

Lammermuir Community Council
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 8:15pm via Teams

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Bill Landale (BL), Tony Homer (TH), Clive Warsop (CW), Morag Rodger (MoR), Johnny Fisher (JF), Alastair Gordon (AG), Anna Dabrowska (AD), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Cllr Mark Rowley (MR), Cllr John Greenwell (JG)

Minute Secretary: Dianne Repsch (DR)

Residents: Corinne Mycock (CM), Alison Landale (AL)

Agenda
<p>1. Welcome and apologies:</p> <p>Apologies from Donald Moffat</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December 2020:</p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. TH Proposed and MoR 2nd</p>
<p>3. Matters Arising:</p> <p>CM raised that DM is the LCC representative for the Blackhill Windfarm Community Trust (BWCT) and as DM (David Mycock) has left the area he will need to be replaced.</p> <p>MR said before anyone is appointed it should be clear that this is not just a Trustee post as the replacement will also need to be a Director of the Company. The position is not onerous as it is attending four meetings a year with the other directors. Unusually when the BWCT was set up, as it was one of the first, it was set up as a Limited company. The Representative from LCC must therefore be comfortable being in the formal position of a Trustee as well as a Company Director.</p> <p>BL and AP suggested that we need advice about what is required before we can find a replacement and the legalities of what is required for this nomination,</p> <p>Action: CM confirmed that she would ask if DM would continue in post until the next meeting.</p>
<p>4. Chairman's Report 2021- 22:</p> <p>2021 has been a changing and unpredictable scene. Just as Covid restrictions were being lifted, the Omicron variant appeared. We're now facing continuing uncertainty - hence this meeting is online. Latest guidelines seem to be to limit gatherings to no more than three households.</p> <p>Our previous chairman, Alistair Dawson: <i>"With my departure, there are only five full members of Council and two co-opted members..."</i></p>

Happily that has now changed and we have a full complement again. We said goodbye to Elizabeth Willis, though she's still very much around I'm glad to say, and we extend a warm welcome to our new members, Anna Dabrowska, Adam Prokopowicz, Billy & Louise Binning, Alistair Gordon, and Johnny Fisher. Morag Rodger, is also now a full member.

First of all, as the New Year gets under way, let me welcome again our new Administrator/secretary, Dianne Repsch, who joined us in August. She took over from Elizabeth Willis, who is still very much a part of the community, though not in the role Dianne now fills. So thank you also to Elizabeth, who herself took over from Beth Landon, who stepped down in June.

Telephones. It was in June we first received notice that BT were planning to discontinue their analogue tel. service by 2025, and this caused much consternation, as replacing it with fibre will require power supply and in power cuts we could be left without a phone service. This is an ongoing matter, but it would seem inevitable. It bears also upon the issue of public call boxes, which we feel are an essential backup and out of reach of most mobile networks. This is currently under review. The kiosks are a part of our resilience as a community, and can be crucial in an emergency. The new mobile phone mast at Rigfoot will help (EE network I believe). LCC were consulted on the mast when it was in the planning stage.

Three major developments have emerged into the limelight during the year.

At Cranshaws, the Community walk, (*4.5km) is now in use, along with the Community Orchard, where many fruit trees have already been planted, with room for many more. This is an ongoing development, with signage and other improvements on the agenda.

The Longformacus Village Hall improvements were held up due to Covid and changes of an architect. A new Architect, Andrew Lester, has taken the development on.

Also in L'macus, this year saw a very well run Community larder, thanks to Pauline Hodge and her helpers, who also provided help with other assistance during the continuing restrictions due to Covid. Pauline also ran an Arts Project for kids following Covid lockdowns.

In the Park at Longformacus, in the absence of any commitment from SBC, a project to re-develop the play and fitness facilities. This is now being managed through a Community Interest Company (CIC), so will not require administrative involvement from LCC. Three public consultations have taken place, and I understand the CELCA funding is possibly being supplemented from an additional source. Karen Kirkness and Lorna Pate have been steering this project successfully and are to be congratulated on their perseverance and vision for a greatly improved facility for children and adults.

Another project in development is that of Community planting of wildflowers, along verges, in pieces of unused ground, and planters. This initiative from Tony Homer is in early stages, and there is a request for volunteers to be involved. To date, Covid has prevented active development, but hopefully 2022 will see progress.

On the communications front Facebook and Messenger groups are now active, alongside an excellent website, and the Herald email network is now being managed by Tony Homer – who has taken over from Corinne Mycock thank you Tony. And thank you Corinne for many years of providing this source of local information.

Also an initiative from Tony, the LCC now owns some proper litter-picking equipment.... This is available from Tony or myself for anyone wishing to help with keeping the environment clean.

I look forward to 2022, with a new Community Council, to represent this Lammermuir Community and endeavour to make its voice heard and its concerns and wishes acted upon.

Bill Landale : LCC Chairman

5. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance 31-03-2021	£3,959.96
Payments Out (in transit)	£0.00
Payments In (in transit)	£0.00
COMMUNITY COUNCIL	£977.98
SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)	£401.98
WALKING FUND (ringfenced)	£2,580.00
<u>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)</u>	
DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training)	£256.07
COMMUNITY BROADBAND (£372.67 allocated)	£5,372.67
COMMUNITY WEBSITE	£1,069.70

BL thanked CM for her report and all the work that had gone into it.

MR gave a vote of thanks to CM on behalf of all Community Councillors past and present for her role as Treasurer, which she has carried out over a number of years in a very diligent way and getting us through some very tricky and complicated funds for such a small community. CM has been a pleasure to work with and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for what must have been thousands of hours of work.

6. Appointment of Auditors

BAVS (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services) were re-appointed as auditors for the coming year.

7. Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Code of Conduct for Community Councils:

BL read out a brief summary of the Code of Conduct. The agreement was distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting and can also be found on the LCC website.

All the Community Councillors present agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct

8. Date of next AGM:

Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 7.30p.m. in Longformacus Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21.00