

East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting notes 01 October 2019

Spott Village Hall

Present: Community Councillors Martin Fife, Donna Collins, Janette MacDonald, Colin Bloomfield, Cris Thacker, Ann Lyall, Chris Bruce (Chair)

In attendance: Doug Haig (DH) Dunbar Acting Area Manager East Linton Area Partnership

Apologies: Janice Hanvidge, Pauline Jaffray

Visiting council officer, Doug Haig

DH Advised on the work of the D&ELAP and their priorities in the local area plan - He encourages people to attend their meetings and apply for funding through the partnership. He listened to our concerns regarding local bus services, and offered to take points about connections and local "gaps" to relevant officers in the council.

DH also explained the process for participatory budgeting across East Lothian.

Minutes of previous meeting

Slight amendment of minutes of meeting held 20th August 2019:

Under Item 6, Matters arising, East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Paragraph 2, line four refers to Community Windfarm monies, amend to refer to Community Windpower monies.

Matters Arising

Climate challenge fund

Discussion about local resident David Mumford's application to this fund. He was initially unsuccessful with application and so he has now applied to a different fund for the same initiative in Innerwick. The application has gone in under auspices of ELCC and if successful, ELCC are going to channel the funds to him. We continue to support his endeavours.

Crystal Rig IV

Chris Bruce has been advised to check Energy Consents Unit website for update on Public Inquiry into this planning application. No date for the public inquiry to start as yet. ELCC still hope to consult the local residents on this. Civil Servant at Scottish Government confirmed that we will be invited to contribute to the public inquiry once it takes place.

Speeding in villages

MF explained that the Innerwick primary school 'Slow Down' poster design idea was not very well received by the headmaster. JM commented that when she mentioned this idea at the recent CAPP (Community and Police Partnership Meeting), PC Gavin Ross seemed supportive of it.

Discussion around speed limit signs and slow down signs in villages, it was agreed we would like to have more speed awareness campaigns and appropriate signage in our villages.

DH agreed to enquire at the next roads department meeting if the Council would fund slow down signs for the villages.

JM said volunteers are needed in villages to be trained on the Community Speed Watch campaign, minimum of 3 per village ideally there would be 6-9 volunteers in each village. Chris Bruce suggests this should be advertised on the villages facebook pages and through village community associations. Names to go to JM please.

East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund

Discussion on how wind farm monies are to be reallocated to the villages. It was agreed the fund is not set up as an investment fund. Our criteria are about community in and around the 4 villages, and our principles are for allocation of funds and to end with a zero balance. ELCC want to give monies equally to benefit the four local villages and their surrounding areas over the 25 years, but there are also benefits to a pan-East Lammermuir perspective, allowing us to flex funding and look at collaborative proposals from more than one village. The ELCC also do not want to shackle future members of this committee/Directors of the Benefit Fund with prerequisites in the funding (along with the associated risks). Our role is to be equitable across all the villages. This was unanimous. Action: Chris Bruce to write to Community Windpower setting out this position and asking them again to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund.

JM suggested the wording of the Community Benefit Fund Application Criteria be reviewed in the new year - this will need a meeting on its own, perhaps in January.

Deadline for next round of allocations from Crystal Rig wind farm benefits is 11 November 2019.

Community Councillors for Oldhamstocks and Innerwick

After over 25 years of service, Janice Hanvidge has tendered her resignation from the community council and will stand down at the end of October 2019, once all relevant handovers are complete. Members expressed their appreciation for JH unstinting work in supporting a thriving local community since the 1990s, and arranged a farewell meal for her later in October.

This means that we have a vacancy in Oldhamstocks until the current community council concludes prior to elections in October 2020. The Oldhamstocks vacancy has been advertised on local websites and social media as well as by word of mouth. No candidate has stepped forward so far.

Martin Fife (Innerwick) has indicated his intention to stand down as a community councillor, citing potential community conflict as his primary reason. JM asked MF to remain as councillor, there was unanimous agreement with this. As a compromise, MF has agreed to continue to carry out the various duties he has been performing as a councillor until we have found a replacement for him. MF said it is important the councillors are elected rather than co-opted. All agreed with this sentiment but noted there are rarely sufficient candidates to trigger an election for community councillors.

Local discussions have started seeking someone to be co-opted as a community councillor in Innerwick until October 2020.

Discussion on how we feel about our roles in terms of the pressure on us and community conflict. There were various views around the table as every circumstance is different.

Chris Bruce said we need to have a Treasurer between now and next October (next elections) - this person cannot be a co-opted community councillor. JM volunteer to be treasurer for the remainder of the term. ColinB interested in learning about this and perhaps volunteering after 2020.

CT will take over the chronicle and website.

Members expressed their thanks to Janette and Colin and Cris for these generous offers of picking up work created as vacancies have arisen.

Police Business

Police priorities - Hare Coursing season has returned - 4 arrests in East Linton, no known activity since then.

Next Community And Police Partnership meeting 6 November 2019

Reports of sporadic anti-social behaviour coming from Thurston Manor, bottle smashing and damaged benches in play park and primary school, flowers torn up and Thurston cemetery toilets trashed. Police made this area a priority at the last CAPP meeting - held on 23 September.

MF suggested we get the Nuclear Police from Torness to come and talk to us about their work.

Treasurers report

No change to balance from last meeting £914.64 in bank

JH will prepare accounts prior to handover to JM.

Local developments / any other business

A1 Action group

MF Will continue on this - mixed views on new signing at Thistly Cross roundabout - Spott roundabout road marking are not universally popular either. Also mixed views on dualling A1 from English Border to Edinburgh.

Concerns about A1 closures and traffic self-diverting through our villages – what about some carefully placed signage regarding ‘unsuitable for long vehicles’. This is concerning for the safety of, and emergency access to, our villages. DH said he would raise the question of there being a weight limit for the Cannongate Bridge on the road to Spott with the appropriate Council department.

Local developments

MF will continue to chase down the Electric Charging Points idea and the benches in the villages - ColinB and JM have a contact in Stenton they will put in contact with MF.

Autumn Winter newsletter

Article needed thanking Martin and Janice, - need new volunteers for ELCC. Project awards after next community benefits meeting – outlining funds awarded.

Licensing

Association of East Lothian Community Councils have campaign about unreasonable cost to local communities of events licensing, we have been asked to send a letter in support. ELCC agreed to support this.

Correspondence

Moya Ramsey, a local resident in Stenton who previously served as a community councillor had written with this statement about community councillor leaving. "I would like to express my dismay to see that Janice is no longer an ELCC committee member, my sincere thanks to Janice for the sterling work she has given to ELCC over many years. Her commitment to ELCC was outstanding and she will be extremely difficult to replace."

Next Meeting date: changed to 2nd December 2019 Spott Village Hall 19:30