

Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association

General Meeting

Monday 2nd September 2024

7.00pm at Cranshaws Village Hall

Minutes

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale (AL Chairperson), Bill Landale (BL), Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Morag Rodger (MoR), Tony Homer (TH), Pauline Homer (PH), Ettie Spencer (ES), Selma Gordon (SG), Alistair Gordon (AG), Alison Rodger (Treasurer AR)

Also in attendance: Dianne Repsch (Minutes), Kim Drysdale (Finance)

Applicants: Heather Borthwick (HB) Application 1, Chris Faldon (CF) Application 5

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Apologies were received from trustees:

Melvin Landale (ML), Gordon Allan (GA), William Pate (WP), Anna Dabrowska (AD), Clive Warsop (CW)

Apologies were received from applicants: Corine Craik Application 2, Heather Bewick Application 4

AL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes from 3rd June 2024

No amendments were received prior to the meeting.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting: Proposed TH 2nd BL

The minutes from the Management Group meeting on the 8th July were also approved as a true record of the meeting: Proposed MoR 2nd BL

3. Matters arising:

Actions from the meeting on 8th July (Management Group Meeting) and 3rd June (General Meeting) have been merged into one action list:

Actions from 8th July:

1. Completed
2. Completed
3. Completed
4. Completed
5. Completed
6. Completed

Actions from 3rd June:

7. Completed
8. Completed
9. Completed
10. Completed
11. Completed

Other matters arising:

ES mentioned that a thriving hedgerow had been uprooted on land in Longformacus.

Action 1: DR to contact Cllr Mark Rowley via LCC with a view to him contacting the farmer to find out why a thriving hedgerow had been removed.

4. Treasurer's Report:

KD reported that the bank balance for CELCA 1 is £90,941.20 and in CELCA 2 there is £121,022.15 as at 29th August 2024. There is funding available from CELCA 1 of £15,351.30 and from CELCA 2 £53,252.34.

The interest payments received from the Skipton Building Society now total £985.56. However the rate of interest on this account is being reduced from 3.59% to 3.35%.

The income for this year for CELCA 1 has been £98,502.88 as opposed to last year when it was £92,849.00. For CELCA 2 there are two payments each year of £25k totalling £50k per year.

Rob Fryer from CWP has been in contact to request the latest report and bank statement. He confirmed that the next payment would be index linked, including back payment for the amount due. The total will be £46,000 -£23,000 back payment

There should also be an extra payment for the new Aikengall Wind Farm as this is now operational.

AG mentioned that the new wind farm income should have a revised base rate as it is a produced rather than a design rate. (Currently £5,000 per MW)

KD confirmed that the next payment due from 'FOR' would be in November and the payment from CWP is due towards the end of September.

KD also mentioned that in the spreadsheet which was circulated there was an error under the Ellemford Show fund which was showing as £9,044 when it should be £4,044. This has been corrected.

CELCA 1 - Fred Olsen Renewables

29 August 2024	£91,541.20
Payments out - in transit	£0.00
Payments in - in transit	£0.00
23/24 Participants Contribution	£600.00
Current Balance	£90,941.20
Skipton Building Society	£25,000.00
Allocated to projects	£95,589.90
Set Aside for Running Costs	£5,000.00
Available for Funding	£15,351.30

CELCA 2 - Community Wind Power

11 March 2024	£121,022.15
Payments out - in transit	£0.00
Payments in - in transit	£0.00

Participants Contribution	£0.00
Current Balance	£121,022.15
Skipton Building Society	£25,000.00
Allocated to projects	£92,769.81
Set Aside for Running Costs	£0.00
Available for Funding	£53,252.34

5. Funded Project Updates:

Feedback collected from the grants awarded from 11th March and 3rd June General Meetings is set out as an addendum at the end of the Minutes.

Duns Mini Rugby:

The invoice for the equipment has been received and paid. An additional invoice for £350 has been received for membership fees for CELCA residents which had risen in price to £50 per person (previously quoted as £40 per person). £480 had been granted to cover the membership fees so only £130 would have been left in this fund

It was **proposed and agreed that a further £120** should be allocated to this fund so that more children could take advantage of this offer. This increase will take the fund total to £600.

AL said she had newly read a report on how well one of the Duns mini rugby teams had done in a tournament in Melrose. The P6's are to have an extra coaching class once a week during September to bring them up to scratch as they begin to 'ruck'

Action 2: DR to send out a reminder of this community benefit via The Herald .

ParentSpace: Correspondence received: As there had only been one participant sign up for the Primary Years course (scheduled to run in at Longformacus), ParentSpace were unable to deliver this course. To reflect the remote/rural area this course will be online and is proposed for the week commencing 6th January 2025 in the evenings, during the week.

For the Early Years course, it is proposed to run it in Preston, in person, week commencing 17th February 2025.

Hessian Bags: funding was previously approved of £2,000. The quotes for the two different sized bags with an image, provided by June Bel, on each side of the bag amounts to £1142.40 + £1048.80 = Total of £2191.20.

It was Proposed and Agreed to fund the additional £191.20 Proposed ES 2nd BL

Community Larders- Fareshare Membership

Fareshare has made contact to ask if CELCA were interested in reinstating their membership of Fareshare. The membership levels and costs were provided. DR had approached the volunteers running the Cranshaws and Longformacus larders to ask their thoughts on this proposal. They both said that the food would need to be delivered and fridges might be needed. They both felt the way the Larders are running at present is good for this area especially with the small number of people available and willing to help.

Action 3: DR is liaising with Fare Share and will report back

6. Funding Projects for discussion:

Film Production idea

The film production idea had previously been circulated and the following points were raised

- The film would be 12-15 mins
- A film-maker would manage the project
- Funding could be between £20K and £50K depending on the film-maker
- It would be expected to have participation from as many as possible from both villages
- The type of content for the 'script' would be approved
- It is a valid project as the community is constantly changing. These changes and memories could be recorded for the future
- Storytelling evenings could feed into this project
- Also put in print as this would last longer.

It was proposed and approved that the Heritage Centre should be approached to develop this idea as this sits with what they currently do.

Action 4: DR to make contact with the Heritage Centre and report back their response.

Swift Boxes Project:

AL described the Swift Box project which had recently taken place in Duns because of the reducing number of swifts in communities.

AL is proposing to submit an application for Swift Boxes for the November General Meeting. The cost of the swift boxes is £50 and the Duns boxes were built by the local Mens Shed. There are also Swift 'callers' which make swift sounds to attract the birds to the boxes. The boxes are discreet, made of wood and made to last.

There were concerns that they would not be looked after if CELCA provided them for free and also whether there is any evidence that they would work. The question of how the 'Owl boxes' had fared was asked.

7. Applications for funding:

6.1 - Application 1 University Laptop Amount Requested £599.00 - applicant present

To purchase a laptop to assist with studies at the Engineering Academy at Strathclyde University. This laptop was chosen on personal recommendation from 2 people and is half the price of the other laptops recommended. A Macbook Air or Dell would be around £1,200.

The applicant's son will be able to continue in further education at university and start a new career. The applicant's son has applied to SAAS to cover his accommodation only and is waiting on a response.

At the moment it is not known what books will be required for his course.

The applicant's son has had a summer job in Edinburgh which finishes on the 29th August. He will be looking for another part time job when he gets to Glasgow.

Laptop chosen is an Asus VivoBookS

HB confirmed that there was no funding available from the university. The laptop price is at a student discount.

Proposed SG 2nd ES Amount Approved £599.00

Action 5: DR should email the applicant to ask her to send the invoice or a link so that CELCA can pay directly for the laptop

6.2 Application 2 Journalling Cafe - Amount Requested £560.00

Brings people together and creates awareness of the environment. Everyone who attends is given the option to make birthday cards, flowers, do some painting and create a memory book. Some attendees may be trying some of the skills for the first time so it gives them time to develop some creative skills and socialise in a group. There is general chat about everyday things such as what is going on in the village and in people's lives (no politics) There is tea/coffee provided and some food. On average there are 7 people at each session and 12 in the group overall.

There are supplies for the workshop which have not been used yet so this application is to cover the hall hire and a small amount to top up the food supplies and some new card making materials as at the moment this is the most popular part of the cafe. AP suggested as this was a popular and repeated application it should be automatically accepted. General agreement

ITEM	QTY	COST
Food		£20.00
Card making materials, paper, braid, paint rollers		£40.00
Hire of Hall	20 @ £20	£500.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£560.00
Amount requested from CELCA		£560.00

Proposed ES 2nd AR - Amount Approved £560

6.3 Application 3 Willow Weaving Classes - Amount Requested £825.00

Members of the community can learn to weave willow fronds into bird feeders. The tutor is an experienced grower and teacher in willow weaving. This will be a good community activity and a new skill and is useful as a beginner skill for willow weavers.

The workshops will run in both Cranshaws and Longformacus Village Halls which both have good accessibility for everyone. The classes will be small so that people will not feel overwhelmed. There will be plenty of time to learn and practice; lunch and refreshments will be provided at each event.

Participants to be charged £3 each

ITEM	QTY	COST
2 sessions of 6 hours at £30 per person Max 8 persons. 8 x £30 = £240 x 2 sessions includes materials	2	£480.00
Hall hire 1 day Cranshaws Hall 09.30 - 16.30	1	£70.00
Hall hire 1 day Longformacus Hall 09.30 - 16.30	1	£70.00
Light Lunch/Refreshments 8 x £15 per person	2	£240.00
Total Project Cost		£860.00
Amount requested from CELCA:		£860.00

Following a query from KD on the hall hire price for Longformacus the rate was changed to £10 per hour

Proposed SG 2nd AG - Amount Approved £860

6.4 Application 4 Kids Club - Amount Requested £400.00

Warm meeting place and safe environment for children of all ages. As the children in the community have grown older this is a much needed community space for children to play in a safe place. All parents stay with their children during the club session. To continue supporting parents and providing a safe environment for Mums and their children.

The amount requested is for 20 sessions of hall hire at £20 per session = £400. The Kids Club is currently not running until November as HB is not available and she has not been able to find anyone to cover for her.

ES suggested new volunteers were needed so that it could continue. HB had tried.

SG suggested CELCA provide funding to pay someone to run the club. General agreement but possibly too much administration and not so well used as before as children older and going to after school activities on Friday afternoon.

Proposed BL 2nd AR - Amount Approved £400

6.5 Application 5 Tweedside Debt Advice - Amount Requested £1,535.00 (Applicant presented his project)

Tweedside Debt Advice (TDA) is seeking pump priming funding to become a 'Connect Centre' for the respected and established national charity, Community Money Advice (CMA). We have identified a widening gap locally to support people with debt and money problems through face to face work with clients. Currently we have one trained money mentor and seek to recruit others to provide face to face advice and support at a location suitably accessible to the client.

Debt can cause the breakdown of relationships, health, homelessness, depression, fear, anger and shame. It can also potentially lead to serious addiction problems and even suicide. It is so important for people seeking help to manage their personal debt to have real human contact with someone both compassionate and professional. 'Money Mentors' will assist clients learn to manage a realistic household budget. Once they have understood their financial situation we will collate that information and pass it on to a team of professionally qualified debt advisers who will undertake the regulated debt advice for the client. We are absolutely committed to offer unconditional, completely free to client services, operating within all current legislative requirements.

We exist to help local adults 18 and over overcome their debt problems through the provision of free, face to face money advice services delivered within a Christian ethos of kindness & compassion.

The grant application is to secure funding to register the TDA connect centre with the CMA hub and cover the training costs for establishing a baseline level of volunteers who will be geographically well placed to offer local support.

The chair of TDA has worked for many years as a Public Health nurse consultant. The Secretary has been a self-employed businessman with many years experience in finance. A multi-agency, multi-faceted approach is needed to reduce the inequalities and the pockets of poverty that lead to Multiple Deprivation.

Our research has shown that the majority of client referrals to Connect Centres comes from food banks and community larders. Usage of such facilities therefore acts as a proxy measure. Rural deprivation is often hidden away, and doesn't 'show up' using traditional measures. Local residents are using community larders and the Duns Food Bank. TDA money mentors will be able to meet residents of

Cranshaws, Ellemford & Longformacus at an accessible venue close to their own home.

We support people from all faiths and no faith. We do not discriminate by age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We strive to understand issues contributing to debt in all communities with a commitment to work in partnership with those tackling these issues.

ITEM	QTY	COST
Registration costs as Connect Centre with CMA	1	£2,500.00
Train volunteers @ £95 each	6	£570.00
Total Project Cost		£3,070.00
Amount requested from CELCA:		£1,535.00

Details of other sources of funding:

PACT (Preston & Abbey Community Trust) £1,535.00 - funding granted on 30/8/24

TDA is just starting its journey as a newly registered charity. We will be seeking support from a range of individuals and organisations such as local churches as we gather momentum. The ethos is to start small and do things well, learn from our experience and grow at a sustainable rate. The expectation in the early stages is to run this with volunteer support only to keep costs to a minimum. We will require a little extra funding in year 1 to get started in addition to that applied for.

CF gave a brief description to support his application which included the following points:

- There is a hidden level of debt across the Borders and more so in rural communities
- There are Connect Centres across the UK
- Community Money Advice are financially regulated
- There is no Connect Centre between here and Galashiels
- TDA are taking a face to face meeting approach
- TDA is now set up as a charity and as the next step they are looking for funding so that they can recruit six volunteers who will be called Money Mentors.
- Money Mentors do not give debt advice; they meet with the client to gather information on the debt the client is experiencing then the Money Mentor works with a qualified, trained debt advisor who will give the advice on how to relieve the debt.
- The Money Mentor works with the client for however long it takes to relieve the debt
- Volunteers are recruited from church backgrounds mainly.
- The funding application for £1,535 was for 50% of the set up cost with CMA and to train 3 volunteers

The trustees raised the following points:

- The training for a day and half doesn't seem very long. CF confirmed that after the training the Money Mentor will continue to receive supervision
- CAP UK was raised as they offer a debt service where they take on the debt and negotiate with the people who are owed money CF confirmed that TDA were taking a different approach as the CMA model is to give ownership of the debt to the person in debt, teaching them responsibility for managing their money. Debt advisors will negotiate a payment plan.
- It was raised why volunteers/Money Mentors should only be from church backgrounds. CF clarified that they accept volunteers sympathetic to the person in debt
- Berwickshire Housing also offer a debt service

- Would the volunteers be spread out over the Borders area? CF confirmed that TDA have not started the recruitment process yet as they are working on raising funding first.
- There was concern about the Money Mentors working in people's homes and situations that could arise from this.
- The Money Mentors could find themselves in difficult situations and would their training be sufficient to cover this? CF confirmed that CMA has a very good track record over many years of experience and offers continued support.

A Vote was taken with 5 voting against and 5 Abstentions

Action 6: AL/DR to send rejection letter. PH and SG suggested that in the offer letter CF should be advised to approach CELCA once the charity is more established

8. Advance Notes of Intention:

This is an opportunity to let CELCA know if a new application is being considered:

None raised

8. Any other Business:

No matters were raised

9. Date of next CELCA Meetings:

Management Group meeting: Monday 30 September 2024 7.00p.m. at Longformacus Hall

AGM + General Meeting: Tuesday 12th November 2024, 7pm at Longformacus Village Hall

Meeting closed at 21.10

Reports from Projects

GM 11/03/2024	
TeenChallenge/Swimming	Thanks, The pool is amazing and everyone was so lovely and welcoming. I am so glad I signed up! Hope to meet you one day. B
Chair Yoga	Classes are due to re-start on 2/9/24
Cranshaws Larder	This is being very well used and there is very little left by the end of the week. The shopping is done online and the shopper takes up the many offers that are available online with the supermarket so is able to buy more food with the discounts received. Thanks to the trustees who give to our community very generously. MF
Mobile Jewellery Workshops	Mandy has completed 3 workshops and due to personal circumstances has had to move out of Longformacus. She will be in touch if she returns to Longformacus in the future.
Duns Play Fest	Report for Lammermuir Fund- End Of Project May 10 th 24

	<p>The grant, of £4000 was gratefully received to enable the decoration of the cabaret stage area at Duns Volunteer Hall for DunsPlayFest 24 (26 April – 4 May). The area was received with delight by our audience members as the large, usually empty, hall was transformed into two theatre spaces with unique personalities. The cabaret stage, decorated and designed by local artists, and the larger 2/3 of the hall as a main stage black box theatre. Professional performers played alongside emerging artists, and amateur companies in a wonderful melting pot of creativity. As Richard Demarco said at the Closing concert that DunsPlayFest was similar to the beginnings of the Edinburgh Festival; a wonderful vibrant community of artists sharing their work in intimate settings to an appreciative audience. We were delighted that the festival reached capacity on many of the shows on the cabaret stage and on a significant number on the Main Stage.</p> <p>We recorded 12 people attending from the CELCA area from our onsite box office. We found that some people were reluctant to give their full postcodes, and may need a different way to collect this data. We offered all CELCA residents a 50% discount on all their tickets which enabled residents to see over 3 shows on the main stage and 3 at the cabaret stage for their £9 full price/£7.50 evening pass for any evening. Representing outstanding value for money; accessible quality theatre in their neighbourhood.</p>
Journalling Cafe	The sessions allow for members of the group to develop creative skills and socialise in a group and the feedback is very positive.
Longformacus Larder	The larder is hugely appreciated by the residents who use the Longformacus Larder. Although the shopping is done once a week all the items are not put in the larder at the same time, it is topped up most days. The volunteers try to create meal options to include some healthy options such as fresh vegetables.
ParentSpace	Courses are delayed
Botanical Painting Classes	<p>The botanical painting class is very popular and has just today resumed term 2 after the summer break. All the same people are keen to keep going plus we have a couple of new faces.</p> <p>The feedback is that all are keen for this to be ongoing and looking forward to branching out into some landscape painting - the first of these sessions being next week. As you know the class is taught by Rachel Southerland who is very experienced in this field and her skills are much appreciated. A regular 12 people remain on the books with an average of 10 or 11 in attendance each week. In addition there would be space for a few more in the future as and when. The hall committee feel this is one of the weekly list of very popular classes regarded as an asset to this locality and as such</p>

	the community as a whole are keen to see it continue for as long as possible. All the best Ettie
Cranshaws Hall	We have spent some of the funding on this year's insurance with NFU. The painting will be carried out by Brian Bolton, he's hoping to start soon. Storage area will be a while off just yet. We need to purchase land to have the space to put an extension on. Broadband, there is fibre being installed into Cranshaws. We (the committee) have decided to wait till that is completed as it will be the best for the money. No update as at 31/8/24
Heritage Centre	The three dehumidifiers have been purchased
Tree Pruning	This application was for later in the year.
Hessian Bags for Community	In progress, design for bags has been produced by June Bell from Greenlaw

GM 3/6/24	
Berwickshire Agricultural Show	We are most grateful to CELCA for approving our application, this funding contributes greatly to relieving the burden on the Show allowing us to continue to make this an all inclusive community event. I do hope that members of the committee are able to attend the show, and see how this makes a difference to us. Please give our most sincere thanks to the Committee for supporting us once again. With kindest regards. Frances
Swimming Memberships	Thanks for the continued support for the swimming memberships which are very much appreciated by the community
Tai Chi	The Tai Chi class at Longformacus resumes in September after a first successful year which attracted up to 12 participants on a regular basis. As we go into a second year, we can still accommodate more people, should they want to learn Tai Chi. John Wilson, the teacher, assumes no previous knowledge and takes time to ensure everyone learns the movements properly. He links in both the health-giving aspects of Tai Chi and some of the self-defence aspects of the form. This is a valued class by all who attend.
Cranshaws Larder & Senior Outings	Thank you for letting me know that the funding has been approved by the wind farm company. Please once again pass on our thanks as a community to the trustees and wind farm company for supporting our applications. MF

	<p>There were twelve of us including the driver on our seniors trip today. We had a wee mystery tour on our way to the heathers. Everyone enjoyed their meal very much and the company was good. The. Driver took us back along the coast road and we were back home just after four. As always please convey our sincere thanks to the trustees of CELCA for making our little trips possible. Thank you again.</p>
Ellemford Show	<p>Thanks again to CELCA for once again supporting the Ellemford Show SB</p>
Longformacus War Memorial	<p>Cllr Mark Rowley has been having meetings with the War Memorial Trust and the conservation architect.</p>
Community Walkway	<p>Grass cutting problem had been resolved</p>

MGM 8/7/24	
Duns RFC	<p>Thank you for your email, I just wanted to personally and on behalf of the club thank you and the board for this amazing funding. It will truly make a difference to a lot of young players and to our coaches, having the equipment they need to deliver the rugby programme.</p>