

Lammermuir Community Council
Ordinary General Meeting
Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7:30pm 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:

Frances Renton, Jim Clark Rally

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies from Louise and William Binning who have also tendered their resignations due to work commitments.

2. Jim Clark Rally

Frances Renton kindly attended the meeting to inform the Community Councillors of the plans and preparations for the upcoming Jim Clark Rally. The Rally is scheduled to take place from Friday 27th May to Sunday 29th May. The first and only stage of the Rally starts in Longformacus on Friday evening and the road will be closed from 17.20 to 00.20. The Friday evening race is a long stage starting from Longformacus going to Ellemford then on to Abbey St Bathans and ending at Billiemains. The cars go round this route twice. There is a spectator point which has to be confirmed but it is hoped that this will be at Bankend. There are expected to be 120 cars taking part in the Rally and there will be 350 marshalls manning the route. Additional cars go through the route before the start of the race to ensure that the roads are clear. After the race a vehicle will go round the route and will make any necessary repairs to fences should there be any damage. There has been a number of changes this year to the safety aspect of the rally. The safety regulations have been approved and accepted by the Scottish Government.

There is a telephone number which is operational throughout the rally which is 0782 4471305. It was agreed that this telephone number would go out to the community via The Herald.

MR confirmed that SBC have co-funded with Jim Clark Rally to have big screens in the square in Duns and there will be TV Cameras taking professional footage.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th March 2022

The OGM Minutes were amended and approved as a true record of the meeting AP proposed AG 2nd

Amendment:

BL (Chair) raised an amendment to the minutes as the previous minutes incorrectly stated that LCC members do not vote on LCF funding decisions. It was clarified that LCC members as LCF Trustees do vote on all bids regardless of who submits them. LCF Trustees are required to exercise their judgement and vote in accordance with LCF's constitution. Accordingly, any potential conflict of interest for LCC members would be resolved on the same basis as for other LCF Trustees who may be associated with funding bids.

CW raised an amendment to the anti-poverty 4th paragraph in the draft minutes. The reference to the two larger projects in this paragraph should be changed to read Longformacus Village Hall extension and Longformacus Park. CW proposed and 2nd BL

4. Matters Arising

Blackhill Windfarm Community Trust (BWCT)

AP confirmed that the BWCT was in the process of certifying and preparing for the first meeting with AP being the LCC Representative.

Telephones Boxes: AP questioned the situation with the telephone boxes and how LCC was proceeding so that the service could be maintained. LCC needs to decide who is going to make the telephone calls if usage is being monitored. MR confirmed that he had recently been able to make a call from Cranshaws telephone box for free and that a strong representation had been made by SBC, with MR's support, to Ofgem to keep the telephone boxes open due to the connectivity issues with mobile and broadband after Storm Arwen. BT used to monitor call usage but now there is a whole list of criteria such as a history of emergency calls, whether the telephone box is close to a known suicide spot and whether there are other forms of connectivity such as being on a major route. One of the criteria LCC has always had is that LCC is on the South Upland Way which is a designated trail which is particularly poor for mobile connectivity in the villages because they are sheltered areas.

Further discussion took place and it was agreed that it would be worth checking the working status of each of the telephone boxes in Longformacus, Ellemford and Cranshaws and if they are not working the faults should be reported. BT will be pushing to close more telephone boxes as there is a requirement that there is an uninterrupted supply of fibre which will involve more cost once the copper wiring removal goes ahead.

Repurposing of Community Funds:

AD confirmed that she had spoken to AL and KD from LCF and it was decided that the repurposing of the funds should not have taken place without LCC being informed. As the funds have already been repurposed LCC need to put a motion through to agree that this repurposing was agreed. The repurposing took place prior to the LCC meeting on the 9th March 2022. It was clarified that the sum which had been repurposed was for the Community Broadband which had been £5,300 with £2,300 being repurposed to leave £3,000 in the fund.

A discussion took place where it was agreed that LCF should not be able to make decisions about repurposing funds without discussing it with LCC as the funds are allocated to specific projects. The motion would also state that in future LCF should advise LCC of any funds that are being reviewed in advance and LCC should have the opportunity to agree to them.

MR said LCC should write to LCF to express disappointment that funds allocated to LCC were repurposed without LCC involvement. LCF should be clearer in the conditions when it grants funds such as a specific time scale over which the funding should be spent and if not used in that time the funds can be repurposed. It is normal for any granting authorisation to give a time scale and it would be part of the application and grant process. LCC should not just minute the motion but actively write to LCF and state what LCC would like to see in the future.

JF pointed out that as the community councillors are members of LCF and there are more community councillors than LCF Trustees some of the community councillors would have been at the LCF meeting where the decision was made to repurpose the Community Broadband fund and they must have agreed to it at that time.

AD confirmed that it had been discussed with AL (LCF) and it was clarified and agreed that there needs to be more clarity in the process. AD agreed that LCC should write a letter to say what LCC would expect in the future.

TH raised the issue that currently there is no statement issued by LCF when an grant application is made setting out what funds they are receiving and any conditions that are applied. BL confirmed that this was a good point and one which is likely to come up again in the future when we address ongoing projects.

AD Proposed that LCC agree to the repurposing of funds which have already taken place and the future reviewing of funds need to be agreed beforehand. 2nd TH

Dunside Wind Farm (DWF)

TH confirmed that the flyer shown at the last meeting had been circulated via The Herald. TH and AG confirmed that they had attended the public meeting in Longformacus Village Hall. TH had asked at the meeting if there would be community funds for LCC. It was suggested that if EDF received a positive and constructive application it would be considered. There will be further public meetings in Longformacus as EDF progress to the next steps.

MR confirmed that the community funds from the Fallago Rig goes to the Tweed Forum and not Kelso as had been previously mentioned by TH. The environmental fund was widened from the catchment of the Tweed to include Gifford because Gifford CC was supportive of the wind farm. The Tweed Forum has no community involvement however it has been successful with the projects it has supported such as the Scottish Borders Countryside Day. MR also understood the EDF would be using the traditional community benefit model and there will be consultations with local communities. EDF are going round visiting community councils in the affected area encouraging the community councils to get involved.

TH suggested that it was important that LCC looked at local power networks for local communities to benefit directly in their power bills.

A discussion took place regarding the location, size and number of turbines and the impact on the local community in terms of housing. The turbines for DWF are on a bigger scale with larger blades, columns and tower. It was predicted that over the life of DWF any disbenefits from setting up the wind farm would be outweighed by the clean green electricity DWF would generate.

Woodland Trust:

AD had not been able to make contact with the Woodland Trust and will therefore report on this project at the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance 18-05-2022	£2,149.13
Payments (in transit)	£0.00
COMMUNITY COUNCIL	-£180.90
SBC COVID-19 FUNDING (ring fenced - no change)	£330.03
WALKING FUND (ring fenced - no change)	£2,000.00

(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)

DEFIBRILLATOR (incl AED training) (no change)	£884.47
COMMUNITY BROADBAND	£2,627.33
COMMUNITY WEBSITE	£714.76

Fund Application for LCC Administrative Costs:

AD confirmed the fund application for the admin costs had been completed. The application included a request for £2,000 for 10 months (to cover June to March 2023). The admin costs are usually 13 hours per month x £15 ph and a small amount of transport costs. The SBC grant is £540 and when added to the £2,000 this would cover the whole year. The admin support is essential for the upkeep of LCC and without the grant LCC could not afford the admn support.

The website application is not required at the moment as LCC has sufficient funds but this will be completed for the next LCF meeting.

AD Proposed 2nd TH

6. Planning Applications:

No Planning applications received since the last meeting.

7. Resilience Sub Group (RSG) Report:

JF The sub group has discussed two incredibly important issues for the community the first being resilience of the community to emergency situations or shocks and secondly resilience of the community in general and in the long term. Discussions included how LCC could offer support so that the community are able to respond to the next Storm Arwen and whether by approaching LCF (CELCA) could the community funds be used in the long term to benefit the community.

The RSG would like to make the the following recommendations:

- a) The RSG continues, looking particularly at the emergency resilience, an information gathering phase and the community resources with a view to making a community emergency resilience plan (ERP). A ring fenced grant application has been prepared to submit to LCF which would allow for the information gathering phase to start.
- b) Is a Phase 2 of the ERP which is creating and equipping a resilience volunteer team to include emergency hubs.
- c) Request LCF to hold an extraordinary general meeting after their next meeting on 7th June 2022. It was felt that the RSG required a single item Agenda to agree the intentionality of the LCF funding that ensures the ERP is sustainably resourced and also that LCC complement the ERP with the long term plan which would include anti-poverty.
- d) Asking LCC to delegate the RSG to come up with recommendations to present at the LCF EGM.

A discussion then took place as to where the emergency hubs would be with the assumption that there should be hubs in Cranshaws and Longformacus because they both have village halls. The community population don't all live in the hubs of Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus and in an emergency it may not be possible to get to any of the village halls. The information gathering phase would help decide where the hubs would be, whether to use existing hubs or create more or less hubs.

MR mentioned the wider community resilience such as community planning to include planning for the future in terms of more people, homes, facilities, local power generators and suggested it should not be confused with resilience planning in terms of emergency response which is a project the SBC is inviting CC's to engage in. MR also suggested that the RSG focused on the ERP to move this forward as quickly as possible. Also there will be SBC resources being put in place to support communities such as place planning and place making. Also Planning Advice Scotland are being brought into support communities in development for the future.

JF confirmed that there are two elements and they are interlinked and the RSG can't have an ERP without the resilience community plan as it is important to start fostering the community spirit. The plans are a way for LCC to think long term and to make sure the opportunity for funds to be used for a concentrated and co-ordinated community building effort.

MR said if there is community development that is a natural role for LCC because LCC are part of the governmental process of Scotland where LCF are not as they are just a funding body which can fuel what the CC has an ambition to do.

CW asked JF if there had been any discussion in the resilience planning of helping the community on a domestic level? CW also raised the 6 figure sums being spent on what some of the community consider "white elephants" as it is felt that people are not being listened to and they are struggling even at this stage of the covid situation.

JF there was a discussion started about the anti-poverty issue and whether LCF could consider perhaps a cost of living boost so that is how the RSG moved onto the longer term emergency response planning. Since then we have received an email suggesting LCC could put in an application for help to support the community with electricity bills.

Also there has been a conversation on facebook with suggestions from Pauline Stewart about places people could go to get help with cost of living and in response to that post there were two other comments to say that it would be great if the community fund provided by the wind farm could help everyone by providing money towards their energy costs. Someone else responded to say that this would be most welcome.

JF's opinion on the 6 figure sum projects is that these things all go hand in hand. If you do one project and not another you can break community spirit so LCC have to consider them all and some will cost 6 figure sums and some other projects will be less..

CW said it is the exclusion of the community with the decision of the 6 figure sums that is causing disenfranchisement as that is all we have at the moment and the community feel they have been excluded from the decisions. CW confirmed that the projects he was referring to was the village hall extension, knocking down and putting in the internet cafe and Longformacus Park.

AG confirmed that the RSG did discuss universal benefit and whether it should be means tested and how fair one or the other would be. No decision was taken as the RSG decided to address the emergency resilience as a first step.

AD said that once the ERP starts this will help the RSG understand the community and work better depending on the responses they receive.

MR said that for the record he had not suggested means testing and could a community contribution be better targeted by spending a larger sum over a longer period by helping people to insulate their homes, pilot heating systems and build more affordable homes that are well insulated and fuel efficient.

JF summarised by asking the CC to support the £2,000 grant application to LCF to cover up to 3 mailings and potentially some petrol costs so that some face to face work can be done for anyone not receiving the email mailings and not responding to correspondence through the post. Also for LCC to consider helping people with their electricity bills as this is what is being asked for via the correspondence received.

BL thanks the RSG for the work, time and thoughts that have gone into the project which is very much appreciated. BL supports the decision to take this forward and agrees with MR's suggestion of getting the ERP approved first.

AD proposed a motion to support and submit the application to LCF. 2nd CW

8. Updates from Council Members:

BL raised the issue of tree planting in the community and a brief discussion took place. It was agreed that it was too difficult to locate suitable ground and there was not sufficient interest for this project

JF asked if there were any Queen's Platinum Jubilee events that we should be supporting. MR mentioned that Duns was doing a robust weekend and perhaps it would be better to support this one and other local events.

AG confirmed that he had not managed to make further progress on the emptying of the dog waste bins on the community walkway and would report at the next meeting.

BL confirmed that SBC had registered their responsibility for the repair of the Cranshaws Bus Shelter roof and this should be carried out in due course.

9. Matters arising not listed above:

No matters raised.

10. Correspondence Received:

JF received emails and facebook postings on community resilience.

11. Any other business:

MR highlighted that the Reston Railway Station was opening on Monday 23rd May with services going north and south. There are trains going from Reston to Edinburgh Waverley which take 35 mins. There are also 20 EV charging points which are free. Local authorities would not normally pay for infrastructures projects however in this case SBC have made a significant investment.

MR highlighted the PINGO on demand bus service which runs from 7.00am to 21.00pm. You can book online or by telephone. There are 2 buses and they are run by Borders buses so it is a proper bus service. You pay as you go and bus passes are valid. The service covers the LCC area and is proving very successful. LCC should encourage everyone to try the service and give feedback. The service is funded for a year so it is essential that we have enough journeys with a positive response so that we can keep this service long term.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7.30p.m. via Teams

Meeting closed at 21.45