ring. He also asked. If anyone wanted to comment on whether the LCC should support the ring.</p> <p>TH said that he thought the ring currently comprises about 15/20 properties and that at any one time approx 10 properties might place orders. For clarification, TH said that the ordering process takes place over just a 3 day period so having access to email is a basic requirement of being on the ring.</p> <p>A discussion took place as to whether the LCC should be involved as not available to everyone if you don't have email, can't receive a text or not required if you don't have oil etc. Also discussed how to make it more available by letting everyone in the community know more about it (article for Herald, postcard, noticeboard etc)</p> <p>TH would be willing to run it for the LCC as long as the database could be run on another computer to keep it separate from his personal email. If we have more people on the list then it will benefit more people in the community and reduce the price of the oil. The oil for the village hall is already included in the Oil Ring.</p> <p>BL asked TH to do a report for the next meeting on what would be needed to make this work. Perhaps draw up an action plan that can be looked at again at the next meeting.</p>	<p>TH</p>
<p>9. Correspondence received</p> <p>EW confirms no correspondence received</p>	
<p>10. Any Other Business</p> <p>No items raised</p>	
<p>11. Date of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7:30pm via Teams</p>	

Meeting closed at 21.30