

DRAFT

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of East Lammermuir Community Council held in Penston House, Macmerry on Tuesday 22 January, 2019 at 7pm

Present: Chris Bruce (Chair)/Cris Thacker/Anne Lyall/Janette Macdonald/Colin Bloomfield/Janice Hanvidge/Donna Collins/Martin Fife.

In attendance:

Prior to the ELCC Meeting commencing, sincere thanks were given to Sandy Baptie of East Lothian Council for showing us around the facilities of Penston House, the Emergency Control Centre for East Lothian.

1:00 Apologies: Pauline Jaffray

2:00 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 27 November, 2018

The minutes were approved by Janette Macdonald and seconded by Cris Thacker. However, one thing to note is that Helen Graham did not attend our meeting of 27 November, 2018 despite ELCC being advised she would be in attendance. This should be raised under Matters Arising.

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

- 3:01 Helen Graham, Resolution Officer, East Lothian Council
- 3:02 Association of Community Councils ie: local sex offenders
- 3:03 Noise from Viridor Incinerator
- 3:04 Proposal from Kate Darrah of the Ridge re community benefit fund
- 3:05 Approach from Philip Revel re ground source heat
- 3:06 Research of role of Community Councils to be launched 23/24 April, 2019.

As there are a number of items added to the agenda, the Chair suggested we deal with these items first.

3:01 Helen Graham, Resolution Office, East Lothian Council:

CT wondered why Helen Graham, who had been commissioned by ELCC to assist in obtaining a resolution to the Oldhamstocks Village hall issues, had not turned up at an earlier meeting. Has she been contacted? CB advised he had tried to make contact with her prior to the meeting, with no response. He would endeavour to make contact with her again.

3:02 Association of Community Councils:

Communication has been sent to all East Lothian Community Councils concerning the housing of sex offenders in the community as a result of a vociferous group of locals in an East Lothian village

getting very upset. As a result of this an approach was made to East Lothian Council seeking guidance on how to deal with issues like this. A meeting has been arranged with local police and social services representatives to better understand what these organisations are doing as regards the sex offenders register, housing in the community and associated policing. The date will be the 26 February in the Council Chamber, Haddington with a 6.15 for 6.30pm start, probably wrapping up by 7.30 to 8pm.

Would anyone like to attend this meeting from ELCC? JH advised she was unable to attend, however she felt uneasy about this, as dealing with a situation like this could and would affect the Community Council Councillors. It is a huge responsibility, especially when we may know people within our community who are affected. It is fine pointing people in the right direction for help but it is the affect it will have on these volunteers. Volunteers may be traumatised by something like this and will have to play a very fine balancing act to ensure they are being impartial.

A great deal of discussion followed with valid points and concerns being raised by all present. DC knows exactly how difficult it is to deal with this situation and MF felt strongly, from a personal point of view that it is a subject which we are not here to do, nor are we trained.

CB, who could not attend the meeting, nor could CT, felt someone from ELCC should attend to feed in the points raised during our discussion and Colin B agreed to go.

3:03 Noise from the Viridor Incinerator

MF had attended Viridor liaison meeting on 16 January, 2019, where two complaints regarding the noise from the incinerator have been reported. The first complaint on 3 December and one on 9 December, 2018 - one complaint was made direct to SEPA, the other to Viridor.

MF contacted Sue Anderson, who is the Community Liaison officer at Viridor and SEPA have visited the house of one of the complainants. Sue Anderson is arranging for a manager to visit the area with regards to the reported noise complaint. SEPA confirmed that recent decibel tests are within the agreed levels.

CB advised the meeting a similar situation with regards to noise from wind turbines is reported. SEPA may advise decibel tests are within the agreed levels, but this does not mean it is okay for someone's mental health. You can hear a low frequency noise from the windfarms at Aikengall and Crystal Rigg. DC advised she hears a low rumbling noise, similar to when you hear combines working and ColinB advised that depending on wind direction, you can hear noise from the turbine at Ruchlaw Farm in Stenton.

3:04 Proposal from Kate Darrah of the Ridge re community benefit fund

Kate Darrah wishes to engage with the wider rural communities regarding the various projects they are working on and if ELCC would be interested in supporting a match funded bid, so we can make those living in a rural area could benefit. The following report provides further details:

<https://srn.fundingscotland.com/Funds/Fund/aORON00000LfCyiUAF-the-prince-s-countryside-fund-rural-four>

Kate put forward a number of suggestions: We could use this to fund training places (including travel down to Dunbar), to enable them to access high quality traditional skills (masonry/joinery) training and potentially progression into paid employment. We currently have six trainees - four full-time youngsters (one a Modern Apprentice) and two part-time ex-offenders. All employed.

This could potentially be a catalyst for some of those most disadvantaged by their rural isolation, to help them gain some social contact, physical and mental stimulation, work

experience, employability support and skills training. We also have a counselling service, digital skills course, photography and creative writing groups, and a range of life skills training they could access.

CB has read the report to help fund rural youngsters schemes and his immediate question was 'Do we know anybody' coming up to that age who would benefit from this. Also do we know all the youngsters of that age from each of our patches'? CT commented certainly around Spott area children are university bound and he didn't know how relevant it would be. What about the kids at the Halls or beyond and outlying areas? Is the report aimed at those who are involved with or who hope to make a living from the countryside.

CT proposed that Kate should come and explain exactly what she is offering. She might have some additional data and if she knows of people in our locality who would benefit, then it is worth exploring. JH said she felt Kate was looking for us to identify the young people this would help and more for funding a project than an individual person or say based on a project for four individuals.

MF added that Viridor are also looking to employ an apprentice from the local community.

JH advised Kate also mentioned creative skills i.e. photography, creative writing etc. However, JH commented she would be more comfortable if these skills could be brought into the village for the wider community.

It was also highlighted we do not have the bus service now and none to Oldhamstocks. How are these people going to get to these schemes if no cars available? Otherwise stuck with two buses a day or the like. Has anyone any immediate candidates or suggestions? Any easy ways to identify who these schemes would benefit? One idea is: if it was just one or two people involved perhaps an idea to offer to pay that person's bus fare to enable to go to the project. Say once or twice a week travel to Dunbar. Kate is looking for matched funding and we would have to demonstrate that there were people in ELCC who would benefit. Has Kate spoken to the schools or Career service about this. CB would respond to Kate's email.

3:05 Ground source heat:

Philip Revell, Sustaining Dunbar an engineer who is interested in renewables lives in Dunbar has a lot of ideas for district heating a much cheaper option than others he has looked at. He has been researching the Denmark or Norway options he has seen this. His suggestion is for each village to have one ground source pump facility. He believes it is feasible idea and if everyone has independent oil fuelled heaters what does the future hold for them? Have we considered installing district heating using the waste heat from Torness, or from the Viridor Incinerator? Initially, hot water pumps from Torness were to go to Innerwick but that never happened. Iceland due thermal energy has an excellent heating system, with huge hot water pipes running alongside main roads. Technical discussion followed. Ground source heat pump at Whitsome hall is below ground 80 metres. CT/CB/AL all interested in meeting with Philip Revell and CB agreed to set this up.

4:00 Police Business:

Dunbar CAPP met on 9 January, 2019. JMacD has distributed the agenda and priorities.

Pop-up Jim & Jemima have arrived are being utilised. Their first location was Edinburgh Road, Belhaven where they proved to be successful. The funding for Jim & Jemima within the East Lammermuir area will come out of Local Priorities monies.

ColinB asked when the decision will be made if going to retain the 20mph speed limit in Dunbar. It is going through Scottish government at the moment to affect all built-up areas.

Date of next CAPP meeting: Thursday 14 February, 2019.

5:00 Treasurer's Report:

The balance as of 22 January, 2019 stands at: £610.49. The books are just about ready to go to the accountant.

6:00 Matters Arising (Previous)

At the Dunbar and East Linton area partnership meeting - Belhaven hospital forum - shut Belhaven and shut two care homes in East Lothian. Council and NHS have put forward together to build extra care accommodation and that has gone through. Good report on the consultation - lots of comments made. Our view is that people go to Belhaven for palliative care. Can we do that in extra care housing. If not where do you propose to send people. Okay in Dunbar but not in the ERI. There is still lots of representation to deal with. After years and years it has finally been said they are going ahead with this. Timescale isn't known but there is room on the Belhaven site to build extra palliative care.

The Edington hospital on St. Baldred's Road in North Berwick is on a massively valuable site. The NHS is unlikely to say they will build extra care there. Will they add to the Community Hospital in Haddington?

Another meeting on Monday in Dunbar Parish. AL was asked to relay our views on end of life care.

7:00 Councillors' Reports:

Re Planning, JMacD reported that East Lothian Council took a couple of weeks to update their website.

Spott: Nothing to report

Innerwick: MF came across a face book group of Community councils in Scotland and suggest joining to participate in the sharing of ideas. ELCC don't need to contribute anything but might be an idea initially to find out what other Community Councils' are saying and doing.

DC advised a slurry pit has appeared at the bottom of Innerwick village between Crow hill and the A1. A number of people are not very happy about it. It relates to Pinkerton farm and a piggery near East Linton. DC has contacted Planning and Environmental health to see if Planning permission is required and if a slurry pit has to be a certain distance from dwellings but no one from ELC has responded. DC made contact just before Christmas and again yesterday as more complaints are being received as the slurry pit is starting to fill up. Slurry is thought to be coming from a farm at Ruchlaw.

Stenton - there are two faulty street lights. One is SP36 at bottom of village green, opposite old barn and reported on 9 October and still out. Another one still out on main street. Badly cut hedges at Roodwell, meaning pavement still cannot be used.

Oldhamstocks: JH took on an action to look at Resilience plans for nearby areas and printed off copies of Cockburnspath and Cove. North Berwick's emergency plan is exemplar and maybe more user friendly. She also went to view Garvald's but couldn't get one, but I got a statement which is on their website basically telling people what to do in adverse weather conditions and contacts of agencies that might help with support. More or less what we put in our last newsletter. Lot of reading in all the papers but could be easily tweaked to suit each village, once gone through them all. JH to email info to JMcD.

DC advised we have people at Innerwick wanting to talk about dried food etc. in the hall so once it is all sorted and decorated we will get together. Is this for March 28. Yes. Day before brexit.

Janice said to Sandy Baptie that it would be good for people to have access to analogue phones. Janice ordering six for the villages. Janice request six for the villages. Other items which may be ordered in future are camping stoves torches, shovels etc.

MF asked do we have a proper logo ELCC for correspondence. No we haven't, but Spott uses a system supplied by Google and it is something ELCC should consider. CT will look into.

Oldhamstocks - re trees being cut down - constant run of huge timber wagons driving through during last few weeks. Brockwood has been decimated. Lot gone to Pentland Biomass in Edinburgh. Quality wood going to timber yard at Wooler.

Liaison meetings:

Viridor

MF attended this meeting today on 16 January, 2019 , present were Sue Anderson, Scott Reynolds and Roy Griffin of Viridor. Dunbar CC, West Barns CC, SEPA and MF were also there.

All were made very welcome in the new offices at the ERF, the new Visitor Centre should be operational by early summer and invitations to visit for a tour will be forthcoming.

The salient points that emerged are as follows.

Tipping has now commenced in a new cell on the Landfill Site, 4c. Edinburgh's waste is now going to the facility at Millerhil, they have commenced a long term contract for this. Currently the methane produced by landfill makes 5 megawatts of power which is sent to Torness. Teams have been sent to Barns Ness to pick up litter which had been complained about, Viridor don't think this came from the site, and was the result of picnics etc. The number of lorries using the site is not expected to rise or fall very much in the next 12 months. The issue of lorries turning right onto the A1 safely is addressed with drivers and is raised regularly with the A1 action group. The plant is now operating 24 hours a day.

In June 2018 there were 47 members of staff, 60% from East Lothian including several from the Dunbar area.

There was a complaint of noise on 9th December from Innerwick raised directly with the Plant, and dealt with directly as well. There was a Turbine issue on 23rd December which resulted in increased noise for approx 45 mins commencing at 9:45pm. SEPA are monitoring general noise levels which have all been within agreed limits but have urged anyone who hears anything unusual to contact their Pollution Hotline on 0800807060 immediately so they can raise this with Viridor and take action if necessary.

The ERF is currently supplying heat to Torness and are actively seeking industrial and agricultural users. East Lothian Council are involved in these discussions.

Viridor are open to more opportunities to help the community with funding. They are being proactive in visiting schools and colleges and have taken their falcons to Dunbar Grammar to show the pupils how they work. They are happy to look at doing this with other schools as well.

It was confirmed that medical waste from hospitals etc will NOT be processed there as their license did not permit it. SEPA are also monitoring air emissions which are all within agreed limits so far.

Viridor would like to inform the local area if and when abnormal operations may take place for information purposes, MF offered to receive this for ELCC and pass on for Facebook pages etc.

Viridor have an upcoming apprenticeship vacancy which they would like to fill locally.

Newsletters - Winter issue has been distributed.

Correspondence:

Usual playground stuff

Date of Next Meeting: **19 March, 2019 in Spott Village Hall at 7.30pm**