

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary General Meeting
Wednesday 9th March 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)

Minute Secretary: Dianne Repsch (DR)

Guest Speaker: Rose Hogg, Dog Education Officer

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies from Donald Moffat, Louise Binning and Billy Binning

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th January 2022

The Inaugural Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. AG proposed and JF 2nd

The AGM Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting MoR proposed JF 2nd

The OGM Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting BL proposed TH 2nd

3. Matters Arising

Blackhill Windfarm Community Trust (BWCT)

David Mycock who was the LCC representative has resigned from his position as he has left the area. AP has agreed to take over the role and he has been in touch with the Secretary of BWCT. It was agreed that AP would be the LCC representative. AP confirmed that as agreed at the last meeting he was to contact BWCT to confirm the procedures and he will be completing the necessary paperwork which is being sent to him from BWCT.

End of Year Accounts

BL confirmed that the accounts had been signed off. AD confirmed she is now a signatory on the account and is only waiting on a letter from the bank with the login details to gain access to the online banking. This should be completed within the next few days.

Wildlife Liaison Officer

It was noted that the current Wildlife Liaison Officer for the Scottish Borders is PC Jamie Hood

Insurance

It was noted that the insurance policy was renewed. The proposal form was completed by AD.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance 09-03-2022	£2,975.35
Payments (in transit)	£0.00
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (transfer of £382.44 from Walking Fund)	£645.32
SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ringfenced - no change)	£330.03
WALKING FUND (ringfenced)	£2,000.00
<u>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)</u>	
DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training) (no change)	£884.47
COMMUNITY BROADBAND	£3,000.00
COMMUNITY WEBSITE	£714.76

BL formally welcomed AD to the meeting as the new Treasurer for LCC. AD confirmed that the £382.44 from the walking fund had been transferred to the LCC bank account as agreed at the last meeting. The grant from SBC of £540 had also been received.

AD clarified that in the Community Broadband fund (CBF) there had been a sum of £5,372.67 and it was now £3,000 so £2,372.67 was repurposed by LCF. BL explained that the money in CBF is to help people put a decent level of broadband into their property if they haven't got one and LCC have subsidised the cost of doing this for individual households. MR confirmed it was the scheme that the community had in place to install point to point broadband in association with Borderlink Broadband (BB).

BL said that if for some reason you were not able to get (BB) due to not having a line of sight with an existing BB and an alternative link such as a satellite was required the fund could be used for helping those households.

AG said that he had heard the reason why there is not the greatest pick up is because there is no line of sight but also because the actual monthly bill which comes attached to having the service with Borderlink is more expensive

TH confirmed that the fund was reduced by LCF simply because it hasn't been used for quite a while and it was decided to keep £3,000 as people may still come forward. The assistance that was provided was in conjunction with a government grant which BB organised and then the CMF was used for the equipment and connection to houses which was approximately £300.

TH also said that even when it is working it is a very intermittent service as well as being more expensive. BB also offers VoIP as an alternative to a landline telephone however if you lose your internet you lose your VoIP connection too.

AD asked who makes the decision on a reduction or when to repurpose money from a ringfenced fund as AD was under the impression that LCC should make these decisions not just LCF so wanted clarification on the procedure

TH believes that at the LCF meeting it was not distinguished as being an LCC ring fenced project when the decision was made by LCF to reduce the CBF and therefore it would be right to ask LCF to clarify the process on which decisions are made on LCC ring fenced funded projects.

Action: AD to ask Alison Landale and Kim Drysdale at LCF to clarify the procedure and report back at the next meeting.

JF raised the amount of funds available for LCC expenses such as administrative costs and the community website which has ongoing hosting and operational costs.

BL confirmed that the Fund that is provided by LCF is not a fixed amount so LCC can apply for more funds and LCC will have to do that in terms of running costs.

MR clarified that LCC can apply to LCF for funds to cover the administration costs as LCC has decided to spend more on its admin. Some of the ring fenced monies are surplus funds that were moved into the ring fenced accounts so that the SBC grant could be drawn down. The CC can't have surplus funds in the account or you won't be able to draw down the SBC grant.

AG raised whether that was a conflict of interest as the CC's are also on the LCF Trustee Board. TH confirmed that as the CC's do not vote on the LCF funding decisions there is no conflict.

Action: AD to prepare for the next LCF meeting and to make an application for further funds, as agreed at the previous meeting, for the website and admin costs.

5. Planning Applications:

Planning applications were received for The Manse and 12 The Row in Longformacus. Letters with a 'no objections' reply have been sent by DR.

Rowanside reply to be sent, following this meeting, with the following observations having been made. CW mentioned that for properties in The Row any alterations should be in keeping and sympathetic to the neighbouring properties.

JF looked at the plan and confirmed that it was timber construction for the front windows but PVC for the rear of the property. CW felt the nearest neighbours may have an observation on the windows not being the same throughout. MR clarified that it is no longer the obligation of the planning authority to contact the neighbouring properties; it should be the agent or the applicant. AG said that as part of our response we should ask that the neighbours be consulted and this was agreed.

Action: DR to send appropriate reply

6. Appointment of Vice Chairman:

BL confirmed that LCC had not had a Vice Chairman in the past and after some consultation with other councillors it had been decided not to appoint a Vice Chairman.

7. Dog Fouling - Guest Speaker Rose Hogg

RH is the Dog Education Officer for the Scottish Borders and handled dog fouling under the Dog Fouling Scotland Act 2003. RH deals with dog fouling and dog barking and deals with the education of what is expected of dog ownership. Due to the legalisation fines of £80 can be made by the police. There is a period of 7 days from the dog fouling taking place to collect witness statements and for the police to issue a fine. Legalisation is proving productive in other areas. For a fine to be made it only requires one person to have seen the dog fouling but the issue is that they would have to know where the dog owner lived. RH can do educational talks if there is a problem in a particular area.

It was agreed by the CC's that there was not an issue of dog fouling in the LCC area.

There followed a discussion about the dog waste bins along the community walk and who was responsible for emptying them. RH offered to make enquiries with the neighbourhood team to find out if they could include emptying these bins on their route.

MR commented that as LCC funded the community walk and put the bins in place LCC are probably responsible for emptying them.

BL thanked RH for attending the meeting and for her input.

Action: AG to email RH

8. Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Fund, Celebrations, Tree Planting

A general discussion took place regarding the ideas forwarded to LCC regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee such as the lighting of a beacon, planting trees etc. The Queens Canopy tree planting document was shared online and it was noted that the trees could be planted between October and March.

AD said that as the community had lost so many trees during Storm Arwen the tree planting initiative would be worth discussing. BL said that organising a community planting could be difficult and a lot of research would be needed to see how it could be done. An application to LCF could be made and it was thought it would be well received. When the community had looked at this type of initiative previously with the Borders Forest Trust there were strict requirements and one of them was that you were not allowed to cut the trees down at any point in the future. The terms would therefore need to be checked carefully.

MR clarified that the initiative was for communities to come together to do something commemorative and planting some of the free trees would not be available to individuals. At the last Jubilee LCC had a fantastic beacon lit, however, the land has since changed ownership so enquiries are being made as to whether the new land owner would be interested in supporting the beacon initiative.

The area from Rigfoot to Longformacus was discussed but it would involve a lot of work to remove the stumps and root balls and it was thought it would be too difficult to plant any new trees there. Also the land is owned by different people although some of the land near the road would be owned by the council.

Action: AD to check with Woodland Trust on the terms and conditions of planting trees and also check who the application for trees needs to come from whether LCC or individuals. Depending on the terms it was agreed a notification could go out via the Herald to provide information on the scheme or alternatively ask the community if they would be interested in becoming involved with an LCC tree planting initiative

9. Dunside Wind Farm - Proposals & Exhibitions

BL showed a leaflet he had received of the proposed development of Dunside Wind Farm which is going to be located east of the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm. The project is in the very early stages of its development. There is a meeting in Longformacus Village Hall on Wednesday 16th March 2022 between 4 - 8.00p.m. There will be a display and representatives from EDF Renewables on hand to talk about the development. The Wind Farm will be located on the Roxburghe Estate and create 100 megawatts of green energy. Although there would be an investment into the community It was not clear if this would benefit LCC.

Action: BL to send leaflet to TH so that it could be circulated via the Herald.

10. Updates from Council Members: telephone boxes, resilience, anti-poverty

Telephone Boxes:

TH confirmed that there was no update on the 3 telephone boxes in the villages. Although 999 and 101 calls can be made there is no other means of making calls. MR raised the issue as to whether anyone had reported to BT the telephone boxes are not working.

There was a discussion of the plans by BT to withdraw the copper wire landlines which some residents particularly in Cranshaws are highly dependent on. MR confirmed that representations had been made but it was inevitable that BT would be withdrawing the copper wire landlines at some point in the future. After Storm Arwen it became apparent that the community doesn't have much resilience because the mobile masts only have power supply for 2/4 hours which is why communities should rally behind the phone boxes

Resilience

JF confirmed he spoke with Kathleen White, who had offered to help with resilience in the community, and there are two areas to look at going forward which would be the community vulnerability and the resources in the area and how they could be put to use. It had been decided the best way forward would be to talk to villages who already have a resilience plan in place such as ABPCC and Hutton & Paxton whose case study is on the SBC website. JF would speak to the people in charge and find out what has worked for them but also speak to people within the community to find out how well the resilience actually worked when Storm Arwen came through. The main issues are loss of power and communications and loss of access due to wind, flooding or snow and how quickly LCC could assist.

AP suggested a resilience document was developed and presented to SBC.

MR supports LCC formalising community resilience planning, as it appears the community are going to have issues with storms and power cuts recurring. With the cumulative change in so many of our residents over recent years the assumption that residents will check on neighbours might not be enough to check that someone in need isn't missed out.

Action: JF to report back at the next meeting.

Anti-Poverty:

TH raised the issue of power and rising fuel costs and whether LCC should be discussing whether it would be appropriate for LCF to provide funds for a community fuel allowance which LCC could support and whether LCC should be undertaking some of the work to move this forward so that it could be presented to LCF.

A general discussion took place as to how a scheme like this could be administered, what the conditions of the payment would be so that it was fair to everyone.

AD suggested one option would be to have an arrangement with the oil providers so that anyone from our community who orders oil is given a discount and we compensate the oil provider and then we would not have to reach out to every household.

CW is in support of the fuel allowance which would support each member of the community as opposed to the two larger ongoing projects which will only benefit some of the community. BL said the two historical projects are ones that have been ongoing for some time before the current cost of living and fuel increases, however CW comments have been noted.

MR it is worth remembering that any LCF agreement for fuel support means that technically this would not be to encourage people to use more fossil fuels. Whether the support is for food, fuel or vouchers LCC needs to think carefully on how the community is going to resource its energy needs long term and a community masterplan for the Agenda would be the best way forward.

Action: It was agreed that AD, TH, JF and AG would form a sub-committee to take this forward and report back at the next meeting.

11. Matters arising not listed above

AG Cranshaws bus shelter roof is no longer there. MR advised that he believed the council were responsible for the bus shelter and it should be reported to SBC.

Action: MR to establish if it is SBC property and let DR know.

12. Correspondence received: None received

13. Any other business

BL mentioned the road between Ellemford and Cranshaws which is in very poor condition due to potholes, damaged verges and two bridges which were destroyed by vehicles. There were now traffic lights and BL was concerned that they might not be temporary. MR suggested it was reported.

14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th May 2022

Meeting closed at 21.45