

Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus Community Association

General Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2024

7.00pm at Longformacus Village Hall

Minutes

Trustees in attendance: Will Pate (WP - Chairperson), Alison Rodger (AR - Treasurer), Melvin Landale (ML - Vice Chair), Pauline Homer (PH), Ettie Spencer (ES), Selma Gordon (SG), Alison Landale (AL), Gordon Allan (GA), Bill Landale (BL), Tony Homer (TH), Alistair Gordon (AG), Clive Warsop (CW), Adam Prokopowicz (AP),

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

Applicants:

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Apologies were received from trustees: Morag Rodger (MoR), Anna Dabrowska (AD),

WP, who has taken over as Chair, welcomed everyone to the general meeting.

2. Previous Minutes from 2nd September 2024

The minutes were approved at the Management Meeting on 30th September 2024 as a true record of the meeting: Proposed at that meeting by BL 2nd PH

3. Matters arising:

Actions from the meeting on 30th September 2024

30 Sept	Details	Allocated	Status
Action 1	DRFC The membership was increased from £40 to £50 and this should be insert in the Minutes for MGM 8/7/24	DR	Completed
Action 2	Letter to be prepared regarding the removal of a hedgerow and sent to the estate owner. A letter was sent and a reply has been received. A further letter was posted on 12/11/24	BL	Completed
Action 3	A film production brief should be prepared to get an idea of budget and responses from filmmakers - The Film brief was circulated and also trustees comments. Also a response from Jamie Lochhead.	DV/DR	Completed
Action 4	Film clips from DV to be circulated to trustees	DR	Completed
Action 5	Film production brief should be circulated to the trustees	DR	Completed
Action 6	Find out more about film costings	GA	Completed
Action 7	Funding Application to be submitted once responses from filmmakers are received.	BL	

Action 8	Responsibility for each project will be asked as time of application	DR	Noted
Action 9	Contact to be made with Kirsty Leiper from Fred Olsen regarding the process of sending some funds to LCC to enable a winter fuel payment for residents - Kirsty Leiper has requested the Minutes confirming the trustees are in agreement. LCC are in agreement and this is in the Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 30/10/2024	AL	Completed

Other matters arising:

None raised

4. Treasurer's Report:

KD reported that the bank balance for CELCA 1 is £75,777.77 and in CELCA 2 there is £149,080.41 as at 11th November 2024. There is funding available from CELCA 1 of £10,242.56 and from CELCA 2 £104,184.75.

The total bank balance including the Skipton Building Society account amounts to £274,858.18.

The interest payments received from the Skipton Building Society at the end of the financial year was £1,1134.72.

The income for the financial year to 30/9/24 for CELCA 1 has been £96,695.47 and for CELCA 2 there were two payments of £25k totalling £50k and a further payment was received of £46,128.12 which was an index linked payment and the breakdown of this is as follows:

5 Year indexation review	
Annual payment	£50,000.00
RPI uplift	
2022 11	126.7
2017 11	104.6
Multiplier =	1.211281071
Indexed payment =	£60,564.05
Half Yearly Payment	£30,282.03

Total September 2024 Payment	
March 2023	£5,282.03
September 2023	£5,282.03
March 2024	£5,282.03
September 2024	£30,282.03
Total	£46,128.11

There was a discussion regarding the payments from the wind farms and the following points were raised by the trustees:

- The payment schedule is set out in the Agreement with CWP Energy
- For Crystal Rig 1 repower there will be larger but fewer turbines and the power will not reduce

- When the repower takes place FO will not remove all at the same time
- The turbines being removed can be recycled
- The blades can't be recycled but can be used for other products such as scaffolding
- A longer vision is required for the community benefit payments for larger projects, affordable housing etc.

CELCA 1 - Fred Olsen Renewables

11 November 2024	£76,725.26
Payments out - in transit	£947.26
Payments in - in transit	£0.00
23/24 Participants Contribution	£0.00
Current Balance	£75,777.77
Skipton Building Society	£25,000.00
Allocated to projects	£85,535.21
Set Aside for Running Costs	£5,000.00
Available for Funding	£10,242.56

CELCA 2 - Community Wind Power

11 November 2024	£149,080.41
Payments out - in transit	£0.00
Payments in - in transit	£0.00
Participants Contribution	£0.00
Current Balance	£149,080.41
Skipton Building Society	£25,000.00
Allocated to projects	£69,895.66
Set Aside for Running Costs	£0.00
Available for Funding	£104,184.75

The following projects with funding that has not been used for 2 years were reviewed:

27	Film Society	£897.49	Reabsorb
120	Plays & Pantomime	£1,871.49	Leave
152	Community Broadband	£1,000.00	Reabsorb
164	Cranshaws Bowling Club	£150.00	Leave
167	Duns Community Nursery	£268.17	Reabsorb

169	Duns Junior Football Club	£735.60	Reabsorb
178	BAVS	£1,157.00	Reabsorb
33 (35)	Table Tennis	£360.71	Reabsorb
33 (42)	Woodworking Courses	£1,420.00	Reabsorb

The total to be reabsorbed = £4,938.97

Action 1: Duns Junior Football Club to be advised that £735.60 is being reabsorbed and if they require funds in the future they can reapply to CELCA in the usual way.

Action 2: Funded Projects to be featured on the website on a new page to highlight what benefits are available to the community

5. Funded Project Feedback & Updates:

Feedback collected since the last meeting is set out as an addendum to the Minutes.

Longformacus Play Park:

Currently there is funding being held in CELCA 1 of £3,922.15 and in CELCA 2 £4,000.87 totalling £7,923.02

There is a commitment to be legal owners of the equipment for 10 years from installation, submitting annual accounts, tax declaration and insuring the equipment. If volunteers do the submitting of the accounts and tax declaration the cost annually would be £15.

Costs for the financial year ending 30/9/24 were Insurance £320.35 and Accountants fees £600.

There is a warranty for the equipment and there have been a few repairs which have been organised by KP.

Action 3 - WP to find out the length of the warranty

Longformacus Village Hall:

JW, the Chair of LVH, reported that the refurbishments will take place after Christmas, taking around 10 weeks and the hall will be closed during this time. The LVH Committee has gone out to tender so the budget for the whole project will be available soon. Currently the LVH fund has £50,000. There is another £42,000 also held for this project. This is the amount that had been reabsorbed by CELCA previously but is still available to use for this project giving a total of £92,000.

Cranshaws Village Hall:

AR confirmed that there will be an AGM later this month. The exterior painting of the hall has been completed.

Action 4: CELCA posters asking for funding ideas to go on the village notice boards

Film Production Brief and Responses:

Prior to the meeting the film brief which had been prepared by DV had been circulated and the comments and amendments for the brief had also been circulated.

BL confirmed that he had approached Jamie Lochhead for his thoughts on the film brief and his reply was read out.

There was a general discussion about how to move this project forward.

Action 5: DR to amend the film brief taking into account the comments from the trustees and circulate for final comments before sending it back to DV.

6. Applications for funding:

6.1 - Application 1 Longformacus Village Hall - Amount Requested £3,000.00

Longformacus Village Hall Committee (SCO 49058) oversees the running of the village hall, ensuring it is in good repair, clean and well-kept, has a clear booking system and is available primarily for the use of residents of Longformacus and environs. Currently there are yoga and T'ai Chi groups, journalling and craft groups, a music group, a choir and a monthly cafe. Accounts for the year ending 30/4/24 had been received. The LVH Constitution was previously submitted and is held on file. Public Liability Insurance is in place and the financial section of the application has been completed.

Applying for a top up grant to pay the village hall bills for heating and electricity throughout the year. Costs for hiring the hall are kept at a low rate to enable use by local people. The hall would not generate enough income in a year to pay the current energy costs although the income has increased from rentals in previous years

This grant will ensure the hall stays open especially during the winter when heating costs rise significantly. All classes and activities are subsidised for local people as is the rent for hall hire.

ITEM	QTY	COST
Expected oil costs - based on last years figures		£1,400.00
Expected electricity costs - based on last years figures		£900.00
Broadband/Insurance		£700.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£3,000.00

Proposed by TH and 2nd ML Amount - Approved £3.000.00

6.2 Application 2 Lammermuir Community Council - Amount Requested £2,000.00

LCC is a voluntary organisation set up by statute of the Local Authority, SBC, and run by local residents to act on behalf of the community. The grant from CELCA will be used to continue providing administrative and treasurer support for LCC. The Annual Support grant received from SBC each year is only £594 and this money is used for the Lammermuir Life website, insurance, stationery etc. Public Liability Insurance is in place organised through SBC

The funding will be held by CELCA until LCC requires the funds which is expected to be in early 2025

ITEM	QTY	COST
Administrative & Treasurer admin support @ £15 ph	10 months x 13 hours	£1950.00
Travel Expenses		£50.00
Total Project Cost		£2,000.00
Amount requested from CELCA:		£2,000.00

Proposed by TH and 2nd by AG - Amount Approved £2,000.00

6.4 Application 3: Festive Lights - Amount Requested £8,620.00

Festive tree lighting for the CELCA area. There are currently 3 trees round Longformacus with lights in, there's a tree at Whitchester, one at Ellemford, 2 at Cranshaws and one at Crichness (up past Cranshaws), and one at Oatlycleugh. Application is for a further two trees if suitable trees can be found.

Maintenance on the lights will be required this year as not much has been carried out over the last few years.

The cost of 3 arborists is significantly lower than what would generally be charged for carrying out tree works. The management of the projects is not being charged for. ML confirmed that all new lights are warm white rather than the previous ice white.

New Lights - ITEM	QTY	COST
2 tree climbers, 1 ground staff @ £650 per day + VAT	4 days	£3,120.00
Supply lights for 2 trees (5 boxes of lights/tree @ £500 per box)	5	£3,000.00
Fixings & Power Cables		£500.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£6,620.00

Maintenance - ITEM	QTY	COST
2 tree climbers, 1 ground staff @ £650 per day + VAT	2 days	£1,560.00
Supply lights (2 boxes of lights/tree @ £500 per box)	2	£1,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£2,560.00
Amount requested from CELCA		£2,560.00

It was agreed to fund both the new lights and the maintenance costs with a view to there not being an application next year. There is a balance in the fund of £897.32

Proposed by SG and 2nd AR Amount Approved £9.180.00

There are current funds which require some additional funds as follows:

Request	Funds Requiring a Top Up	Amount Requested	Status
1	Senior Outings - to allow 3 trips a year	£4,000.00	Approved
2	Match Funding - Village Halls	£2,000.00	Approved
3	Postage -	£1,000.00	Approved
4	Wee Forest	£1,000.00	Approved
5	Painting Classes - remaining 6 months	£3,135.00	Approved

Everyone/Access for School Trips:

There were two requests for funding from parents in the community towards funding for a 3 day School Theatre Trip being organised by Berwickshire High School. The amount requested by each parent was for £560.

KD confirmed that there are funds set aside of £3,746.90. It was agreed by the trustees that requests for this fund should be sent to the Chair for approval and not held over to a general meeting. The Trustees will be kept advised when the fund is being used by the CELCA Administrator.

Proposed by BL and 2nd by TH for both applications - Amount Approved £1,120.00

8. Advance Notes of Intention:

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

AL requested £400 funding to organise another willow weaving workshop on 1st March 2025. As this workshop would involve making a basket it is a longer day and the cost would be £50 per person.

Proposed by BL and 2nd by AG subject to an application being received.

Swimming Club:

HB asked if it would be possible for the swimming pool to approach CELCA for funding due to the increased costs involved in keeping the pool open. The trustees confirmed that an application would be considered if submitted. It was suggested by TH that this should be shared funding with the neighbouring communities.

Pantomime:

CC asked if she could organise a visit to the Pantomime at The Maltings, Berwick for The Adventures of Sinbad on 20th December 2024. Starts at 7.00p.m. Stall tickets are £20 (concessions & Child £16.50). There is £1,871.49 in the Plays and Pantomime fund so this was approved.

8. Any other Business:

LCC - Foundation Scotland proposal

TH confirmed that following the LCC meeting last month, it had been agreed that he should make contact with a company called Foundation Scotland. [HERE](#)

As our community may receive additional community benefits of approximately 80k it is important that we review what that means for our community and the nature of what we fund. Through working with Foundation Scotland we could look more widely at longer term sustainable projects and change the way we do things.

Foundation Scotland are interested in working with us and arranging a meeting with the Community Councillors and CELCA Trustees. We would still make the decisions but Foundation Scotland would be able to guide us going forward.

Action 6: A meeting to be arranged late November/early December. It was agreed that a Thursday evening would be the most suitable date for FS & LCC/CELCA.

9. Date of next CELCA Meetings:

General Meeting: Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7pm at Cranshaws Village Hall

Addendum: Feedback collected on projects since the last General Meeting on 02/09/24

GM 12/11/24	
Education Provision	<p>It has been a fantastic experience overall and she has been excited to go here, to engage with the tutor and always comes out buzzing with excitement. Which is something I never thought I would see! I would like to thank CELCA for the incredible opportunity this has given our daughter.</p>
Abbotsford House /Seniors Outing	<p>Abbotsford was visited this September by 14 CELCA seniors and what an excellent outing it was too.</p> <p>We were all collected and driven by what used to be Berwickshire Wheels; good driving and a pleasant driver.</p> <p>We started with coffee in the Abbotsford tea room then went to the house with our tour guide Anne who was informative, amusing and well paced. It was worth having her to guide us round and answer questions. We learned a great deal about Walter Scott and how immensely capable he was. What stuck out for some was that as a 2 year old he had polio and to help his recuperation he was sent to the borders to a farming relative. There he had plenty of fresh air and exercise which did bring his health back - and at the same time he heard tales of the borders from far past as well as current all of which enhanced his imagination. Many of these formed his later stories through which he made a vast amount of money. In turn this enabled him to first buy a farmhouse with land where he moved with his family - and on this spot is today's magnificent house.</p> <p>Scott collected an extraordinary variety of items - some of which were antiques in his time and some just what he thought would be of interest in future years.</p> <p>The gardens have been restored over the past few years and are in very good shape with colour and much of interest. Scott would try to grow every seed ever sent to him and had a way of heating his walled garden which brought much success - even with peaches; not so these days.</p> <p>All in all it was a very worthwhile visit and having a leisurely delicious lunch at Carfraemill Hotel was a super way to finish off our day out.</p> <p>Thanks to CELCA for funding the seniors again and to Corine Craik for the idea and doing much of the organising. AL</p>

Chair Yoga	<p>Chair Yoga classes have been running successfully since 18 September 2023 on Monday afternoons in Longformacus Village Hall. The classes are taught by Amanda Mitchell.</p> <p>There is a steady number of attendees (10) and beginners are most welcome to come along. There was a holiday break for the months of July and August, and classes resumed for the new season on 2 September 2024.</p> <p>The benefits of attending these classes are plentiful. The postures help to maintain and improve mobility, flexibility, strength and balance, whilst the breathing techniques incorporated can help reduce anxiety and stress. The classes also give people from the community the opportunity to socialise, which is just as important for their well being and mental health.</p> <p>Funding from CELCA is greatly appreciated. Students are asked to make a contribution of £3 per class, and since last September a total of £462 has been transferred back to CELCA.</p> <p>Here is some feedback provided to Amanda by some of the students currently attending classes -</p> <p>'I have severe arthritis in both knees. It means that all the same overall exercises and stretches that I rely on are still covered in a friendly and supportive group. Long may this class continue!'</p> <p>'I feel so good after the sessions, rejuvenated and relaxed (sometimes too relaxed!) It is also such a good atmosphere and right on the doorstep too. We all need and enjoy it and appreciate your classes.'</p> <p>'I always feel relaxed afterwards and always get a good night's sleep on Monday. There's a lovely friendly atmosphere which makes me feel comfortable and you allow us to work at our own pace which is good for us ladies of a certain age.' KW</p>
University Laptop	Thank you CELCA for your time and consideration of my application for funding for my son's laptop to help his studies at Strathclyde University, Glasgow.
Hessian Bags for Community	Bags delivered to the community during October and they have been well received.
Willow Weaving	<p>Two willow weaving classes were held, one in Cransahws and one in Longformacus.</p> <p>At both we were taught very capably and amusingly by Carys Dawes and fed delicious cinnamon scones and home made cake. All delicious. We even had soup at lunch time.</p>

	<p>Various weaving techniques we taught using different types and colour of willow so that we actually learned far more about the craft than most of us will remember</p> <p>A fat ball bird feeder was produced by each person present with Carys quietly stepping in to help when needed - for some of us that was quite often - always done with great humour and grace.</p> <p>A few of those taking part are very much hoping that Carys will come back for a longer day and have us each make a basket - for which she will provide bases to get us going.</p> <p>I think laughter at the first day was more hilarious and good chat and concentrated work on the second day would have been the main difference.</p> <p>One bird feeder was adapted into a home made lamp for the Ellemford Show and won a first prize - Carys was pleased</p>
Tree Pruning	<p>A Tree pruning demonstration and small bit of instruction took place in the community Orchard at Cranshaws back in February during the first Forest Church event - and as part of that.</p> <p>It was not the ideal time to be pruning trees so it is hoped that a horticultural teacher can be found to teach a good number of folk at the correct pruning time.</p> <p>Those who did take part were really pleased with what they learned.</p>