

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

Minutes of Meeting of East Lammermuir Community Council held in Innerwick Village Hall on Tuesday 1 May, 2018

Present: Cllrs: Janice Hanvidge/Anne Lyall/Chris Bruce (Chair)/Janette MacDonald/
Colin Bloomfield/Donna Collins/Cris Thacker/Elisabeth Wilson

In Attendance: Cllr S Kempson/Pauline Jaffray and four members of the public – Angus
MacDonald/Ian Christison/Sheila Ainslie/Marie Florence MacDonald

Chair, CB welcomed all to the meeting and was pleased Cllr Kempson was in attendance. Cllr Kempson was delighted to be attending her first East Lammermuir Community Council meeting, especially as, despite circumstances beyond her control, she had been unable to attend previous meetings. All those present introduced themselves.

Prior to commencing with the agenda, CB asked the four members of the public, if they would like to address the meeting first. They were happy to do so.

Angus MacDonald, briefly outlined why they were attending the meeting. As members and friends of Oldhamstocks parish they are very unhappy with the way the proposed development of the new village hall is developing. He went on to explain, they appreciate a new hall is needed and have no objections to this proposal. However, at the Oldhamstocks Community Association (OCA) 2017 AGM of which there was an approximate attendance of 56 people, Mr MacDonald suggested that 22 of those present objected to the proposed design of the new hall. He went on to say that he believes that the OCA committee at that time, agreed to look at alternative designs and revised plans have not been produced. He suggested that the OCA committee, appear to be determined to proceed with the current hall plans and have applied for planning permission, without the overall agreement of the Oldhamstocks parish. This is resulting in a very unhappy, divisive community.

Ian Christison lives in Dunglass of which there are 26 households and the majority of residents he has spoken to in this area, are unhappy with the current hall design; Mr Christison said that the design is not in keeping with the village. Mr Christison, acknowledged almost 100% of the community want a new hall, but expressed concern as to the costs involved with this project. He emphasised that in his opinion, the vast majority of the Oldhamstocks parish are against the new design proposals.

Sheila Ainslie wanted to raise two issues with the Community Council;

1) the position of the Community Council with respect to any Planning Application for a new hall in Oldhamstocks

2) the possibility of Oldhamstocks applying for Community Windfarm Benefits monies to fund a new hall.

1) Mrs. Ainslie did not think that a planning application had been lodged. However, she said that in considering its position vis a vis any planning application, the community council should take account of her suggestion and that of Messrs MacDonald and Christison, that there is a significant part of the Oldhamstocks Parish population who do not support the design proposed for the new hall in Oldhamstocks.

2) Mrs. Ainslie wanted to bring ELCC attention to how Windfarm money is shared out and do the sums add up? How can OCA apply for funding to ELCC Windfarm Community Benefits for a project which does not have the backing of the whole village? Can ELCC support such a project when it contravenes the criteria on ELCC own website, which states the fund should benefit all people in East Lammermuir and the fund should bring everyone together and encourage cohesion between the different communities as well as within the communities themselves.

Sheila Ainslie went on to ask, if a project causes division in a community, what do ELCC do? Those in opposition to this project wish to make ELCC aware of the disquiet in Oldhamstocks parish and when considering this application for funding, take in to account the views of the whole community when allocating funds.

Chair, CB thanked the above for their comments, but as he is a member of OCA declared an interest in this project and cannot comment. Cllr Janice Hanvidge also declared an interest in this project and she too cannot comment.

Cllr CT asked what engagements, those against the project, have undertaken to prove people are not totally behind the project. In a survey carried out by OCA, of the approximate 210 people surveyed, 61 people voted against the proposal. Cllr CT commented that projects in their very nature can be divisive.

Sheila Ainslie commented she feels the community are not being included in this project and the proposed cost of the new hall is totally out of proportion.

Cllr CB advised the meeting. At every OCA AGM all the committee stand down. Any willing person can join the new committee each year. However, Sheila Ainslie confirmed that of the 22 people, who were at the meeting had told Mrs Ainslie that they are against the design of the hall, just one had joined the committee, even though they were all invited to do so.

Angus MacDonald, again referred to the 2017 OCA AGM where he said that almost half of those attending, were against the proposed design of the new hall.

Cllr CB advised the meeting. At every OCA AGM all the committee stand down. None of the 22 people, who were at the meeting and are against the design of the hall, joined the committee, even though they were invited to do so.

Cllr EW advised the meeting there is a lot of chit-chat re the dissention in Oldhamstocks. Going forward there has to be a healing to bring about a united and happy village.

Cllr ColinB, who was involved in the Stenton hall project advised both parties have to work together for the common good. It appears the bone of contention with those opposed to the design of Oldhamstocks new village hall, is the lack of choice and much debate has to be carried out, before submitting designs to East Lothian Council planning. Cllr ColinB also advised that any new build project would incur costs of around £2k per square metre as that was the going rate.

Sheila Ainslie reiterated her request that if the current plans go to planning, ELCC, when considering funding applications, take into account the views of the whole community.

The four members of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chair, CB asked for any advice or guidance. After a great deal of discussion, ELCC advised they felt the best way forward was to seek professional advice and suggested the appointment of a professional mediator. Cllr Kempson would explore and seek advice from ELC and Cllr EW will explore with her contact.

ColinB felt mediation was the best way forward and CT acknowledged due to the depth of feeling expressed at tonight's meeting it was incumbent for ELCC to offer help to a point. At the same time ELCC along with any facilitation/mediation service should not stand in the way of progress. All councillors' presently work very hard to bring about cohesive communities and it was terribly sad to see such a lovely community, like Oldhamstocks at such odds.

CT offered to draft a letter proposing that ELCC can find and fund mediation for the Oldhamstocks Community, and would agree the letter with all councillors except Cllr Bruce and Cllr Hanvidge, as the Oldhamstocks representatives. The agreed letter would be sent to the four members of the public who had attended the meeting this evening and separately to the Chair of Oldhamstocks Community Association Committee (Neil Richerby) as the other interested party. A timescale for accepting the offer would be included in the letter.

2:00 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 20 March, 2018. Minutes approved by JMacD and seconded by CT.

3:00 Any other business to be added to the agenda:

3:01: WW 1 Fighter Landing Ground Commemorative Plaque for Skateraw

3:01 In February, 2018 an approach by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust offering to gift us a granite plaque to commemorate the WW1 Fighter Landing [Ground.at](#) Skateraw.

JMacD spoke at length to Kenneth Bannerman of the ABCT and strongly feels this is something we should gladly accept and endeavour to make enquiries regarding siting it at an appropriate location at/near Skateraw. JMacD spoke to Pauline Jaffray and she has kindly offered to make enquiries on our behalf.

JMacD contacted Mr Bannerman to confirm our acceptance in order the plaque can be prepared and delivered in good time before the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November 2018. There are no costs involved other than those for mounting the plaque (I'm sure we would all support an application to the Community Benefit Fund for this worthy project). The only things he asks in return are a contact person, c/w postal address & phone no, and the metric map location of the plaque once sited and a photograph for their website <http://www.abct.org.uk/>.

The plaque measures (600mm x 600mm x 30mm in Indian Granite weighing 35kg) and ELCC are happy for PJ to progress this project.

Cllr JH suggested an approach be made to Torness to seek their involvement (as they own the land) and they also might be able to support associated costs or help in kind.

4:00 Police Business

The CAPP meeting held on 28 March, 2018 was poorly attended and JMacD had also submitted her apologies. The next CAPP meeting is due to take place on 8 May, 2018.

Both EW & DC reported of youngsters using Thurston Cemetery as a meeting place and leaving cans and litter behind.

5:00 Treasurer's Report

The balance as of 1 May, 2018 stands at £224.49

6:00 Matters Arising (Previous)

Spott: Pot holes are of concern.

Stenton: Pot holes are of concern

Oldhamstocks: Himalayan balsam an invasive weed growing in the ditch on the road past Linkfield farm and on to Lawfield Farm, Oldhamstocks needs to be addressed. **Cllr SK** will report to ELC

Innerwick: Thurston Cemetery being used by youths as a meeting point and litter being left.

Speed restrictions through Innerwick village:

EW has been looking into both the proposed 20 mph speed limit and the possibility of speed reactive signs for all the hill foot villages. (Those electronic signs that measure your speed and flash a thank you or ask you to reduce your speed.) Both of these are supported by East Lammermuir community council.

EW has been told by East Lothian Council that they aren't doing any more 20 mph zones, as there is a bill going through the Scottish Parliament to bring them in everywhere. It should come in force next year.

As far as the speed reactive signs go, this would have to be paid for through the Dunbar and E. Linton Local Area Partnership (which Cllr Wilson attends) and she has asked for an official request to be sent from the Community Council. There has been a sign at Stenton for a while. Apparently these are more effective if they are in place for about six months and then moved, as drivers get used to them. JMacD reported the Stenton sign still appears to be effective, even after being in place for some time. A possible cost was quoted at £2k for the hole and £3k for the sign.

7:00 Councillors' Reports

Liaison Meetings:

Torness: CB attended the meeting which was chaired by the new Station Director. It was a good meeting and CB is hopeful EDF Energy will work more in partnership with ELCC. EDF Energy is looking to redraw the 2km iodine zone from the station, in relation to the topography of the area.

Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership: EW referred to the speed restrictions through Innerwick village (see above). CB asked if the road repair preventative measures had been considered. **EW** will bring up at next meeting.

Belhaven Hospital: JH advised no date has yet been set for the next meeting

Tarmac: EW attended the meeting and brought to the attention of the new director the very dangerous road junction.

Viridor: Date to be decided in June, 2018.

8:00 Correspondence

9:00 Date of Next Meeting: 12 June, 2018 in Stenton Village Hall at 7.30pm