

Lammermuir Community Council Ordinary General Meeting

Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7:30pm
Via Teams

Minutes

Present: Councillors:

Bill Landale (Chair) (BL), Tony Homer (Vice-Chair) (TH), Morag Rodger (MoR), Alastair Gordon (AG), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Anna Dabrowska (AD), Cllr Mark Rowley (MR), Cllr Donald Moffat (DM)

Minute Secretary: Dianne Repsch (DR)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

BL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from: Cllr John Greenwell (JG), Clive Warsop (CW)

2. Matters Arising:

a) **Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 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: Completed

Action Point 2: Completed

Action Point 3: Bank signatories in process of being changed

Action Point 4: Completed

Action Point 5: Completed

Action Point 6: Completed

Action Point 7: Completed

Action Point 8: Completed

Action Point 9: Completed

Any other matters arising:

BL confirmed that the signatories for the bank account would be BL, MoR, KD and TH. There had been some issues working with the bank to make the necessary changes but this was in progress.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance as at 06/12/23 **£1,322.62**

Income:

CELCA £2,000.00

SBC Annual Support Grant £540.00

Paths Maintenance Grant £450.00

Payments:

Admin £1,052.55

Maintenance £594.00

Insurance £61.60

Bank Balance as at 21/02/24 **£2,604.47**

LCC Project Funding – Ring Fenced at CELCA as at 21/02/24

Defibrillator (incl AED training)	£723.79
Community Broadband	£1,000.00
Community Website	£268.08
Community Emergency Fund	£0.00
LCC Admin Costs	£0.00

A discussion took place:

- Should funds be moved back into the walking fund
- Should the walking fund be renamed
- Should the funds be spent

MR historically the ring fenced walking fence was a pool of money received from FORL which was to be used to promote walking in the region and it was at the time LCC was involved with the Walking Festival. Monies left over from this was ring fenced into the walking fund. It is no longer possible for LCC to hold money in a separate fund and MR's advice was to come up with a plan to spend this money within the community (such as more signs, walking routes etc) so that LCC could continue to receive its annual support grant.

BL confirmed that the annual support grant which was intended to support the work of the community council was being used correctly in particular to cover the administration costs. The administration costs exceed the amount of the annual support grant and LCC then applies to CELCA for assistance.

It was **agreed** to no longer use the walking fund or have any other type of fund and to spend the money available in the bank account and if and when necessary make a funding application to CELCA.

4. Planning Applications:

Planning application received for an extension to the dwellinghouse of Garden Cottage, 13 The Row, Longformacus, TD11 3PA. Observations should be submitted by 5th March 2024. There were no observations from the community councillors. It was agreed that MR would review the planning application and let us know if there were any observations LCC should be making.

5. Community Action Plan:

MR stated that SBC are encouraging community councils to create community action plans and that LCC have a responsibility to create a community plan. SBC policy is about communities developing their own plans and feeding into regional plans. As LCC has access to funds a discussion should take place about what LCC would like to have in terms of more homes, businesses, developing tourism and how to sustain facilities such as school buses and village halls. MR's suggests that LCC invest in proper place planning assisted by experts who could produce a scoping report on the area and it would highlight issues such as the lack of affordable housing.

MoR raised how do we engage the community in this plan and could we link in with Duns. MoR also mentioned that the land in the community is privately owned so where we would get the land to build the social housing. Housing in the Borders is at crisis point and is only going to get worse in the next few years. Food and energy costs are also at an all time high which is having a huge impact on local residents.

DM mentioned that if LCC had a plan you could identify that you need social housing as a priority.

BL there is a primary need for a piece of research to be done before we can move forward on this. Help would be required to gather comments from the community.

MR offered to bring a range of options to the next meeting.

Action 1: MR to bring options on place planning next steps to next meeting

6. Longformacus Lychgate War Memorial:

MR confirmed that he would be making an application to CELCA for a sum of £3,000 which would cover the engagement of a conservation architect because of the status of the monument. The war memorial is owned by SBC and it appears on their asset register. If LCC were able to raise funds to support the restoration SBC would be prepared to asset transfer to a community body. The War Memorial Trust will require an in depth report from the architect to assist with funding.

Action 2: DR to remind MR to submit the CELCA application before the deadline on 26th February 2024

7. Crystal Rig Wind Farm:

Correspondence received from Fred Olsen (FORL): The earliest phase of Crystal Rig has been operational for over 20 years and is coming to its end of life. FORL are therefore exploring the opportunities for Crystal Rig to become more efficient and continue to deliver a positive impact locally. A planning application for an anemometer mast which will measure wind speeds has been submitted. The information from the mast and information gained from local consultation and technical assessments, will help to inform any future planning application at Crystal Rig. Any proposals will be subject to extensive public consultation with the community and key stakeholders and all project updates will be available at www.crystalrigwindfarm.co.uk.

Crystal Rig Solar:

MoR confirmed that she had been liaising with Kirsty Leiper from FORL regarding the community fund and whether there is a specific way LCC would like to use the community benefit funds. TH had suggested that we should request more information on what is being offered so that we could make a decision. It was agreed that it would be best to hear from KL directly.

Action 3: MoR to invite KL to the next community council meeting.

Longcroft Wind Farm:

Gordon and Westruther Community Council have objected to the proposal and a copy of the objection was circulated to the CC's on 14th February 2024. AP sent an email saying LCC should support the objection. AP felt that it was a regional issue and therefore LCC should be responding. It was agreed that AP should draft a response and submit this for review by the community councillors.

Action 4: AP to draft a response regarding the Longcroft development for the community councillors to review.

Lees Hill Wind Farm:

The first meeting of the Community Liaison Group meeting is being held on the 18th March 2024.

Dunside Wind Farm: Correspondence from EDF: They have now received the consultation responses and are considering the next steps. Specifically based on the feedback received they are anticipating the relocation of two borrow pits and potentially moving the locations of two turbines. Further information will be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit.

8. Update from Community Councillors:

Paths Maintenance Grant:

This work has been completed on the gate, repairs to the walkway and cutting back of the gorse on the walk from Ellemford to Abbey St Bathans. The paths maintenance grant of £450 has been received.

BT Openreach - Postcode checker: DR reported on the following postcode for TD11 3SF confirming that fibre is planned between now and December 2026

9. Correspondence received:

Long Term Forest Plan for Longformacus Estate Woodlands 2nd plan and correspondence received which continues works started under Plan 1 but will accelerate the move towards converting many of the shelter belts and farm woodlands to broadleaved or mixed woodland with a view to creating long term woodland cover for landscape, shelter and sporting use. Many of the woods were badly damaged by Storm Arwen in 2021 and these need to be felled and tidied in the summer of 2024 and represents the major focus for the next felling phase. A second phase of felling (2030 to 2034) will be undertaken as coniferous plantations mature but this will largely see the end of the felling programme.

Grass Cutting Pilot:

Correspondence received from Park Management advising of a new grass cutting pilot to take place between April and September 2024. The following areas were listed in the pilot. Grass cutting of Cranshaws verges and Churchyard and for Longformacus the cemetery, Churchyard (1 cut per year) recreation ground and verges.

Budget Survey:

The Scottish Budget Survey was circulated to community councillors and also via The Herald encouraging residents to complete the survey.

10. Any other business

Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund:

BL raised that there had been no report received from AP on Blackhill Wind Farm and as he was representing LCC on the Board of Directors there should be an update provided to each LCC meeting going forward. AP confirmed that a number of the projects funded were not from our area and there is an exchange of emails prior to each meeting to decide on the funding. AP confirmed that 90% of the funding decisions were made prior to the meetings and it was possible to vote by email.

Action 5: A report to be prepared by AP prior to the next community council meeting

11. Date of next meeting:

As the Annual General Meeting should be 60 days from the end of the financial year which is the 31/3/2024 the AGM followed by the OGM will be held on 24th April 2024 at Longformacus Village Hall 7.00p.m.

Meeting closed at 22.00