

**Lammermuir Community Council**  
**Ordinary General Meeting**

**Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7:30pm**  
**via Teams**

**Minutes**

**Present: Councillors:**

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

**Minute Secretary:** Dianne Repsch (DR)

**Resident:** Alison Landale (AL)

<b>Agenda</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies:</b></p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Donald Moffat</p>
<p><b>2. Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022</b> - BL confirmed that the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>b) <b>Action Point Document from previous meeting:</b></p> <p>Point 1 - Code of Conduct has been circulated.</p> <p>Point 2 - Information on proposed and current wind farm projects has been circulated. AP said that he understood that collecting this information was the first point of action and that other steps would follow once LCC had analysed the information. AP offered to put together a list of bullet points and add additional material which would support the issues raised at the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Action Point 1:</b> BL asked AP to send this material to DR and this could then be circulated.</p> <p>c) <b>Links Nursery, Duns - Update from Cllr Mark Rowley</b></p> <p>There has now been a community interest company set up and an application has gone to BHA for a short term lease. This means the nursery won't be closing in March 2023. The CIC has started working on a number of funding applications.</p> <p>d) <b>Place Making - Cllr Mark Rowley</b></p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Mark Rowley discussion on this topic was carried forward to the next meeting</p> <p>e) <b>Any other matters:</b></p> <p>No matters were raised</p>

### 3. Treasurer's Report:

<b>BANK BALANCE AS AT 07/12/22</b>	£3,060.58
Payments out (in transit)	£0.00
Payments in (in transit)	£0.00
<b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	£730.55
SBC COVID-19 Funding (ring fenced - no change)	£330.03
Walking Fund (ring fenced - no change)	£2,000.00
<b><u>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT THE LCF)</u></b>	
Defibrillator (incl AED training) (no change)	£884.47
Community Broadband	£1,000.00
Community Website	£617.45
Community Emergency Fund	£8,262.50
LCC Admin Costs	£2,000.00

AD confirmed that the annual grant of £540 had been received from SBC. AD also confirmed that she would request a top up of £2k from LCF for the Admin Costs which should only be a formality.

### 4. Planning Applications:

Notification has been received of the erection of 1.8m deer fencing on land east and west of Whitchester House and the road west of Ellemford Bridge.

AP said that he had sent a letter asking for an extension as it was not clear what was happening with the woodland project and although LCC had received a lot of material recently, some of which was contradictory, there was not enough time for LCC to analyse the application and LCC had not received answers to some of the questions already raised.

BL said he had looked at the maps and they were very instructive and showed where the fencing and gates would be. The area of concern is the area around the Rigfoot Road up to Whitchester and beyond. On the updated issue log the developers do seem to have taken note of the issues raised by LCC. BL also confirmed that once a planning application is made there is usually a month in which any comments and objections can be raised.

**Action Point 2:** AP said he would review all the documents and contact BL with his comments, in particular the date for the submission of LCC's comments.

### 5. Resilience Committee Update:

AG confirmed that the resilience sub group (RSG) had recently discussed how to structure and formalise their emergency plan and further details would follow.

A brief discussion took place as to whether it would be a better proposal to have small generators in Cranshaws, in view of the ongoing repairs required at the village hall, the timescale of the repairs and also

the location of the residents being more spread out. The small generators could be taken to households who have lost power.

JG confirmed that SBC are also looking at having small mobile generators which could be sent to rural areas in the event of a loss of power.

AG thought it would not be realistic for LCC to rely on these resources as SBC would be covering a widespread area.

#### **6. Matters arising not listed above:**

AG raised how someone would apply for funds/grants from local and national government for some of the renewable and energy type of projects such as double glazing, insulation, heat source pumps etc. The costs of the various projects can vary from £500 up to £7,000 which is the current amount a grant from the government could be. A heat source pump could cost 15k so some of the funds would have to come from another source of funding. If someone has had approval from the Scottish Government and offered a grant then the due diligence would have been completed and LCF could then possibly support the project.

CW said he could see that it would work for the application for the smaller amounts of money but the question would be whether it would work for the larger spend applications.

MoR said that she had spoken to Kirsty from Crystal Rig about a similar type of project in houses in Aberdeenshire and one of the challenges had been that a lot of the houses were rented. The question being do you supply the money to an individual or to a household and how that would work. Energy organisations such as Home Energy Scotland and Changeworks are involved to carry out surveys on households that are interested.

MR said that it would be beneficial to speak to someone from Home Energy Scotland or Changeworks because they will have already handled schemes like these and they would have worked out the pros and cons of how to do it. Changeworks have a lot of expertise not only in the technology side but deal with housing associations, private rented and owner occupiers and they are also very good at partnering up funds with other funds.

It was agreed that this item could be discussed at a future meeting.

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#### **7. Correspondence received:**

Correspondence received and circulated to all CC's for Dunside and Lees Hill Wind Farm developments and also the Crystal Rig Solar project.

AP said that he thought it would be worth us taking up the offers to have representatives along to our meetings or arrange a separate meeting so that we could learn more about the projects to add to the material we already have.

MR said that the Crystal Rig solar project was entirely within the LCC area and yet there was not a public exhibition being held in the LCC area. Fred Olsen had confirmed the events were not what the solar panels would look like but were based on the operation and delivery and this was why the exhibitions were in East Lothian and Cocksburnpath. MR was assured that every address in the LCC area would receive the leaflet drop which was going out shortly. MR suggested that LCC invite the developers to the LCC meetings when they are closer to an application stage as they would then have more information on the final designs. EDF are more advanced for the Dunside project and there will be public exhibitions in April/May with a view to lodging a formal application in May.

MR pointed out that all the documents relating to the wind farm projects were on the Energy Consent website. AP agreed to look at the ECU website to gather information on the wind farm proposals.

## **8. Any other business:**

### **King's Coronation and Longformacus Park Opening Ceremony**

BL There will be an event held in the Longformacus Village Hall to commemorate the King's Coronation. The proposal would be that on the Saturday the event would be streamed into the hall and tea/coffees & cakes would be served. On Sunday there is a proposal to hold an opening event for Longformacus Park with a public event, advertised locally with opening ceremony, games and gifts for children. CELCA would be approached to help with funds.

MR confirmed that there would be a small amount of money, perhaps 50k, to be allocated to the community council areas. There is a SBC meeting next week where a decision will be made. The funds would be divided amongst the 69 community councils and graded by size so approximately £500/£600 would be made available to LCC.

AL (Chair of CELCA) joined the meeting and confirmed that an invitation had gone out asking for volunteers to help with the coronation weekend events and a small committee had now been formed. AL asked the community councillors, as they were also CELCA Trustees, to help support and host the weekend events and a request asking for help would be sent out to everyone.

CW raised that the park was not completely finished as there was levelling and re-turfing that needed to be done to put the park back as it was as currently there is a part of the park that is not usable.

AL confirmed that the park play equipment was not signed off yet and the mounds will be grassed over and wild flowers planted. Lorna Pate (CIC) will be writing to SBC as it is their responsibility to carry out the remedial works on the area where the old play equipment was removed. Remedial works will also be carried out where the new play equipment has been installed by the company who installed it

JG said under his portfolio parks and green spaces were involved and he would be able to obtain an official comment from the parks department on what remedial works are the SBC's responsibility.

**Action Point 3:** CW to send JG an email with details.

**Community Clear Up** on Saturday 25th March. It was agreed that a notification should go out via The Herald. LCC already has litter picking equipment.

### **Ellemford Estate Woodland Project:**

BL planning application is in for the deer fencing which was controversial and which has been altered since our concerns were raised. The self closing gates which are suitable for horses as well as people have been addressed and the maps are there for us to look at.

MR asked if LCC had put in a formal response to the planning application as anything LCC have said directly to the developers is now redundant and if you have any comments on the scheme they need to go to the planning officer now as part of the process. They have put in a few gates but access to the landscape is massively restricted. Along the whole extent of the southern up landway as it passes to the west of the fence there is almost no access as there is no gate. MR said in his view LCC should not be supporting the planting of trees on prime quality arable land.

BL said the issues log has been updated and should be examined more thoroughly. The Planning application is just for the fencing and the hedge planting is a separate issue. The trees and hedges are not

subject to planning but they are subject to the Scottish Forestry Department to approve and BL did not think this had been submitted yet.

A detailed discussion took place regarding a formal response from LCC to the planning department. AP confirmed he had sent a letter to the planning department asking for an extension to give LCC more time to form its response. MR agreed to ask the planners if this was possible.

**Action Point 4:** AP agreed to send an email immediately with a brief response with a fuller response to follow next week.

**9. Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.30p.m. to be held at Longformacus Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21.15