

Lammermuir Community Council
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7:30pm
at Longformacus Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Bill Landale (BL), Tony Homer (TH), Alastair Gordon (AG), Cllr Mark Rowley (MR)

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

Resident: Alison Landale (AL)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

Cllr Donald Moffat, Clive Warsop (CW), Cllr John Greenwell (JG), Morag Rodger (MoR), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Anna Dabrowska (AD)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th December 2023:

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

3. Matters Arising:

No matters were raised.

4. Chairman's Report 2024

Tree Planting - Ellemford Estate. Under new ownership. Greenhope Top is now planted. The fencing has been completed and the gates give access for walkers and riders. There is also a new Gamekeeper Jack Scott and the underkeeper is Callum. The Rigfoot area of the original plan has now been shelved.

Longformacus Estate Forestry Plan – there are changes being phased to the forest composition post Storm Arwen. There will be predominantly hardwoods replacing the blown down areas and existing coniferous plantations. The replacement trees will be birch, sycamore, beech and conifer.

Update on Wind Farms:

There are a number of wind farm proposals in the Lammermuir area which are at various stages of planning. **The Lees Hill Wind Farm** proposal is the development causing the most concern as it will have a huge impact on the views in the Lammermuir area. The planning application has now been submitted to the ECU. **The Longcroft Wind Farm** which borders the LCC area also has submitted an application to the ECU. **Dunside Wind Farm** who submitted their application last year are in negotiations with Historic Environment Scotland who have expressed concerns about the impact upon the setting of a historic feature - the Mutiny Stones Monument. There is also the extension to **Crystal Rig Wind Farm** to add solar panels, transformers, a weather station and upgraded tracks and there are ongoing discussions regarding the community benefit fund. Fred Olsen (FORL) has advised that 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.

SBC Obligations v. Community Funded Work: There has been communications with SB Councillor John Greenwell & John Curry.

Road Repairs: There has been new surfacing on the Abbey St. Bathans road which was carried out in response to the needs of the Jim Clark Rally. There is still much to do and everyone should be encouraged to report potholes on the SBC website.

Paths Maintenance Grant:

LCC successfully applied for the paths maintenance grant this year of £450 which was used to complete work on a gate, repairs to the walkway and cut back the gorse on the walk from Ellemford to Abbey St Bathans.

Bin Collections:

A detailed letter was submitted to SBC regarding the missed bin collections which were happening on a regular basis. No reply was received from SBC.

Community Action Plan:

SBC are encouraging community councils to create a community action plan which can be registered at regional level. 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. It would be difficult to put together a plan without bringing in professional paid expertise and this is something that LCC will look at going forward.

Connectivity. EE mast: The connectivity is going well in the area and there now seem to be fibre plans starting soon at Ellemford

Ellemford Show: the representation at the show drew a number of suggestions for future CELCA funding, followed by Community Social weekends at Cranshaws and Longformacus which were very successful and they should be something we should repeat in the future.

Councillor Vacancies. Actively seeking to fill by approaching residents and will continue to try and recruit.

Bill Landale, LCC Chair

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer set out the financial report for the year end 31st March 2024.

Bank Balance 01/4/2023	£2,754.58
INCOME	
SBC King's Coronation Grant	£500.00
CELCA - Website Hosting	£250.00
CELCA - Admin Support	£2,000.00
SBC Annual Support Grant	£540.00
Paths Maintenance Grant	£450.00
Bank of Scotland - Compensation	£100.00
Total Income	£6,594.58

EXPENDITURE	
Admin Costs	£2,196.86
Website Hosting	£250.00
Hall Hire	£60.00
SBC Grant Projects	£1,094.00
Insurance	£107.52
Travel	£146.25
Stationery	£35.48
Total Expenditure	£3,890.11
Balance for Year End at 31/03/2024	£2,704.47
Petty Cash b/f	£7.52

DR explained that the accounts had not been signed off by BAVS as Sharon Ferguson who usually does this for LCC is not available due to illness. It is expected that the accounts will be signed off during May 2024.

The Treasurer and Chair have signed off the accounts and the community councillors in attendance approved the accounts subject to them being signed off by BAVS in due course.

MR raised the amount of money in the bank account and suggested LCC spend some of the funds on a project in the near future. It was agreed to review the funds before applying for the annual support grant which is due in November 2024 as LCC may not be able to apply for it this year.

Action 1: Accounts to be examined by BAVS in May 2024 which has been completed.

6. Proposals for the amendment of the Council's Constitution:

No amendments proposed

7. Election of Office Bearers:

Cllr Mark Rowley in his ex-officio capacity for the community council took over the meeting to oversee the election process.

The current office bearers stood down as officers as follows:

BL as Chair
TH as Vice-Chair

The officers were thanked for their commitment and services rendered to the community council over the past year.

AG proposed BL to continue as Chair 2nd by TH BL accepted the position on the proviso of standing down within the next 6 months.

BL nominated TH for Vice-Chair 2nd by AG. TH accepted

As agreed at the previous AGM the role of Treasurer is being outsourced and it was initially taken on by Kim Drysdale who is also the Financial Officer for CELCA. However as there were only 19 transactions during the year it was agreed that DR would take on the Treasurer role which would be combined with the Administrator role.

8. Appointment of Auditors:

BAVS (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services) were re-appointed as examiners for the coming year.

Proposed AG 2nd TH

9. Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Code of Conduct for Community Councils:

BL asked if all Community Councillors present agreed to abide by the SBC Code of Conduct for Community Councils. The agreement was circulated prior to the meeting and was available as a handout at the meeting.

All the Community Councillors present agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Action 2: The community councillors not in attendance at the meeting have confirmed in writing (MoR, CW, AD & AP) their agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct.

10. Date of next AGM:

Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 7.30p.m. in Longformacus Village Hall.

Meeting closed: 20.15