

Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7th November 2023

7.00pm at Longformacus Village Hall

Minutes

Trustees in attendance: Alison Landale (AL Chairperson), Alison Rodger (Treasurer AR), Bill Landale (BL), Tony Homer (TH), Pauline Homer (PH), Melvin Landale (ML) Clive Warsop (CW), Ettie Spencer (ES),

Also Present: Dianne Repsch (DR Minutes), Kim Drysdale (KD Finance)

Residents: Mark Rowley (MR), Gordon Allan (GA), Corine Craik (CC), Heather Bewick (HB)

1. AGM Agenda - Welcome/Apologies:

AL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from trustees: Adam Prokopowicz (AP), Morag Rodger (MoR), Alistair Gordon (AG), Anna Dabrowska (AD)

Residents: William Pate (WP) Selma Gordon (SG)

2. Previous Minutes from AGM 8th November 2022:

No amendments were received.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting: Proposed AR 2nd ML

3. Matters Arising:

None raised

4. Chair's Report: Annual Report

A very warm welcome to the CELCA AGM; It is good to see each of you – particularly those new to the area and those for whom this is their first CELCA meeting. Thank you for coming.

CELCA is a funding body - nothing more! But it allows for many and varied projects and activities to take place. If you have a good idea to benefit the community, fill in our form, the Trustees will look at it and probably give you the funds you need. 90% of all applications are accepted so if you have not yet applied for funding and have an idea of some activity or provision for the community, get going and apply!

Our funding comes from 2 local wind farms, and is kept in 2 accounts; and it goes to any project fitting our charitable 'objectives' which are in the constitution. We have to fit with OSCR's criteria too. (that's the Scottish Charity Regulators)

Every person in our Community Council area is a 'member of CELCA' and can attend the meetings,

comment and often vote.

We have 2 part time paid non local staff; our general and financial administrators, Dianne Repsch new this year and Kim Drysdale. I appreciate you both; thank you for all your CELCA work. Alison Roger is our named treasurer.

That is a general picture of CELCA

'Constitution' This past year the most time consuming issue for the trustees has been updating the 'Constitution' – our governing document, written in 2004 with only 1 alteration in 2012. This updating has required perseverance from the management group who have met many times to discuss and formulate what best is suited to the people of our particular area of the Borders. We are a small, spread out rural community; not a town and very different in make-up from even a local place like Duns let alone much of Scotland. What suits other areas is really irrelevant to the local folk here. The constitution update has had over 10 drafts with more meetings than that for Tony Homer to whom we are greatly indebted; thank you Tony. None of us, apart from your wife, know how many hours you have spent adjusting, adapting, listening and working on, and re-presenting the various drafts to the management group. Thank you. Also many thanks to our management group (the Trustees) who have persevered examining, meeting together, discussing, taking outside opinions and advice in order to reach a point where we are almost ready to present to OSCR our updated Constitution – for them to accept. The wind farms also have to do that, then it comes to a local public meeting where all present will vote on it. Only after all that does it finally become our governing document.

Now to mention CELCA funded projects: The largest project this past year is easily the new play equipment in Longformacus Park. This was an immense amount of work for the local team headed by Lorna Pate and Karen Kirkness; I applaud them. It is a significant benefit to the village with its covered seating area where parents gather in more comfort beside the play equipment.

The equipment was officially commissioned during the Coronation Weekend in Spring and CELCA funded a Hog Roast as part of the celebrations; we had entertainers walking on stilts, dressed in tartan blowing bubbles welcoming everyone – then teaching children circus skills. It was a successful, community day even blessed with good weather

On Coronation morning the monthly pop up café welcomed people to watch the event on the big screen in the hall where we were offered several wonderful cakes as well as bubbles.

Other, not so large projects; in **Cranshaws** there is a new kitchen because of rot. The enthusiastic hall committee took on much of the demolition and hard work getting the hall fixed and functioning again – using professional people only when needed. They held, mostly at their own expense, a successful, family day with games and barbeque this summer, used the big screen for showing rugby internationals with food and bar laid on and they now have bowling newly restarted. They are looking to get more events organised in the hall - and are also hoping to add an extension for which they will request funding.

Longformacus Village Hall: renovation plans are ready to be discussed this coming Saturday during the Windmill Cafe here at 12.00 with the architect. Do come along, see and discuss the plans and have some delicious coffee; the café runs from 11 – 1pm. Longformacus have waited and persevered for a long time to get to this stage and I wish the committee well. Many events are run here; Windmill café, mums and toddlers – now becoming a Kids Club, yoga – now chair yoga, stitch and sew, journaling café, concerts, dog training and a new project is a community choir. All these have some CELCA funding. Bravo to everyone who organises and runs these events.

Community Resilience: a group did good community research work round the area gathering information to help in weather emergencies. Now there is a generator ready to work in this hall. Cranshaws decided not to make use of this offer as their community is too scattered to make use of the hall and individuals and farms have generators..

With the same resilience focus, CELCA allowed for substantial financial assistance directly to households to help with the increased 'cost of living' whether food or fuel; £100.00 each time, per household. This was greatly appreciated

Funding has again been applied for but OSCR are requiring us to check that households really do need help. As a result we can only offer direct help to those on state benefits of some sort, pension, disability, child benefit etc or to those who show us they have a need. It is an unpleasant position we find ourselves in; I am sure we can deal with what is necessary and provide help.

Further achievements towards community resilience are the 2 free larders in Longformacus and this year also in Cranshaws. Corrine Craik and Maureen Fergusson buy food online. It is delivered, stored and taken to the larders. Both are running well and we gifted flowers to both organisers for their efforts.

Swimming: Significant funding continues for swimming with free children's lessons and subsidised membership for adults. We also have funding available for Pool Lifeguard Certification at different levels which people need to know about. Teen Challenge benefits the lads there having lessons and time set aside solely for them each week; many cannot swim when they first attend and it is valuable in their rehabilitation. They and the pool staff feel it is of considerable benefit. Our swimming support is really useful funding for the pool in Duns; and something worth noting is that another local wind farm group is now funding swimming for children and adults in their area because they heard what we did.

Drowning is a common way youngsters die in Scotland so whatever we can do to make them learn to swim is vital. Also water safety learned at the Whiteadder Sailing Centre which we fund is important. There, now all ages can learn to paddle board, canoe, swim, as well as sail. Several of our folk young and old have enjoyed learning and just hiring (discounted) and using the equipment there this year. It is another benefit to our community to have these partially funded activities available there.

Our advertising of what we offer and part fund could well do to improve.

Cranshaws Community Walk and orchard with enhanced access for wheelchairs, prams and bicycles looks good; apart from the moles! The trees are growing well and the play equipment with its silver sand base is well appreciated. Messy Church has had a successful outdoor session there and despite rain lit a fire without matches or lighter, cooked bread for themselves, painted and had stories about watery saints from the bible and generally survived spring Scottish weather; a big tarpaulin cover was used.

Cranshaws Kirks **Wee Forest** with over 600 trees is growing well and has been awarded a grant from another body to set up and try a Forest Church.

A laptop was provided for a person setting off to university for the first time; we also set aside money for books they might require.

Funding has gone towards other children going on school trips overseas.

We continue to partially fund our local shows, at Ellemford and Duns and have had a most appreciative letter from Sharon Baker who is on that committee.

These are the main activities we have sponsored this past year.

For me, it's both a privilege and a responsibility to serve on this committee. I hope each of us has some satisfaction that together we have supported and funded valuable projects over the years - as well as fun ones. I am quite sure we will continue to keep that going and encourage creativity and action.

We must remember that our constitution encourages us to promote good relationships within our community. CELCA does help do that; but each of us here has a part to play. We need to accept our several differences and always be courteous and considerate to one another. ... and not hog the floor as I am doing now! I would appreciate it if you were to encourage others to get involved, to put in

applications – not always easy but definitely worthwhile. Blessings to all and thank you for being here.
Alison Landale, Chairperson 7.11.2023

5. Treasurer's Annual Report & Accounts:

During the past financial year CELCA and CELCA 2 spent £142,000 on the construction of Longformacus Playpark, which has been well received by all who have used it. There was also a further £3,500 spent by CELCA on events etc for the Coronation included in the Longformacus playpark project. There was also £6,120 spent on an outside classroom/play area at Longformacus.

CELCA set aside £16,000 for Winter Fuel Support during the past year of which £14,100 was taken up in two phases.

CELCA awarded £19,216 for swimming in the local community and £13,812 was spent on swimming club memberships, lessons and funding for Teen Challenge Swimming.

Both Village halls received funding. Cranshaws had a kitchen refit costing £12,328 after being awarded a total of £19,500 which included costs for a generator which was later re-absorbed. Longformacus Hall was awarded £4,000 for support and £7,000 for a generator and spent £5,815 in total. The cost of the generator was £1815.36 and £4000 was re-absorbed leaving a balance of £1184.64.

The Whiteadder Sports Trust was awarded £11,310 and £9,783 was spent on equipment required and this included £6,000 paid to Scottish Borders Council for the 3rd payment for boats etc.

Both villages ran very successful Community Larders. Longformacus were awarded £11,500 during the year and spent £6,930 and Cranshaws which started later than Longformacus were awarded £7,200 and spent £3,995. The current funding will run until March 2023.

CELCA supported both agricultural shows Ellemford was awarded £3,914 and Duns £1,000 and spent £3,431 and £1,000 respectively.

The College of Knowledge Projects were awarded £10,670 and spent overall £6,283. The largest spend was yoga at Longformacus £2,680 followed by Greig Silver with his therapies £1,664 and Duns Dogs £1,150. Included in the projects are Lifeguard Training and Sailing Courses along with Tai Chi classes.

CELCA supported the startup of Duns Community Nursery and was awarded £3,531 of which they spent £3,263 creating an app and computer goods for the nursery.

CELCA also supports several other smaller projects giving a total of 32 projects which spent money through CELCA this year including projects within the College of Knowledge.

With regards to CELCA 2 they split the cost of constructing Longformacus Playpark (paid £70,999) and £8,600 on the Woodland Walk along with some costs for the ongoing alterations for Longformacus Village Hall amounting to £525. It was decided that £42,253 should be re-absorbed from the Village Hall Fund but kept in reserve for when the building starts, leaving £59,475 in this project.

CELCA 2 should start to take on more projects and I suggest any hall costs for both villages should be allocated to CELCA 2.

At the end of the financial year there was £43,365 available for projects in CELCA 2 and £3,599 available in CELCA. There has since been a payment of £25,000 to CELCA 2 and there is £50,000 approx expected in November for CELCA. It was decided by the Management Group during the past year that it would be good governance to invest extra funding not immediately required in order to earn some interest. To this end I have researched various funds and it was decided that we invest £50,000 with Skipton Building Society and this is being followed up.

KD confirmed that he had circulated the year end accounts before the meeting and there were also copies available for anyone to have a look at. The accounts do show an overspend because of the play park which is a one off situation and CELCA will now move into a positive balance sheet. No questions were raised on the accounts and it was agreed that they could be signed off at the meeting.

Accounts to be signed by AL & AR

6. Election of Officers & Trustees:

AL confirmed that the Community Councillor Trustees remain in place as trustees but the CELCA only Trustee Officers now stand down and are available for re-election.

- AL stood down as Chair
- AR stood down as Treasurer
- Vice Chair is a vacant position.
- ES stood down as trustee
- ML stood down as trustee
- PH stood down as a co-opted trustee

The following members AL, ML, AR, PH, ES, confirmed they were prepared to remain as trustees.

BL as Chairman of the Community Council offered an invite to anyone from the floor if they wished to stand as a trustee. Gordon Allen was willing to stand as a trustee. Proposed MR 2nd AR

AL was willing to stand as Chair and was Proposed by ML 2nd AR

Vice Chair - remains a vacant position. The position had previously been offered to CW who was not able to accept due to work commitments.

AR was willing to stand as Treasurer and was Proposed by TH 2nd ML

There was a discussion as to whether ex-officio community councillor trustees could be elected to officer positions on CELCA. It is not mentioned in the CELCA Constitution and it was agreed that the OSCR guidance should be referred to before a decision was made.

Action 1: DR to supply AL with the relevant OSCR guidelines.

New Trustee Appointments:

AL said that she had approached SG & WP and asked them if they would be prepared to be trustees for CELCA:

SG was willing to stand as a trustee and this was proposed by ES and 2nd AR.

WP has indicated that he might be willing to stand as a trustee and this was proposed by BL and 2nd ML.

Action 2: AL to make contact with WP to confirm he has been nominated as a trustee

7. Any other business: No matters were raised

8. Date of next AGM meeting:

Tuesday 12th November 2024 to be held at Longformacus Village Hall at 7.00p.m.