

DRAFT - will not be approved until reviewed at the next meeting

Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council (LCC) on
Monday 14th December 2020 by "ZOOM" at 7.30pm



1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Alistair Smith, *Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Rachel Whellans, Jack Ponton, Ross Montague, Judi Gunn, Steve Aitchison, Councillors David Parker and Tom Miers (SBC)

Apologies: Edward Maitland-Carew,

5 members of the public, Stephen Potts, Rachel Gray. Alan Reed, Ruth Reed, Mary McCallum

2. Conflicts of Interest. None so far.

3. Police Report.

- 3.1 The Police Scotland IT system does not support ZOOM so no representative was present. A generic report for Lauderdale and Melrose had been circulated. There were no comments.

4. Adoption of Minutes of previous meetings.

The November Minute was approved by Rachel and seconded by Lorraine.

5. Matters arising – None.

6. Reports

- 6.1 Planning. Jack reported on 3 modest extensions in Lauder which were not a problem, however he was concerned about an application for 2 condensers behind a shop in Market Place. Anne was asked to contact the Planning Department to enquire about the noise which may be created.
 - 6.1.1 Erection of eight holiday lodges, installation of ground based solar panel array and formation of associated access and parking on land east of Thirlestane Castle. Concern was raised about the access road from the corner above the Eagle Bridge, the ugliness of the solar panel in the field above the wood, the view from the south end of Lauder and the blocking of a Right of Way footpath.
 - 6.1.2 Mary McCallum, who lives opposite the entrance, was anxious about the access on the B6362 which is dangerous as the skid marks on the tarmac prove, the extra lighting impinging on her property and concern about amount of mature tree felling needed for this development. She wondered if a better access could be through the Eagle Gates.
 - 6.1.3 Other comments included concern that the development was a preliminary for further chalets, concern over the Environmental Assessment and that the solar panels face north and are shaded by trees.
 - 6.1.4 Jack reported on a wind farm scoping proposal north of Carfraemill on Headshaw, Carfrae and Hillhouse for turbines over 220 metres. This can be accessed on the Scottish Government website and anyone can view. Concern was expressed about the

height of these turbines and it was agreed that LCC would liaise with Oxton CC about this.

- 6.2 Treasurer. Anne will forward the Confirmation that the Code of Conduct has been studied. Lorraine will forward the accounts to the auditor this week. Her plans to change banks will not happen as it is proving too difficult and she thought the Bank of Scotland had improved its service.
- 6.3 Lauder Common Good. The public consultation on the tree planting on the Common is now out and runs till January 2021. After the Covid restrictions have eased, Hugh Chalmers from Tweed Forum has offered to lead a walk to see where the planting will be. There will be a small donation from Alba Trees from the Millennium Wood. A representative has been gathering pinecones to be used for seed.
- 6.4 LCC Outreach.
 - 6.4.1 Judi has heard complaints about horse manure on the new path but David explained that it is a path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In the spring SBC will work on the bridle track beside the tarmac.
 - 6.4.2 Clarification was asked on the new Christmas lights. £15,000 had been received from the Common Good Fund and the cost of the lights was £7,000 and erection has cost £7,500. There will be more detail at the January meeting.
- 6.5 Paths.
 - 6.5.1 Steve and Tom had visited the owners of the falconry to try to resolve the path block. The business breeds birds for the Middle Eastern market and the owners had not realised the path was important. They had no record of whether it was a Right of Way. However, they were anxious about people and dogs disturbing their breeding birds. It was agreed that with proper signage from SBC paths and a possible alteration to the falconry fences a compromise could be reached. After discussion it was agreed that this subject would be raised again in January.
- 6.6 Lauder in Bloom (LiB). Nothing to report.
- 6.7 Eildon Area Partnership. Nothing to report.
- 6.8 The Christmas lights have been lit and look good.

7. AOB

- 7.1 Southampton University are studying how behaviour has changed during lockdown and have sent round a survey for filling in.
- 7.2 Stephen had left the meeting so his discussion on LCC minutes was put back till January.
- 7.3 20mph Trial. David explained that Scottish Government had supplied a grant for a 20mph trial in SBC area. He said that the people for and against this project are about equal and noted that 15% of the driving population speed and it is not practical to convict them. It was agreed that, on the whole, LCC supported the 20mph especially on the Allanbank Gardens road. It was also noted that walkers and cyclists were very pleased with the 40mph on the Lauder/Blainslie/Earlston road.

Date of Next Meeting – **Monday 11th January 2021 at 7. 30..**