

Lammermuir Community Council Ordinary General Meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 8:15pm
Longformacus Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Councillors:

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

Also Present: Dianne Repsch (Treasurer/Administrator) (DR)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

BL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

2. Matters Arising:

a) **Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024** - 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 OGM meeting:**

Action Point 1: MR mentioned Julie Nock who is an experienced facilitator in the place planning field and would be able to come along to one of the LCC meetings if required. The priority should be to get the place plan underway. MR also suggested looking at similar sized communities to find out what progress they are making.

Action Point 2: In progress - application to CELCA has not yet been submitted by MR. Conservation Architect is in place so the application can now be submitted.

Action Point 3: Postponed

Action Point 4: Draft response regarding Longcroft Wind Farm still outstanding AP to do.

Action Point 5: Report on Blackhill Wind Farm to be prepared by AP still outstanding.

Any other matters arising:

No other matters were raised

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance as at 21/2/24	£2,604.47
Income:	
Bank of Scotland Compensation	£100.00
Payments:	
Admin	£452.50
Finance Costs	£85.00
Travel	£4.50
Bank Balance as at 24/04/24	£2,062.47

LCC Project Funding – Ring Fenced at CELCA as at 24/04/24

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

4. Planning Applications:

PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION UPGRADE AT CORNERSTONE 10961904, HARDENS HILL, DUNS, BORDERS, TD11 3NS. NGR: E: 373883, N: 654419

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. As part of Cornerstone's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at the above location to provide improved technical provisions, greater capacity and coverage in the area. Correspondence was received and circulated to the Community Councillors and no observations were made.

5. Blackhill Wind Farm - Report:

AP was not in attendance at the meeting so the Blackhill Wind Farm report was held over to the next meeting.

Action 1: AP to provide a report on Blackhill Wind Farm for next meeting.

6. Longformacus Lychgate War Memorial:

MR confirmed that he would be making an application to CELCA for a sum of £3,000 in time for the next general meeting. The deadline being 20th May 2024 which would cover the engagement of a conservation architect because of the status of the monument.

Action 2: DR to remind MR to submit the CELCA application before the deadline on 20th May 2024.

7. Community Councillors - Update on ongoing projects:

Crystal Rig Solar:

As MoR was not in attendance at the meeting DR raised the CLG meeting which was taking place Monday 29th April 2024 at Innerwick Village Hall. As the community benefit fund was an agenda item MoR thought it would be useful for another community councillor to attend the meeting. It was agreed that BL or TH would attend with MoR.

Action 3: DR to liaise with MoR, BL & TH regarding attendance at the meeting.

A general discussion took place regarding the wind farms and the community benefit funds.

The following points were raised:

- Should LCC seek legal advice to find out the best way to safeguard the community.
- Should LCC make a case for keeping the community benefit funds at community level.
- Should LCC contact Fred Olsen to review the relationship.

- Are community benefits received by other areas index linked?
- Should we start negotiations to amend our current agreements
- The generated capacity payments do not include any payment for solar projects
- Lees Hill has all three elements - battery, turbines and solar
- Currently Aikengall IIa is not paying out any community benefits. Aikengall III is under construction and Aikengall IV is under consent.

Action 4: DR to research information on Aikengall IIa.

Longcroft Wind Farm:

It was agreed at the meeting on 21/02/2024 that AP should draft a response and submit this for review by the community councillors.

Action 5: AP to draft a response regarding the Longcroft development for the community councillors to review.

Lees Hill Wind Farm:

MoR attended the first meeting of the Community Liaison Group which was held on the 18th March 2024. It was mainly an introduction to the Fred Olsen team. The planning application has now been submitted and LCC has received notice from The Energy Consents Unit with responses to the notice to be received by the ECU by 31st May 2024.

The Notice sets out the following:

On 16 April 2024 Fred.Olsen Renewables, submitted an application under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ('the Act') for the Scottish Ministers' consent to construct and operate Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park located approximately 5km west of Duns in the planning authority of Scottish Borders Council. The proposed Development consists of the construction, 35 year operation of up to 6 wind turbines with a blade tip height up to 200m, a battery energy storage system, photovoltaic solar panels, and including associated ancillary infrastructure.

In accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA regulations') and regulations made under Schedule 8(1) to the Act, details of the application will be published in the Edinburgh Gazette, the Scotsman, the Southern Reporter and the Borders Telegraph (for two consecutive weeks). The date of the first advert is on 17 April 2024 and the date of the final advert will be 25th April 2024.

In accordance with the EIA Regulations a consultation in respect of the application must be carried out. To support the Scottish Government's aims to "*drive the future transformation of Scotland's planning system to provide a simpler and more consistent online experience across Scotland*" you can also review the EIA Report and associated documents online. www.energyconsents.scot

Action 6: DR Request the USB and also one copy of the plans.

Letter from Chair to SBC regarding statutory obligations:

BL confirmed that he was liaising with SBC to source information on SBC's statutory obligations as pertains to our local community area (Duns and environs), specifically, with reference to the following:

- Public Roads upkeep & safety.
- Bin collections
- Playgrounds & Sport facilities
- School equipment (including classrooms)
- Road Signage (eg settlement names, viewpoints, speed restrictions)

8. Correspondence received:

Dunside Wind Farm: Correspondence received from EDF giving an update on the application for Dunside

Wind Farm. EDF submitted their application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit last year. Historic Environment Scotland have expressed concerns about the impact upon the setting of a historic feature - The Mutiny Stones Monument. EDF are currently exploring design changes which aim to alleviate the concerns surrounding this.

Insurance:

Zurich Municipal have advised that Community Councils should now only complete a renewal form every three years. Any changes required to the policy should be advised to the Zurich Municipal in the usual way. There will be a 5% increase in the insurance premium charge from last year due to the rising costs occurring in the overall market at present. Invoice is paid by direct debit.

Some community councils have equipment, provided by SBC, which is used by their Resilience Group. Should anything happen to this equipment SBC will replace it free of charge and so does not need to be added to the community council's insurance policy. This equipment is as follows: Head Torches, Hand lamps, Shoe grippers, Plastic ID Card holders, Waterproof Gloves, Thermal Gloves, Rigger Gloves, Community Council' Hi-Viz Bibs, First Aid Kits, Hard Hats, Salt spreader, Standard Shovel, Snow shovel, Wheelbarrow, Sack barrow, Padlock and Litter picker.

Renewable Energy Concerns in Scottish Borders:

Email received from Bob Hope, Chair, Leitholm Eccles and Birgham Community Council for the purpose of trying to establish what challenges are facing communities in dealing with the high number and concentrations of renewable energy (including battery energy storage systems) planning applications and developments in the Scottish Borders. Circulated to the community councillors and response sent to Bob Hope asking him to keep LCC informed of developments. A further email asked if LCC would be interested in sending a representative to a meeting to discuss this topic so that community councils could collectively work together on the issue.

King's Portrait:

Correspondence received for LCC to apply for one King's Portrait to be displayed within the community. Only one per community council is allowed. DR has applied for one on behalf of LCC.

Survey on Food Poverty:

A communication was sent asking Community Councillors and residents to complete a survey so that SBC could collect data on food poverty. The survey was circulated to community councillors and a notification was sent out via The Herald encouraging residents to complete the survey.

9. Any other business

Jim Clark Rally is taking place on the 24th May to 26th May 2024. There are no road closures in the Lammermuir area this year as the route has been changed with other stops at Langton and Blackadder instead.

10. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 26th June 2024 via Teams

Meeting closed at 21.00