

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

Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council (LCC) on Monday 8th January 2024 at Lauder Primary School at 7.30pm and by ZOOM



1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Alistair Smith, *Chairman*, Steve Aitchison, *Vice Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Marilyn Aitkenhead, Emma Herdman, Joanne Dryburgh, Edward Maitland-Carew by ZOOM, Jack Ponton by ZOOM, Judi Gunn by ZOOM, Jenny Linehan by ZOOM, Scottish Borders Council (SBC)

Apologies: Councillors David Parker and John Paton-Day,
1 member of the public,

2. Conflicts of Interest. None so far.

3. Police Report. Ian Porter could not be present. There have been more complaints about speeding in the 20mph zone at the south entrance to Lauder. It was noted that the speed warning sign had only been working intermittently.

4. Adoption of Minutes of previous meetings.

The December minute after changes to 8.2 to include 'approve, disapprove, don't know and indifferent' was proposed by Marilyn and seconded by Steve.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Jenny is still looking into the excess water on the road below the Golf Course.

6. Discussion on buses

- 6.1 Jenny reported that things may get worse before they get better due to a review of the routes and timetable.
- 6.2 There were requests for more late buses, an hourly service from Lauder to Edinburgh and a quicker service between Lauder and Galashiels.
- 6.3 A survey concluded that a service between Stow, Lauder and Galashiels would be welcomed including a connection to the train at Stow.
- 6.4 Jenny agreed to invite Gordon from SBC Transport to the LCC April meeting. Date to be confirmed.

7. South of Scotland Coast to Coast Cycle Path – Stranraer to Eyemouth

7.1 It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.

8. Lauderdale Wind Farms

8.1 **Ditcher Law.** The LCC response to consultation is due very shortly and it was decided that the response would be circulated round for comment before being sent to Scottish Government. It was agreed that the response would include how the survey was organised.

- 8.2 The survey of Lauderdale residents concluded that 57.4% approved of the development, 39.5% disapproved, 8.5% were indifferent and 2.1% did not know. On the positive side, greener energy was considered important and the effect on global warming was conclusive. On the negative side, the visual impact would be very strong and the environmental effect and noise level considerable. It was also noted that a few homes would be severely affected.
- 8.3 **Longcroft.** James Cameron from the developers RES has offered to come to the LCC February meeting.
- 8.4 Discounts may be offered to certain residents to help with their electricity bills but in what area this will be available was unclear. There are examples of other energy companies offering this benefit but only to a very small area and the application process is not easy. It was emphasised that any offer like this should be in writing otherwise it may be allowed by the energy company to lapse.
- 8.5 It was agreed to compile a list of questions for Mr Cameron.
- 8.6 There are 673 people in the Blainslie/Legerwood area, 879 in Lauder North, 1008 in Lauder South and 671 in Oxton and surround. There are 704 households in Lauder, 141 in Oxton.
- 8.7 A Windfarm Status Form was passed round. With the addition of Longpark and, possibly Fallago Rig, it will be filled in to keep everyone up to date with company details, planning stage, amount of community benefit (if any) and next actions.

9. Reports

- 9.1 Planning. Change of use from restaurant to day nursery at 7 Market Place (Firebrick) and erection of wooden fence to rear. It was agreed to check that there was an escape route in the rear fence and to raise concern about traffic on A68 for drop-off and pick-up.
- 9.2 Treasurer. £415 has been received as a grant for the Paths Group. Preparation for the application form for the Community Council Grant is under way. It was approved that the extra insurance of £200 for the defibrillators group be paid by LCC.
- 9.3 Lauder Common Good (LCG). A meeting had been held and the Charitable De-Registration of Common Good Funds had been discussed.
- 9.4 LCC Outreach. The potholes on the Blainslie Road have been filled in and thanks to SBC for quickly sorting the Blainslie Road flood. The organisation of Santa and his Sleigh and the social programme at South Gardens was commended. The flashing speed signs at Blainslie have not been put up yet.
- 9.5 Lauder in Bloom (LiB). The Festive Foliage has been taken down and tidying up everywhere is in progress.
- 9.6 Paths Group. The work on the Burnmill Loop is well under way. Someone has removed the signs on the Whitlaw loop.
- 9.7 Eildon Area Partnership. Nothing to report.
- 9.8 Christmas Lighting. The Initiative Group is waiting for the lights to be taken down for storage. There was some damage during one of the gales to the one on the lamppost outside the Lauderdale.

- 9.9 Defibrillators. Jim Finlay has reported that £150 was paid to Scottish Hart for a new battery for the School. The School may help with payment for this. It was agreed that the defib account be added to the Treasurer's Report at LCC AGM.
- 9.10 Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre is having trouble keeping the Café running.
- 9.11 A68. Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 There was concern about the lack of products at Penny Petroleum and what is there is very expensive.
- 10.2 There is a lamppost on Croft Road obscured by vegetation.
- 10.3 Judi asked Alistair if there could be a short closed meeting soon.
- 10.4 There has been a change at Whitlaw Farm and the Farmhouse, Steading and 300 acres are back on the market. Jenny will look into this and what it means for Lauder.
- 10.5 Joanne will assess the leaflets from Sustainable Selkirk which have been circulated to householders in Lauder.

Date and place of Next Meeting – **Monday 12th February 2024 at Lauder School at 7.30 and by ZOOM.**