

Lammermuir Community Council Ordinary General Meeting

Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7:30pm
Longformacus Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Councillors:

Bill Landale (Chair) (BL), Tony Homer (Vice-Chair) (TH), Alastair Gordon (AG), Cllr Mark Rowley (MR)

Minute Secretary: Dianne Repsch (DR)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

BL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from: Cllr Donald Moffat (DM), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Cllr John Greenwell (JG), Morag Rodger (MoR) Anna Dabrowska (AD) Clive Warsop (CW)

2. Matters Arising:

a) **Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2023** - BL confirmed that the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved as a true record of the meeting and have been published on the Lammermuir website.

b) **Action Point Document from previous meeting:**

Action Point 1: Letter to Fred Olsen sent and reply received.

Action Point 2: Completed

Action Point 3: The action was completed but funds have not been drawn down from CELCA.

Action Point 4: Completed

Action Point 5: Completed

Action Point 6: Completed

Action Point 7: Completed

Action Point 8: Letter to SBC on bin collections being redrafted by AG.

Action Point 9: Completed and reply received from Dunside Wind Farm

Action Point 10: on hold as contractors were consulted on 12th October 2023. Quotes being prepared.

Action 1: DR to liaise with KD to organise the drawdown of the payment.

Action 2: DR to send redrafted letter to SBC

Any other matters arising:

No matters raised.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance as at 06/12/23	£1,322.62
Payments out (in transit)	£0.00
Payments in (in transit)	£0.00
Walking Fund (partially absorbed)	£1,000.00
COMMUNITY COUNCIL	£322.62
<u>(LCC PROJECT FUNDING – RING FENCED AT CELCA)</u>	
Defibrillator (incl AED training) (no change)	£884.47
Community Broadband	£1,000.00
Community Website	£268.08
Community Emergency Fund	£0.00
LCC Admin Costs	£2,000.00

It was confirmed that the Annual Support Grant of £540 has been applied for and will be processed once the AGM Draft Minutes have been submitted to SBC. After a discussion it was agreed that AGM should be brought forward to April 2024 so that it would be in line with LCC's Constitution which states the AGM should be within 60 days of the financial year end.

TH queried if the £1k for the Community Broadband should be released from this fund as there had not been any requirements to draw from this fund for some time.

The Community Emergency Fund fund is now at zero

TH queried why the Defibrillator amount had not reduced as replacement pads had been purchased recently.

There was a discussion regarding signatories for the bank account and it was agreed that this should now be three signatories and these should be BL, TH and KD (if he agrees to take over the financial role for LCC)

Action 3: DR to organise the change of signatories for the bank account

Action 4: DR to check what the correct amount for the Defibrillator fund should now be.

4. Planning Applications:

None received since the last meeting.

5. Longformacus Lychgate War Memorial:

Cllr Mark Rowley confirmed that matters were progressing with the War Memorial Trust and he was receiving assistance from an officer at SBC with regards to funding. MR would complete a funding

application to submit to CELCA early in the New Year.

6. Update from Community Councillors:

Paths Maintenance Grant:

As agreed work on the gate and cutting back of the gorse on the walk from Ellemford to Abbey St Bathans would be carried out with a local fencing company. LCC would pay for the work using the walking fund and DR would submit a claim to SBC for the £450 which is the grant being given to local community councils for paths maintenance. DR liaising with the fencing company to find out when the work can be carried out.

Action 5: DR to submit claim to SBC for the grant of £450.

Bins Recycling Missed Collections: letter is being re-drafted by AG and when ready it will be sent to SBC. (Action 2 refers)

BT Openreach - Postcode checker: DR reported on the following postcodes

Longformacus: TD11 3NT, 3NU, 3NX, 3NY, 3PF - fibre planned between December 23 - December 2026

Longformacus: TD11 3NZ, 3PA, 3PB, 3PD, 3PE - currently have ultra fast broadband available

Ellemford: TD11 3SG - fibre planned between December 23 - December 2026

Cranshaws: TD11 3SL, 3SJ - fibre planned between December 23 - December 2026

Action 6: DR to complete the postcode checker on BT Openreach for postcode TD11 3SF

Reply received from Fred Olsen (FO) for Crystal Rig Solar:

The proposals for Crystal Rig Solar will provide community benefit of £500 per MW. This equates to £13,500 a year – index linked. FO discussed previously that there is no guidance in place for solar development at present. All of the information for the project can be found at www.crystalrigwindfarm.com
The distribution/split of the community benefit is yet to be agreed.

Action 7: DR to ask MoR for feedback from the last CLG meeting which took place on 29/11/23.

Fallago Wind Farm:

The Fallago Wind Farm fund is not distributed to any local community councils. The fund is managed by the Tweed Forum and is open for grants across the whole of the Scottish Borders. The grants are awarded twice a year in March and September. There are two funding streams: a main grants programme and a core funding programme. The emphasis is on capital projects that are new and they only fund 50% so you have to prove you can match fund the remaining 50% of the project. It is only open to community, voluntary or charitable groups or other relevant organisations. The projects must fall within the Scottish Borders local authority area or the parish of Gifford. The projects have to contribute to the aim of the fund. Further information [HERE](#)

7. Correspondence received:

Ellemford Woodland Estate:

The Ellemford Estate near Duns is currently in the process of being independently evaluated for entry into the UKFCG (UK Forest Certification Ltd) forest management group scheme. LCC were given an opportunity to comment on any aspect of management of the woodland. If successful, membership of the UKFCG, FSC and PEFC certified forest management group scheme will demonstrate that these woodlands are well managed according to UKWAS and FSC and PEFC rules.

Crystal Rig Solar:

A further public exhibition took place on Tuesday 21st November 2023 in Longformacus Village Hall to give updated proposals prior to the submission of FO's application to the Scottish Government before the end of

the year.

Longcroft Wind Farm:

RES has submitted a Section 36 application for consent to the Scottish Government for Longcroft Wind Farm, a wind farm and energy storage proposal in the Scottish Borders. <http://www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk>. The latest project newsletter was mailed out to 1,300 properties in the local area and circulated to the community councillors. Notification for the Energy Consents Unit has not been received asking LCC to respond to the scoping request. DR advised that the deadline is 24th January 2024 as advertised in the media.

Action 8: DR to monitor this proposal and keep the community councillors informed.

Review of Financial Support to Community Councils

Recommendations from the Review of Financial Support to Community Councils will be presented to the Executive Committee at their meeting on 14 November. Approved recommendations that have a financial implication will be included in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

A summary of the recommendations is set out in section 14 of the report. A 'summary of the summary' is set out below:

Financial

- Increase annual support grant by 10%
- Cover all insurance costs as they currently stand – the cost of cover for any new assets or events, added in 2024/25 onwards, will need to be met by the community council.
- Increase maximum Local Community Path Maintenance grant from £450 to £600.
- Review the support grant every three years.

Terms & conditions

- The annual support grant to be used to support operational costs in the first instance. Any remaining funds thereafter may be used to support community council projects/initiatives that benefit the local community.
- Community Councils are no longer able to pass funds from the annual support grant to other groups by way of grant or donation. SBC's Community Engagement Officers are available to support any groups seeking funding.

SBCCN

- Council officers to support SBCCN to review its purpose and objectives, and explore locality based networks, in consultation with community councils.
- Annual support grant to be held at current level until the Network's future has been agreed

All the recommendations contained in the report, on the Review of Financial Support to Community Councils, were agreed by the Executive Committee and will now be considered at the budget discussions .

8. Any other business:

TH suggested LCC should consider building a better relationship with local wind farms and at a future meeting discuss how to take this forward in the way of a community plan. This should be handled by LCC and not CELCA. It was agreed that a plan should be drawn up and decisions made on whether LCC need to involve outside expertise.

AG suggested a forum for discussion with other neighbouring community councils.

Action 9: DR to add community action plan to Agenda for next meeting

9. Date of next meeting:

Ordinary General Meetings to be held on:

Wednesday 31st January 2024 via Teams 7.30p.m.

Wednesday 13th March 2024 at Cranshaws Village Hall 7.30p.m.

Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday 24th April 2024 at Longformacus Village Hall 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 21.50