

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 9:00pm 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

1. Welcome and apologies: Apologies from Donald Moffat

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th September 2021

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. TH proposed and BL 2nd

3. Matters Arising

JF raised a question, from the previous meeting, as to whether BL had followed up with a letter to SBNCC with regards the place planning. BL confirmed that he had taken the matter up with MR as we were not the only ones complaining about the enormous amount of information coming from SBNCC which is full of jargon and some of the documents are 80 pages long. MR was going to take the matter up with the person who was producing these documents.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance 12-01-2022	£2,435.35
Payments (in transit)	£0.00
COMMUNITY COUNCIL	-£277.12
SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced)	£330.03
WALKING FUND (ringfenced)	£2,382.44
<u>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)</u>	
DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training)	£884.47
COMMUNITY BROADBAND (£372.67 allocated)	£5,372.67
COMMUNITY WEBSITE	£839.76

CM: It was raised at the last meeting and it needs to be decided how we are going to pay for the extra costs involved with running the CC. The extra costs have arisen because we have had an election which has involved more liaising between our Administrator and SBC which all takes time and costs money so the £540 grant we receive each year from SBC is not going to be enough. There is money in the walking fund which could be used towards paying for these extra costs or we could apply to LCF (CELCA) to pay our Administrator. If applying to LCF we should do this in February to be in time for the LCF meeting in March. The money received from LCF would be for payments in the future. The grant from SBC should be received fairly soon.

MR clarified it would not be possible to increase the grant. The walking fund which originally came from Fred Olsen was a substantial one off payment for the walking festival and walking routes. The money left over was to be used for walking and recreational purposes within the community. As CC needs additional funds it is appropriate to go to the LCF and ask for an allocation as LCF has significant funds. You should also consider if there are any administration and activities that could come under Covid so that you could draw down from the Covid ring fenced fund. As you now have a full council are there any jobs that could be shared with the new members of the council and this might take some pressure off buying services in.

JF the funds in the walking fund was not just residue from the grant, it has been added to over previous years, when there has been surplus funds from other projects and this allowed us, as a council, to save some money. Would it therefore be appropriate to re-appropriate the surplus that was added into the walking fund and that would clear the deficit in the bank account?

CM confirmed that money from LCF would not go into the LCC bank accounts but would be held as a project by LCF and they would pay bills on LCC's behalf.

BL proposed that the £382.44 from the walking fund be transferred into the bank account and LCC would apply to LCF for £1,000 to be put into the bank accounts for the purpose of running the council. 2nd by AD

BL to sign the letter for the end of year accounts then CM will copy and send to SBC. The bank signatories are currently BL, MoR and CM so AD will be added as a signatory and CM will be removed.

5. Planning Applications:

None Received

6. Telephone Boxes:

TH confirmed that there is no update.

MR confirmed that 52 calls a year (one a week) are required to keep the telephone boxes in use. John Lamont MP has put out a press release supporting this issue and MR has done a series of radio interviews to put pressure on Ofcom.

AG confirmed that he had tried to make a telephone call from the Cranshaws telephone box but it would not accept change or accept a credit card and you can't buy a charge card as they no longer produce them. Whilst the line is live you can't make a call although as the line is live you could make an emergency call. AG would be prepared to make a call each week to keep the telephone box open if BT were prepared to fix/re-open the Cranshaws telephone box.

BL asked MR to represent this issue at the next opportunity and MR confirmed that his Economic Development Officer was making a strong case for this. **MR would look into whether the box is faulty or something has been switched off.**

CW said that until mobile reception in the community is more stable it is really important to have a telephone box for emergency reasons.

MR reported that after Storm Arwen even if you had a working mobile, after a few hours you had lost the service, as the infrastructure is so fragile and all the fibre optic cables were so badly damaged.

7. Updates from Council Members:

JG has been working for the past 10 months on an anti-poverty strategy within SBC. In the past there were different departments doing work on education, social work and community planning. The plan now is to move this work into one package so that everyone knows exactly what they are doing and there is a level playing field. SBC has sent out a consultation document and the replies are being assessed and when this is done a full report will go to the council with the findings. There is poverty within Berwickshire as there is a small number of people who are claiming for free school meals, free school uniforms and housing benefits. If you are aware of a family or small group of people who require help please get in touch so that they can be put in touch with the right person to receive assistance. There is not just financial poverty, it could be fuel, food poverty and all those types of things.

CW: There was some effort to identify any signs of poverty through the heads of schools and unfortunately this was met with very little response. It is one of LCC's roles to identify poverty in the community and make contact either by personal conversations or an official letter and we could do some good work to assist anyone who needs assistance.

AP expressed his interest to get involved and it was agreed that JG and AP would be in touch after the meeting. DR to pass on details.

8. Matters arising not listed above:

AP raised the issue of the Secretary and how the position was being filled. BL & AL clarified that the role of Secretary for the LCC does not need to be filled. JG confirmed that the councillors need to agree that DR should continue in her role as Secretary and this was duly agreed. MoR said it would be better if the DR role was known as Administrator it would make it clearer as the Secretary role can only be a Community Council Office Bearer.

9. Correspondence received

None received

10. Any other business

Resilience:

BL said that he had been contacted by Kathleen White regarding resilience in the community and Kathleen is willing to do some research and speak to people locally to see how exposed people felt particularly after Storm Arwen. AP offered his assistance.

AL thought that SBC were trying to make sure that all the community areas across the Scottish Borders had resilient communities and they had a programme or ideas in place that communities should follow. Some time ago BL and AD attended a meeting and at that time LCC had started The Herald which was keeping people informed about local matters, roads, snow etc. Storm Arwen has shown some weaknesses as people were not able to use mobiles or get to a telephone and we are aware of people who are not on broadband so they don't get some of the communications. It would be useful to know who is not on broadband. If someone else in the community council was prepared to take on the resilience project Kathleen would be quite happy to help them. Abbey St Bathans have quite a developed list of people and how they can access generators, candles, a 4 drive vehicle etc.

CW: agreed it would be useful if LCC drew up a list relating to resilience which showed where these resources could be accessed. The Herald could be used to ask for suggestions, information and resources.
MoR: Suggested that if we are introducing a list of resources and a list of people needing assistance they should be merged together.

MR: clarified that there are Emergency Planning Officers and a Resilience Community Group willing to help. **MR to provide email for LCC to make contact.**

JF: offered to help Kathleen and would make contact to move this forward.

Scottish Power

JF: Scottish Power was supposed to be pro-actively providing compensation to households that were cut off from Storm Arwen, has this happened or are people still waiting to receive payments?

MR: Confirmed he had taken up the issues with the COE of SPEN however his suggestion would be that the CC should use The Herald to ask people to let them know whether they have had a payment yet. You only need one person from say Rigfoot to respond and you have all the data for that area. My understanding is that some payments have been received but not many. You don't get anything if you were off for less than 48 hours but after 48 hours it is £70 for a 12 hour period plus SPEN has added a one off goodwill payment of £150 regardless of what other compensation you get or how long you were cut off for. The statutory maximum was £700 but the UK Government Regulator took this off so you should be entitled to £70 for every 12 hours or part thereof that you were cut off. There is concern the compensation might not reach everyone who was cut off for longer than 48 hours because they may have some information that says one house in the street was on so the rest must have been. Unless people have Smart Meters they are not going to have property by property information. The CC could potentially inject thousands of pounds into the local community by gathering this information including a postcard to anyone not online.

CW: The reason for the inconsistency over the properties was there had been some maintenance recently carried out with new poles and wires installed so in those areas they were much more resilient to the wind, with only some minimal damage. Just a short distance down the road where there was the old system it was extremely badly damaged and this accounts for some of the discrepancies over the region.

MoR: It should be minuted that the Scottish Power Network did a fabulous job of getting us all connected. The devastation in our county was horrendous and for them to do such a brilliant job of getting us back up in those conditions was amazing.

JF: **Offered to liaise with TH for The Herald and DR for the postcard** with regards to collecting the information. The information would be protected.

Meetings: There was a discussion about future meetings and it was agreed that in future a notification would go out via The Herald to let everyone in the community know there was a meeting and the Teams link would be included so that residents could attend if they wish. **TH and DR to action**

Wildlife Liaison Officer: CW asked DR to find out if the community still has access to a Wildlife Liaison Officer. **DR to action**

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 9th March 2022 via Teams

Meeting closed at 22.20