

Lammermuir Community Council Ordinary General Meeting

Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 7.30pm
Online Teams Meeting

Minutes

Present: Councillors:

Bill Landale (Chair) (BL), Tony Homer (Vice-Chair) (TH), Morag Rodger (MoR), Anna Dabrowska (AD), Cllr Mark Rowley (MR)

Also Present: Dianne Repsch (Treasurer/Administrator) (DR), Resident: Lisa McKenzie (LM)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies:

BL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from: Alastair Gordon (AG), Clive Warsop (CW), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Cllr Donald Moffat (DM), Cllr John Greenwell (JG)

2. Matters Arising:

a) **Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 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 meetings:

AGM:

Action 1: Completed

Action 2: Completed

Action 1: Report on Blackhill Wind Farm to be prepared by AP - to follow

Action 2: Completed

Action 3: Completed

Action 4: Completed

Action 5: Response regarding Longcroft Wind Farm development to be prepared by AP - to follow

Action 6: USB stick and Impact Assessment Report received and forwarded to the Chair

Any other matters arising:

TH asked about the USB stick and the Impact Assessment Report for Lees Hill and whether it could be circulated to the community councillors. BL agreed to forward to TH. MoR confirmed that the documents on the USB stick were also held online in the library of documents available for viewing.

Action 1: BL to forward USB and Report for Lees Hill to TH.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance as at 24/4/24 **£2,162.47**

Income: £0.00

Payments:

Treasurer/Admin Costs £621.15

Hall Hire £20.00

Bank Balance as at 26/06/24 **£1,521.32**

LCC Project Funding – Ring Fenced at CELCA as at 26/06/24

Defibrillator (incl AED training)	£639.85
Community Broadband	£1,000.00
Community Website	£268.08
Community Emergency Fund	£0.00
LCC Admin Costs	£0.00

DR (Treasurer) confirmed that the accounts for the year ending 31/3/24 had now been examined and been signed by Sharon Ferguson from BAVS.

TH said that he had recently replaced the defibrillator pads at a cost of £83.94 and DR confirmed that the amount of £639.85 is the updated figure for the account. TH also gave a brief description of how the defibrillators work and it was confirmed that defibrillators were located at Longformacus Village Hall, Cranshaws Village Hall and Rigfoot Farm which are all funded by LCC.. MoR confirmed that there was one at the Whiteadder Watersports Centre which is funded by the centre and not by LCC.

4. Planning Applications:

No planning applications received since the previous meeting.

5. Place Planning:

BL confirmed that he had carried out some research on place planning and had read all the information on the Borders Community Action (BCA) website. BL had also had a meeting with Beth Landon from BCA. BL suggested that LCC should begin to prepare by understanding what the place plan means and also organise a group to handle the preparation.

MR suggested the immediate urgency would be to feed into the Duns & District Place Plan as Duns sustains our rural community with the provision of nurseries, education, sports, medical etc. There are issues such as the potential closure of the Knoll Hospital and more care home facilities are required in the area. Place Planning is being encouraged on a National and Regional level and going forward organisations such as wind farm developers will expect LCC to have a place plan.

MoR said that as Duns have been working on their place plan for a year it might be good to get an overview of what this entails and how we could work together as we can't add many facilities to the LCC area.

DR confirmed she had met with Wendy Reid and she is willing to meet with LCC to discuss the way forward with the LCC place plan.

Action 2: Place Planning to be the main agenda item for the next OGM meeting.

Action 3: Invite Wendy Reid and Beth Landon to the next OGM meeting

Action 4: The date for the next meeting for Duns & District to be circulated

6. Community Councillors - Update on ongoing projects:

Crystal Rig IV:

MoR and TH attended the CLG meeting which took place on Monday 29th April 2024 at Innerwick Village

Hall. There has been correspondence received from Victoria Dobie (VD), the Vice-Chair of ABPCC regarding the community benefit fund and whether LCC would be interested in joining ABPCC and Cockburnspath to write to Kirsty Leiper with a view to the community benefit fund not going to a regional fund. VD felt a joint letter is likely to have more impact if we are all of the same opinion. BL, TH & MoR agreed not to be a signatory on the letter until more information is provided by Kirsty Leiper on her proposed regional fund.

A further email was received from Kirsty Leiper where she was requesting any further views on the community benefit fund before she circulated her research on the regional fund.

TH & MoR both feel that what VD took from the CLG Minutes was not how they remembered the discussion. The situation at the moment is that KP was looking at allocating 50% of the community benefit fund in the same proportion between the local community funds similar to what we receive at the moment i.e. 50% of the money we currently receive and ABPCC would get their percentage whatever that is. The other 50% would go into a fund for Berwickshire.

The Lees Hill's fund was also discussed as this will also involve a regional fund although it could be 10 years before any community benefits are received.

TH felt that the 50% split was a sensible and fair way to proceed and LCC could share their experience of allocating funding by nominating someone for the Board.

Letter received from Fred Olsen (FO) - Crystal Rig Solar

Advising that FO's application to develop solar panels at Crystal Rig has now been submitted.

The plans that have been submitted include:

- Up to 55,000PV solar panels
- 30 hectares of land
- A generating capacity of up to 27MW
- A control system and weather station
- New and upgraded access tracks

Aikengall Wind Farm Ila

Information circulated regarding the Aikengall Ila Community Wind Farm which is now operational was circulated prior to the meeting.

Community Windpower Ltd (CWL) with the help of Scottish Civils Contractors, [RJ McLeod](#), and Scottish turbine erection experts, [Windhoist](#), have installed 19 turbines at the 81.7MW Aikengall Ila Community Wind Farm on the border of East Lothian and Scottish Borders.

Turbine installation started in early 2021 and despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, all 19 Siemens Gamesa SWT-DD-120 turbines have been installed on schedule. After final testing onsite the wind farm has now been handed over to CWL to operate for its operational lifetime. It is located on the border of East Lothian and Scottish Borders, approximately 12.5 km south of Dunbar and 6 km south of Innerwick. The wind farm will form an extension of Community Windpower's operational Aikengall and Aikengall II Community Wind Farms.

Project Information:

- 19 x 145m to tip Siemens wind turbines
- Generating capacity of 81.7MW
- 70,000 homes powered
- 121,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide displaced per annum

A discussion took place regarding correspondence with Rob Fryer from Community Windpower Ltd regarding community benefit payments which have not been received even though the Aikengall Ila has been operational since 2021. MR suggested LCC/CELCA should be writing to CWP requesting an update on the progress of the community benefit payments.

Action 5: DR to monitor the response from Rob Fryer, from CWL, and circulate.

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

Lees Hill Wind Farm:

USB stick and Impact Assessment Report were received and forwarded to BL and now being forwarded to TH as per Action 1.

Dunside Wind Farm:

Correspondence received 6/6/24. Supplementary environmental information (SEI) is being compiled which incorporates feedback from consultees and stakeholders including Historic Environment Scotland. Once this stage is completed and the design changes have been made this will be submitted to SEI. The submission will be followed by a further consultation period which will give people another chance to review the updated application and provide their feedback.

7. Correspondence Received:

Longformacus Forest Plan - Public Consultation:

Correspondence received from Robert McAuley from Scottish Forestry. Documents held on Objective Connect and the following documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

- Felling Plan
- Tree Species
- Thinning
- Post Consultation

Scottish Fire Rescue Service

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has launched an online survey which was circulated prior to the meeting to community councillors and via The Herald. There are issues to be addressed with the ageing estate while ensuring that the SFRS is best placed to deal with the changing community risk across Scotland. The survey – titled **Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say** – is open until 30 June 2024.

Non-Financial Support to Community Councils

A short life working group, consisting of Community Councillors, Elected Members and relevant officers will undertake the review over a period of 6 – 12 months. Community council representation will consist of a representative and substitute from each locality. It is suggested that meetings will take place approximately every six weeks. Time and location (in person or online) will be agreed by the Working Group. Community councils interested in participating in this work, should nominate a representative and/or substitute by 11th August 2024.

MR confirmed this was to support community councils and would give councils an opportunity to discuss what type of support they require which could involve help and advice, training, and assistance with issues but there would not be any further funding from SBC.

8. Any other business:

King's Portrait:

The King's Portrait was received and DR delivered it to Longformacus Village Hall.

Paths Maintenance Grant 2024/25

The paths maintenance grant for this year is now £600 and DR has confirmed to SBC that LCC will be applying for the grant. DR has liaised with Aitchison Fencing who will carry out the work on the Cranshaws Community Walkway and send an invoice.

Action 6: DR to submit claim for the Paths Maintenance Grant when invoice received from Aitchinson Fencing.

Fibre Connection - Rigfoot

TH confirmed that there has been quite a bit of activity to put the structure/junction boxes in place to install fibre to the Rigfoot area but there is no date as yet when the final connection will be.

Ellemford Show:

It was suggested that LCC have a stand at the show the same as in previous years. BL confirmed that this year he would not be able to attend.

Action 7: DR to circulate a request for volunteers to man the stand and also to invite ABPCC

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28th August meeting at Cranshaws Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 20.30