

CRANSHAWS, ELLEMFORD and LONGFORMACUS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting following the Annual General Meeting held at Longformacus Village Hall, 7.30pm on Monday 23rd September 2013

Present

Mark Rowley (MR) -Chairman
Corinne Mycock (CM) -Treasurer
Catriona Andrews (CA) -Secretary
Cllr Frances Renton (FR) -SBC Councillor
Cllr Donald Moffat, (DM) -SBC Councillor
Cllr John Greenwell (JG) -SBC Councillor
Dave Lochhead (DL)
Jonathan Bayles (JB)
Sheila Roe (SR)
Duncan Roe (DR)
Clive Warsop (CW)

Members of the public attending: Denise & Bob Wallum

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Community Councillors and members of the public to the business meeting of the Community Council following the AGM.

The Community Council noted that our former member, Richard Nicolson passed away a few weeks ago. Richard was a long-standing member and former officer of the CC who took a great deal of interest in local affairs. Our condolences will be passed on to his family as he was a much valued member of the community and will be much missed.

2. Apologies. PC Suzanne Jacobs who had forwarded a report in her absence.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

Proposed as a record by MR and DL after correction to number of residents in Whitchester to circa 40.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

FR will speak to roads department regarding the gritting of Whitchester. MR will enquire about proposed gritting routes throughout the CC area

5. Treasurer's Report

£1004.19 is available in the account. There is a small environmental grant for £60 available.

6. Police Report

20/07/2013 – report of a theft of dog from Rawburn, Longformacus. The dog had been locked in its kennel the previous evening and the informant reports that the padlock had been forcibly removed. A member of the public in Duns later found the dog. Enquiries are on-going.

21/08/2013 – theft of quad bike from Windshiel Farm. There have been a number of similar incidents reported throughout the Borders area along with theft of fuel from farms in the area. Enquiries are on-going.

7. Scottish Borders Council Community Council Review

A name change has been supported. Review still ongoing. FR is Chairing the review and progress is likely to be made later in the year

8. Community Benefit Funds

- Wester Dod – Windfarm behind Cranshaws to be built next year. Developer invited to next CC meeting. £100k offered per year to be shared between Abbey St Bathans CC, East Lammermuirs CC, Cockburnspath CC and CELCC. There is a commitment of £5,000 per megawatt, and it's a 60 megawatt scheme. DL would like to make point of loss of amenity and impact on our CC with the spoiling of the landscape as 400 plus turbines is tipping the balance and our main amenity is being destroyed. The same developer is to construct a forthcoming scheme at Aikengall III
- Bob Wallum asked if a report was available on the impact footprint for each CC, and does community with worse impact get bigger share. MR noted that any benefit is entirely discretionary from the developers but undertook to research windfarm footprints.
- CW asked if there was an idea of revising the approach to fighting applications focussing on peat destruction as he felt the current one did not seem to work. It was discussed that our approach now appears to be working better as many more were being refused on robust planning grounds at both Local Authority and Scottish Government levels.
- DL suggested that the grid was reaching capacity so momentum should be slowing.
- Crystal Rig III – There has been no response to invites to engage in talks as their footprint is not in our boundary, and they always go on basis of footprint and not loss of amenity. A further approach would be made
- Aikengall III – The developers have indicated that they would be keen to present at our next meeting
- Blackhill – MR discussed the possibility of asking if our share of funds could be withdrawn from the fund. MR to draft a letter to Andy Rosher.
- Fallago – Continues to generate significant constraint payments to not produce electricity that dwarf the community fund available. Over £2.5m paid so far this year.

9. Windfarm Updates

- Corsbie Moor. Refused at Appeal. Following a refusal by Scottish Borders Council the developers appealed that decision with the Scottish Government's Directorate for Environmental and Planning Appeals. The development would have seen 126.5m turbines central to the views between the Twin Law Cairns, Southern Upland Way and the Eildons. The Community Council made written submissions and took part in both hearing sessions and site visits with the SG Reporter. This was an encouraging result as it noted the importance of the Southern Upland Way, iconic viewpoints and the Lammermuir Hills Special Landscape Area designation.
- Crystal Rig III. No news back as yet but progressing to an application very shortly.
- Aikengall II. The 30 x 145m high turbine extension to the yet-to-be-built Aikengall II/Wester Dod windfarm above Cranshaws. Developers to be invited to present at the next CC meeting
- Brunta Hill. This scheme was refused by Scottish Borders Council last month but the developers have indicated to the Community Council that an Appeal to the DPEA is likely. The CC have previously objected to this windfarm close to the Twin Law Cairns and adjacent to the Southern Upland Way and the meeting agreed to maintain that position

10. Planning Matters

Rawburn – Scottish water have built a 12 foot high fence. They claim it is not a planning matter but a security issue. A number of residents and neighbouring residents have raised concerns about the impact MR to take up with Scottish Water

11. Alcohol Bylaws Consultation

Drinking in public spaces consultation. It was suggested the proposed byelaws wouldn't impact on small communities, only in Duns, Eyemouth and Coldstream. JG said doesn't affect local

festivals, but Jim Clark rally the target. DL suggested CC should not support it as it was further unnecessary regulation. MR suggested that existing legislation was adequate and that Duns Community Council had asked if we would consider raising concerns about it. MR to respond to the consultation on behalf of the CC in these terms.

12. Roads

Many locals complained about the appalling state of roads. It was noted that parts such as springs needed to be replaced in last few months. It was suggested for people to drop line if they had broken springs, blow outs or broken suspension. The CC agreed to circulate a card asking residents to indicate if they had suffered road-related damage in the last year.

13. Community Resilience Planning

Awaiting updates.

14. Correspondence

A letter from Mr Silcox re community funding to repair and paint pavilion in Longformacus playpark – this was welcomed by the CC.

Berwickshire Civic Society – a scheme has started to pay students to mark and access every mile of Berwickshire roads to log historic gate posts, lodges etc. We are first on list of CC's to be visited.

£450 available for maintenance grants for paths.

15. Any Other Business

DL suggested idea of doing a walking/music festival next summer to include the two CC village halls and Abbey St Bathans. The idea would be to have concerts in each hall with walks in between. DL to come back with more fleshed out idea. MR suggested looking at the Lammermuir Festival and perhaps go under their umbrella.

CM asked for minutes to be published in paper in shortened version immediately following the meeting.

16. Date of Next Meeting

11th November 2013 in Cranshaws Village Hall at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 9.20pm