

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7:30pm via Teams

Minutes

Present: Community Councillors: Bill Landale, Corinne Mycock, David Mycock, Tony Homer, Elizabeth Willis, Morag Rodger

Minute Secretary: Dianne Repsch
Teams Host: Johnny Fisher (also a resident)

Agenda point	Action																						
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Apologies from Clive Warsop. Welcome to Dave Jones, Berwickshire Light Railway Presentation</p>																							
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th August 2021</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. CM Proposed and EW 2nd</p>																							
<p>3. Treasurer's Report</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Bank Balance 29-09-2021</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,362.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>payments out in transit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£224.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>payments in in transit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£426.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£330.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WALKING FUND (ringfenced)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,382.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LONGFORMACUS PLAY PARK (ringfenced)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,028.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY BROADBAND £372.67 allocated</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,372.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY WEBSITE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£882.92</td> </tr> </table>	Bank Balance 29-09-2021	£3,362.99	payments out in transit	£224.40	payments in in transit	£0.00	COMMUNITY COUNCIL	£426.12	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	
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CM said she would like to mention and have it minuted that the yearly grant from SBC is £540 per year and is solely for the running of the council and the costs of a Secretary/Admin. It has been the same amount for many years and in view of the increase in work and initiatives the £540 is not enough. BL agreed. CM said in the case of LCC we have money in the walking fund which was to initiate walking but is now being used for projects as the CC sees fit. If we get into problems financially we will have to decide whether to use the walking fund ring fenced money towards paying the admin costs or our other alternative would be to go to LCF where we already have a project set up to pay for extra costs for LCC so it is up to us to decide if we want to use our savings.

BL as the figure has been the same for so long could we ask the council if the amount could be increased? CM agreed because of the amount of work coming our way we can't expect volunteers to do this amount of work, so we need to be able to pay someone to help out. LCC does have money and we personally don't need it to run our council, but there are other councils that don't have these options, so CM thinks it should be increased but there is a point to be made if we use money that has been set aside.

TH said he felt we should use the walking fund money which has been there for a while now and not been touched so he could not think of a reason not to use it.

JF asked what the legal position is, if we have ring fenced money and then remove it, whether we need council approval to spend it.

CM said if we have 2 years worth of the grant which would be £1,080 in our account, then we won't qualify for next year's grant. CM added that if she understands it correctly from Mark Rowley, the SBC frowns on any CC's holding on to money.. CM also added that now that we have more work to do and have a Sec/Admin to help out then the costs will go up. Once LCC starts to meet again in the village halls there will be more costs involved for heating, copying, mileage etc. So this money is not going to last for a year.

BL said this was a very good summary and although we don't need to do anything right now should the question be put to SBC as to whether they realise that the CC's are having to do this extra work and is it not time that they increased the grant. They may say no and we can live with that, but it will come up again and they may eventually say fair enough. However we should perhaps raise it now.

CM said it needs highlighting. In our case we are very lucky because of LCF we have sufficient money to help a lot of people in such a small community. Usually it is the other way round.

BL said that as Corinne and David Mycock were leaving the area it was their intention to stand down officially at this meeting so this would be their last LCC meeting. BL wanted to take the opportunity to thank both Corinne and David for the work they have put into LCC and LCF over many years. LCC are immensely indebted to Corinne and for the excellent support from your husband David. BL said he speaks for everyone to say a vast thank you. BL added that CM had said that she is happy to help the CC negotiate its way through the financial path going forward.

<p>CM said she was glad to help to make things better for everyone in the local community over the years. Although this would be her last meeting she would still be around to help and continue to make payments until a replacement has been found.</p>	
<p>4. Proposed Election Timetable and Nominations</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the timetable and the nomination forms for the proposed elections due to take place between 8th November and 22nd November (14 days). The Nomination forms can be collected from 1 Ellemford Cottages TD11 3SG, Longformacus Village Hall TD11 3PB and Cranshaws Church (in the foyer) TD11 3SJ</p> <p>BL will print forms for Cranshaws Church and CM will print forms for Longformacus. BL asked JF to advertise on Facebook. BL asked Tony if he can put out via the Herald. TH agreed to do and would circulate via Herald with form as an attachment.</p> <p>EW asked if we have to fill in nomination forms for each other. CM if you want to continue as a Councillor then you need to complete the nomination form and be seconded. BL that goes for everyone whether you are currently a councillor or not.</p> <p>BL pointed out that you needed your electoral number and TH asked where you would find the electoral number. CM replied via the council. CM pointed out that you needed 2 people to nominate you and BL asked if it could be family members. TH thought it could be.</p> <p>CM confirmed on consulting the nomination form that you only need one person to nominate you as a proposer which could be yourself and then a seconder. Also you need to post the nomination form to SBC which means you can't scan and email the form.</p> <p>TH & JF discussed posting on facebook, website and Herald so that they co-incide.</p> <p>BL then proposed sending out a postcard as another option and this was agreed. BL to liaise with DR regarding the postcard.</p> <p>CM asked if it needed to go in a newspaper? BL said he had not seen that anywhere. It was agreed that the postcard, Herald and Notice boards were sufficient and everyone would then have been informed.</p> <p>BL to post on Ellemford and Cranshaws and EW to post on Longformacus. DR to circulate amended timetable once confirmed with Fiona Henderson of SBC.</p>	<p>TH</p> <p>TH, JF</p> <p>BL, EW</p>
<p>5. Matters Arising</p> <p>No items were raised.</p>	

6. Planning Applications

Planning applications have been received for Garden Cottage, 13 The Row, Longformaacus TD11 3PA for Alterations and extension to dwelling house and to re-align and regrade existing terrace, retaining wall and formation of access steps and footpaths.

EW said that as the CC we could not comment on the listed standing of the property. It is listed and the Listings Officer would look at the application with regards to the historic listing and from that point of view they will decide if it is admissible or not, they previously rejected a windows application because the house was listed. If the CC have no objections to the proposed changes and as long as there is nothing that we feel is detracting from the neighbourhood, the local houses and visual aspect then that is all we should say and leave to SBC to decide on how the renovations would affect the listed building.

BL asked EW if she had a view on how it would affect the visual aspect of the house and EW confirmed that looking at it, most of the work was inside and the outside work will improve the property. It will certainly make the house more convenient to live in. It is lovely having a historic property but It is someone's home, and the owners want to make it comfortable for them to live in. We have had this before and as far as EW knows, when you have a listed property either Grade 1 and 2 you have to make sure that any extensions and additions are for this era and you are not doing a fake copy where you would be hard pushed to differentiate between what was there originally and what is modern for 2021 and from what was 1850 for example but the Listing Officer will look at this.

BL and other Councillors agreed that the CC did not have any objections to the proposed development.

EW asked DR to put in the response to the Planning Officer that CC is not looking at the listed element of the building purely at the planned works and there is no objection.

7. Berwickshire Light Railway Link to Central Borders

Dave Jones introduced himself as an ex-SBC councillor from 1999 - 2003. Originally from Leeds and now living in Scotland. DJ offered to answer questions on each slide of the presentation which he had produced. This was screen shared at the meeting.. DJ said that in the Central Borders it was so difficult to get from A to B so In 2001 as an Elected Scottish Borders Councillor he proposed that we should survey the existing track bed of the defunct Reston to Galashiels Railway with a view to develop a tram/light railway system to link the whole of Berwickshire to the central Borders.

BL commented that it was a very exciting project in theory but how would it be funded?

DJ said it was not the role of the group to work out how it would be funded. It will cost approximately £10 million a mile and there are 33 miles to cover but it is the same kind of cost which went into the Borders Railway going to Galashiels.

DJ said that to give you an idea of the route it could be viewed on google earth where you can still find the original route. The red line is the line that would be the new Berwickshire Line using the existing rail bed which is still visible across that area. Where you see the yellow line there are buildings on the land so there would have to be a diversion at that point but once you get to the other side of Duns you can find the track again. Instead of looking at a railway the proposal looks at a tram system where the tram can come off the rail bed then either go through the town centre or find another route back onto the line.

The blue line is the expected route of the extension to the Waverley line. The green line is the existing Waverley Line. The blue line is to connect Hawick and on to Carlisle.

The red Line joins the line at Ravenswood Junction and that is the junction where you come out of Earlston past the viaduct then you get to the roundabout and turn right to go the BGH and straight onto council offices. It is at that point where the join would be with the Berwickshire line and the extension on the Borders Waverley line.

BL asked if anyone had worked out, if the line was all in place, how long it would take going through the various towns to get from Galashiels to Reston.

DJ said that depending on the number of stops it would take about an hour. It is 33 miles and that would get the line to Tweedbank. The reason for looking at Tweedbank is that the blue line would have to join the green line at Tweedbank but at Tweedbank it is a double station with a line at either side of the station platform. At Galashiels it is not like that and there is only one line coming through. This creates a problem if the tram sits there for any length of time as it would be blocking a main line. It would need to sit off line until it was ready for the journey back. The beauty of the light tram is that it can travel between 60/70mph once in the countryside. The tram we are looking at is a mixture of electric and hybrid. Once in the towns it drops into its battery system and slows down through the towns.

EW asked what times of day would the tram run?

DJ said it doesn't need to be part of Network Rail as this can be run by a consortium for eg the Edinburgh Trams are run by Lothian Buses. A consortium could take on the project and develop it and it could be run by them so times can be set up depending on the demand.

A discussion followed regarding the time spent to get across the borders with some examples discussed. There was also discussion about whether it would be a single track

with passing places and whether there would be enough passengers to run an hourly service.

DJ advised that the presentation had been on facebook over a 2 week period right across the Borders and out of the count there were only 2 against the proposal. Liked by 254 shared 47 times. Once it has been shared, DJ does not know how many times it has then been liked. Out of 41 comments 39 were for the proposal with only 2 against.

It was also on the Coldingham website from 25th August - 31st August and it was viewed 616 times and downloaded 118 times. In September up to the 15th when the count was stopped it was viewed again 396 times and downloaded 90 times. The total viewings was 1,012 and the downloads 208.

The tram being looked at is a VLR battery operated vehicle which holds 56 seated people and DJ doesn't see a reason why this VLR can't go from Reston to Tweedbank every hour.

CM pointed out that there is no public transport from Longformacus to Duns so we could not get on the tram train even if we wanted to. Everyone in the village is completely dependent on their own transport unless they can arrange a lift with someone so would the money not be better spent on some kind of public transport using the road network so that we can get to Reston. We are very far removed from what you are proposing.

DJ said there was a similar situation in Coldingham and St Abbs as there is no longer a bus service. The station at Reston is being reopened and if this goes ahead there needs to be a bus link through every village including Duns to the Reston Station.

DM said the road system was already there so would the money not be better spent on improving the public transport for the outlying areas. The time scale for the journey would be similar.

A discussion then took place between DM, DJ & MR regarding the current link between Reston and Galashiels and the improvements that would be needed to the current roads and current bus services.

BL thanks DJ for his time and input and his thoughtful presentation and CC appreciate the insight you have given us. We are glad you have the support of the Rail Action Group and Reston CC and this is certainly food for thought and ammunition for us to write our own letters to SBC.

DJ gave a final comment that he had been working on this idea for 20 years and it was only when we started looking at protecting the environment that the political sway was moving towards trams. Hence why he has gone forward with this project. Also for the last 20 years we have been asking for a better road system from East Berwickshire to the Central Borders and we are not one inch further forward. If you think a better way to spend

<p>the money is on the road system the funds would still need to be found. This proposal is to sound people out to see if there is sufficient support for the proposal.</p>	
<p>8. Purchase of Lamp Post Tommy Figures for Remembrance Day</p> <p>EW had received a letter from the Royal British Legion with regards to attaching a Tommy Figure to a lamp post left or right facing. They were originally brought out for VE Day. There are small perspective figures in the Volunteer Hall at Duns. These would be 6ft and are quite expensive so when we discussed previously VE Day was not something we would look at marking. With November coming up and Remembrance Day if we do want to do anything now would be the time to get them ordered. A pair cost £405 and if we did one for Longformacus, Cranshaws and the T junction at Ellemford the cost would be £630 for the three figures. They come with the fixings to attach to the lamp posts.</p> <p>CM asked if the money goes to British Soldiers? TH mentioned that it is the Royal British Legion Trust which is an organisation that generates money for the Royal British Legion and it is the RBLT that distributes the figures. EW agreed that TH was correct.</p> <p>BL asked where the money would come from if we were going to support this project. TH suggested the walking fund and EW confirmed that when this was discussed previously it was when the CC was looking for projects to spend the walking fund money on as we can't keep the money.</p> <p>CM said that the walking fund money is ring fenced and has nothing to do with the council money for running costs.</p> <p>TH there is a silhouette on the road next to Cranshaws. BL mentioned that Eddy cuts figures out of plywood and he could possibly do some but this would not benefit the RBL.</p> <p>EW it would be nice to do something to celebrate Remembrance Day whether it is the figures or something we do locally.</p> <p>It was agreed that BL would follow up with Eddy. EW to send BL the letter and brochure.</p>	<p>BL</p>
<p>9. Updates from Council Members</p> <p>TH said that he had not yet been able to go back to the people interested in the verge planting and would endeavour to do so.</p>	<p>TH</p>

<p>TH said that he had gone back to his neighbour AP, (Anthony Philipson) to say that TH was happy to take on the LOR but so far had not been able to have a meeting with his neighbour to have a detailed discussion with him before reporting back to LCC. BL suggested it was rolled forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>TH confirmed that the First Aid Course has 15 people signed up. The date is 30th October at Cranshaws Hall. Only 1 person on the Defibrillator course so TH would try and persuade this person to sign up for the First Aid course.</p>	TH
<p>10. Correspondence received</p> <p>None received</p> <p>BL would like it Minuted that the emails received from SBNCC regarding the place planning is a very detailed subject and is too much for us to deal with. Looking at the material that is in the report it is aimed at bigger communities than LCC and the language is so difficult to follow with all the jargon. It is hoped that BAVS and ABPCC would help LCC through this and to see whether there is anything relevant to our area.</p> <p>EW agreed that it was a very difficult document to read and CM would like it Minuted that the CC is made up of volunteers and a small community and there is only so much you can ask of people. Not everyone is able to comprehend what is being said in these documents. The content of this material is not volunteer level and we have all paid a lot of tax for the SBC to do this work themselves.</p> <p>TH said that we suggest they refer to a plain English guide before sending us this material. BL agreed that this was a good point and we should write a letter setting out our views. BL to liaise with DR regarding the letter.</p> <hr/> <p>11. Any other business</p> <p>No items raised</p> <hr/> <p>12. Date of Next Meeting will be AGM</p> <p>Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 7:30pm to be decided nearer the time whether to be a face to face meeting or via Teams.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 21.00</p>	BL