

Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association

General Meeting

Tuesday 12th September 2023

7.30pm at Cranshaws Village Hall

Minutes

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale (AL Chairperson), Alison Rodger (Vice Chair AR), Bill Landale (BL), Morag Rodger (MoR), Tony Homer (TH), Alistair Gordon (AG), Pauline Homer (PG), Melvin Landale (ML)

Also Present: Dianne Repsch (DR Minutes), Kim Drysdale (KD Finance)

Applicants: Heather Bewick (HB) (Application 2), Sharon Baker (SB) (Application 4)

1. Welcome/Apologies:

AL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from trustees: Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Anna Dabrowska (AD) Clive Warsop (CW), Ettie Spencer (ES)

Members: Hedley Tomlyn (HT)

2. Previous Minutes:

No amendments were received.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting: Proposed AG 2nd TH

3. Matters Arising:

Actions from previous meeting:

1. Completed
2. Longformacus Park - LP had requested that the £4k should remain in the fund until the accountant has been paid. 2a Work on the Longformacus Hall is expected to commence by the end of the year.
3. Instant Saving Bank Accounts - KD confirmed this was in progress
4. Completed
5. Completed
6. DR to check past minutes for amounts and conditions previously approved for Whiteadder Watersports Trust. DR confirmed there was not anything previously agreed by CELCA regarding the loan payments for the remaining 2 years. AL mentioned that it was a huge cost for a startup charity company to make each year without any government support.

DR as requested reported the following re Whiteadder Sailing Centre:

Funding Application September 2020 - Approved £10,000

Conditions: successful bid for the lease and OSCR granting charity status.

Funding Application June 2021 - £9,420.21

Comprising £6,000 for year 2 payment to SBC and £3,420.21 for rigging and rescue training, cleaner, bin collection, fishing rods, fan, kids wetsuits x 10, bibs and service of fire extinguishers. No conditions.

Funding Application September 2022 - Approved £5,310.00

Approved Boat refurbishment & anchoring equipment, kit management equipment, weather station, security & public video equipment, wetsuits/wet shoes. Conditions: Re-apply in spring and apply to other funders for large paddle boards and kayaks, tablet and screen, audio visual equipment.

7. Date on Yoga Application to be changed to General Meeting on 7th November 2023. Has been approved. Note: Application is being amended.
8. Completed
9. Completed. AL confirmed a laptop had been recommended by KD and AL had checked that it was a suitable laptop with the student. When AL had delivered the laptop he had been thrilled and very excited to receive it. The student is aware that there is also £250 which has been allocated for his law books and he is now at university studying Scots Law.

AL mentioned that BL had previously raised the question about funds being set aside for emergencies and AL confirmed that 10% is set aside. AL has been speaking to OSCR and they too had asked how we managed funds to set aside for an emergency. AL suggested to KD that this should be recorded each year in the report CELCA send to OSCR. KD believed the accountant would show this figure in the accounts.

AL also mentioned that she had spoken to Kirsty Leiper from Fred Olsen regarding how CELCA use our wind farm funds and suggested that CELCA is quite a small area for the amount of funds received and whether when we update our constitution we could choose to widen the area so that we could include the cottages up at the reservoir and we might also think about including down to Windsheil or Duns for people who might submit applications. KP had thought it was an excellent idea and the wind farm would 100% endorse that. It would be entirely up to the trustees to use their discretion and it could be included in the draft constitution.

- AG was in agreement as long as it was at the trustees discretion, all agreed.
- MoR mentioned that there were families who had not been able to access activities such as sailing and swimming because they lived outside of the CELCA area and some of them were only marginally outside the area.
- TH confirmed that the draft constitution already contains a sentence to include this proposal and he was concerned that if we extend the area that CELCA could overlap other funds and perhaps the way forward would be to have discussions with neighbouring funds. No action decided
- TH also mentioned that if sizeable fund requests are received CELCA should not be covering the whole cost they could perhaps be shared between the neighbouring funds. No action decided.
- KD stated that CELCA had overspent on both accounts by £111k last year.
- MoR thought that the area to Hardens and the golf course is not covered by any wind farm funds. She also thought Gavinton was not covered by wind farm funds.

DECISION: As financial discussions are due to take place between the trustees it was generally agreed to put the above discussion on hold. The draft amended constitution is being discussed at a Management Group on the 19th September 2023.

4. Treasurer's Report:

KD confirmed that the funding available for CELCA 1 is £25,098.19 and in CELCA 2 there is £43,372.44 so in total there is £68,470.63 available for funding at present. There is a payment expected this month from the CWP Wind Farm of £25k. CELCA 1 has already received £43K and it is increasing each year. It is expected that there will be a further payment of £50k before the year end. The Longformacus Park development had used a large part of the funds that had been available and the Longformacus Village Hall is another project which will use a large amount of funds which has been included in the budget.

AL confirmed that a report had been sent to CWP to trigger the September payment.

There was a short discussion on the Aikengall Agreement and AL agreed to send the agreement for AG to review.

Action 1: Aikengall Agreement to be sent to AG. AL/DR to do.

KD asked for £2k to be made available for the postage fund. Proposed ML 2nd AG

CELCA 1 - Fred Olsen Renewables

5 September 2023	£100,015.61
Payments out - in transit	£0.00
Payments in - in transit	£0.00
22/23 Participants Contribution	£576.62
Current Balance	£99,438.99
Allocated to projects	£69,340.00
Set Aside for Running Costs	£5,000.00
Available for Funding	£25,098.19

CELCA 2 - Community Wind Power

4 September 2023	£111,468.07
Payments out - in transit	£0.00
Payments in - in transit	£0.00
19/20 Participants Contribution	£0.00
Current Balance	£111,468.07
Allocated to projects	£68,095.63
Set Aside for Running Costs	£0.00
Available for Funding	£43,372.44

5. Funded Project Updates -

AL read out the following feedback which had been received:

Swimming/Teen Challenge - Report from Kirsty Inkpen - The Manager Duns Swimming Pool

The Whitchester Group benefits greatly from coming to the pool. It benefits them mentally and physically. It also forms a crucial part of their recovery and helps them integrate back into normal life. They are largely from disadvantaged backgrounds and many have never had the opportunity to swim

before. Their confidence has improved and their ability to engage and follow instructions with the staff improves with every session. They have been well behaved and very polite to the staff. Our pool staff all receive equality & diversity training and therefore I would hope that all my staff have an open and inclusive attitude to all. Whitchester has become a group we look forward to having swimming at the pool once a week. I think what CELCA is doing to help these people is great and must be commended to be able to turn people's lives around has to be worth it.

Cranshaws Larders: Maureen Ferguson reported the larder is well used and much appreciated by the community here. We thank CELCA very much for supporting the larder. We try to mix things up a wee bit between food for the cupboard, toiletries and cleaning materials. Everyone seems very happy with what is put in the larder and I have had no complaints from anyone or anyone saying that there is something else that they would like to see added.

AG confirmed that he visited the Cranshaws food larder occasionally to check all was ok and said that there were always food items available.

HB confirmed that the Longformacus Larder was going well and everyone liked the new location.

AG expressed his thanks to all the volunteers who diligently stock the larder and spend time ensuring it all runs smoothly.

ML proposed that CELCA send flowers to MF and CC with a thank you card and this was 2nd by AG.

Action 2: DR would arrange to buy and send the flowers and cards to the value of £25/£30.

Whiteadder Sailing Centre:

TH raised that local people using the centre but not booked on a course are not benefitting from the CELCA funding and whether there are other activities we could be offering support for.

A discussion took place regarding advertising to the community about the subsidised places on the sailing courses via The Herald or by postcard.

KD confirmed that there was £2,200 in the Whiteadder fund for sailing & paddleboarding courses and £3,200 in the Whiteadder Watersports fund for ongoing work at the centre.

AG suggested that if CELCA were funding the Whiteadder loan could spare spaces on courses not be offered to the CELCA community in particular if the course was running but not at full capacity as they would receive some income as each person pays a contribution and CELCA are subsidising the rest.

TH suggested that we hold a meeting with Whiteadder to find a way to take this forward. A discussion took place regarding possibly having membership cards issued to funded members

Action 3: AL to speak to John Hall, one of their Trustees to put the suggestions of a membership scheme, filling spare places on courses and ensuring that the use of the Whiteadder Centre is exclusive to everyone so that drop in customers are catered for under the subsidised funding provided by CELCA.

Action 4: MoR and SD to make contact with the new Manager, Kayleigh Nicolson at the Whiteadder Centre to suggest having a meeting to take forward the ideas for filling the courses by advertising via The Herald, improve communications so that the CELCA community is more aware of what activities are available.

6. Applications for funding:

6.1 Cranshaws Larder - Application 1 Amount Requested £1,300.00

The funding application would be for funds to continue the Cranshaws Larder which is working very well and which the community are very grateful for. Everyone is very pleased with the selection of food provided. Everyone is encouraged to only take what is necessary for themselves and their family so that there is plenty to go round.

AL suggested that the funds for the Cranshaws Larder should be increased so that there would be sufficient funds until March 2024.

Proposed ML 2nd AR - Amount Approved £2,800.00

6.2 Stitch and Craft - Application 2 Amount Requested £360.00

Funding application would be for funds to continue with the Stitch and Craft Social which has a small group of regular attendees. The main aim is to continue bringing community members together and encourage creativity and to share and learn new skills. The amount requested is to pay for the hire of the village hall.

A discussion took place as to whether the amount requested was sufficient and it was agreed that the amount should be increased to £560 to cover the social through to March 2024.

Proposed ML 2nd AR - Amount Approved £560.00

6.3 Longformacus Larder - Application 3 Amount Requested £1,800.00

Funding application is to continue to supply food items for the Longformacus Larder. The larder continues to help the community and is very much appreciated by everyone who uses it.

AL suggested that the funds for the Longformacus Larder should be increased so that there would be sufficient funds until March 2024.

Proposed AL 2nd TH - Amount Approved £4,200.00

6.4 Swimming/Teen Challenge - Application 4 Amount Requested £4,263.00

Funding application to continue to fund subsidised membership of Duns Swimming Pool for community residents and provide free swimming lessons for children. Also applying for a further 6 months of swimming for the Teen Challenge to top up the application made in March 2023 which could not be approved in full at the time.

Since the application was submitted in June 2023, there are a further 6 children added to the list for lessons, so if this application is approved, the fund would be providing swimming lessons for 27 babies and children in the community. This is a potential life-saving skill which will benefit them all their lives.

The annual swimming membership has been well received. The aim is to encourage a long-term habit of swimming for health and well-being and to enable children to learn how to swim. To make the scheme affordable to all, participants contribute 30%, which means people gain access to all the membership benefits of the pool for a very reasonable cost. The funding is open to all ages and is encouraging families to participate in physical activity together. This scheme has run for several years now, very kindly and efficiently managed by SB. ML offered our sincere thanks to her on behalf of the community.

SB confirmed that she had allowed for 2 contingency places to allow for last minute applications. KD confirmed there was £1,400.00 currently held in the swimming fund. Teen Challenge residents contribute £20 per week to the cost of pool hire.

Children's swimming lessons (fully funded)	7 @ £260.00	£1,495.00
Annual Memberships are funded at 70%:		
Family Memberships	2 @ £402.00	£804.00

Over 60 Memberships	2 @ £175.00	£350.00
Top Up Funding for Teen Challenge		£2,205.00
Withdrawn membership		-£231.00
Total Amount Requested		£4,623.00

Proposed AR 2nd ML - Amount Approved £4,623.00

6.5 Owl Boxes - Application 5 Amount Requested £900.00

Applying for additional funding for 5 Barn and 5 Tawny nest boxes to be erected within the CELCA area. We have a huge and varied area of both farming and moorland. Owl boxes provide interest and education for everyone; they improve sites for the birds and preserve wildlife. They also encourage exercise and fresh air to benefit the health of local people as they go to observe what is happening with the owls.

A box on Cranshaws Community Walk would add interest for walkers and possibly one around Longformacus Park.

There have been a number of boxes put up already around 45 in total about 3-4 years ago. We have been asked for more now by people who have had none, and several people asked if they could have a second box. Barn Owls often use 2 boxes close to one another. Tawny owls nest in a different type of location from Barn Owls. It can take up to 3 years for a pair of owls to use a site or box provided, but once happy there, they keep returning. From September onwards is an ideal time to provide nesting boxes to give the birds optimum time to examine and possibly decide to use CELCA ones.

The original application was for 10 boxes in total; to date we have provided around 20 Barn and 14 Tawny boxes.

A retired Berwickshire gentleman from Hutton has been making the boxes, which is why we decided to use him when the first application was presented; 2 other local people kindly collected and delivered boxes in the past.

This application is because there has been a request from a resident from a farm, as they would like to have one or two. Another request had come in from a resident whose box was damaged in Storm Arwen.

Any funds not used will be reabsorbed at the next meeting and post cards will be sent out to advertise as well as request any pictures of owls which have been using the CELCA boxes.

After a discussion it was agreed to provide 10 Barn Owl Boxes @ £90 = £900.00 and 10 Tawny Owl Boxes @ £90 = £900.00 Totalling £1800.00. It was also agreed it should be one new box per household and a request would be made to install the box within 2 months and to send a photo.

Proposed TH 2nd AG - Amount Approved £1800.00

6.6 Duns Players - Amount Requested £12,494.00

A funding application was made by Duns Players for funding assistance for an outdoor theatre and hub to be located in Polwarth on land owned by one of the senior members of the Duns Players. After careful consideration by the trustees it was rejected on the basis that they had not applied for any match funding, nor done any safety analysis or due diligence on their ideas of improving a building - hence this would not meet CELCA criteria at this time

6.7 Creative Art - Amount Requested £2,870.00

A funding application was made by Lammermuir Creative Workshops to run art workshops in Yester Primary School. After careful consideration it was determined that the application would not meet the funding criteria as the children of the CELCA area do not attend this school which is well out of our locality, the application was rejected.

7. Advance Notes of Intention:

This is an opportunity to let CELCA know if a new application is being considered and no advance notes of intention were received.

8. Any other Business:

1. OSCR: AL said that she had spoken to OSCR regarding the previous correspondence which CELCA had exchanged with OSCR regarding THT. It was accepted by OSCR that the funds that had been allocated by CELCA was to offer subsidised treatments to residents. The funds were held in the CELCA bank account and only paid to THT once the treatments had taken place. OSCR said it was really important that we understood why we were funding each application and in this case it would be to promote health and well being within the community.

A discussion took place and the following points agreed:

- The application form should include the charitable criteria and the applicants should tick which ones apply to their application.
- DR to be aware of how OSCR break down the charitable status and have a list of the requirements
- If CELCA was showing the criteria requirements on the applications on the website OSCR would know that we were following the guidelines.
- It was raised that the names of the applicants are often the name of the organisation, even though we are not funding the organisation and this should be changed to be more accurate.
- Each applicant should work out the unit cost and then CELCA can agree the subsidised cost for the residents.

Action 5: DR to prepare a list of the criteria requirements and amend the application form on the website to include the criteria requirements possibly via a tick box. DR to ensure the names of the applications are accurate and to ensure that the unit cost has been calculated correctly.

2. CAP - Hedley Tomlyn correspondence: A copy of the correspondence sent to HT and a copy of his reply which had been sent to The Herald and forwarded to DR was circulated at the meeting. It had not been possible to circulate prior to the meeting as it had arrived so close to the meeting start time.

As a recap AL explained that HT had offered to assist with the updating of the constitution which the trustees had decided to undertake themselves at a management group meeting on the 13th June 2023.

A discussion took place and a vote was taken: It was unanimously agreed that HT should be invited to attend the next management group meeting on Tuesday 19th September 2023 being held at Cranshaws Village Hall with a view to discussing his latest correspondence. It was also agreed that HT should be offered a co-opted position on the committee.

Action 6: AL to write to HT to invite him to the management group meeting on the 19th September 2023 and offer him a co-opt position on the committee.

3. Bin Missed Collections: AG raised the issue of the missed bin collections which had been discussed at the recent LCC meeting. At the LCC meeting it was agreed that a letter should be sent to SBC raising the concerns of residents at the number of missed collections as it appeared to be happening on a regular basis.

It was generally agreed that SBC would not collect from bins that they did not own and it would be better to await the outcome of the letter to SBC to decide next steps. However, AG had contacted SBC on this

matter and afterwards labelled his bins, 'SBC contacted' - as a result his recycling bins had been emptied.

4. Treasurer Vacancy: KD raised that it was imperative that a Treasurer was appointed. AG suggested she stand down as Vice-Chair and to become the Treasurer. Proposed BL 2nd AG

5. Vice-Chair Vacancy: TH suggested that this was offered to CW. As CW was not present at the meeting AL would contact him. Proposed MoR 2nd AG

Action 7: AL to contact CW to offer the Vice-Chair position.

9. Date of next CELCA General Meeting and Annual General Meeting:

Tuesday 7th November 2023 to be held at Longformacus Village Hall at 7.00p.m.

Meeting closed at 21.30