

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

Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council (LCC) on Monday 15th April 2024 at Lauder Primary School and by ZOOM at 7.30pm



1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Alistair Smith, *Chairman*, Steve Aitchison, *Vice Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Marilyn Aitkenhead, Jack Ponton by Zoom, Edward Maitland-Carew by Zoom, Joanne Dryburgh, Emma Herdman, Councillors David Parker and John Paton-Day, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) by Zoom

Apologies: Judi Gunn, Councillor Jenny Linehan

Ross Sharp-Dent and Gordon Grant from SBC Transport by Zoom

7 members of the public

2. Conflicts of Interest. None so far.

3. Police Report. This had been circulated.

3.1 There were various reports from Penny Petroleum about people taking fuel and driving off without paying.

3.2 New speed signs have been put up at both entrances to Lauder but are not switched on yet.

4. Adoption of Minutes of previous meetings.

The March minute was proposed by Edward and seconded by Emma.

5. Matters arising – School Buses

The problem of Earlston High School pupils crossing the A68 from Thirlestane Drive on winter mornings was discussed with Ross and Gordon. They will look into this.

6. Allanbank Development

6.1 There has been a delay in starting this building work as there is a problem getting water pressure on site.

6.2 There is now a funding shortage for social housing and David and the residents of Allanbank Gardens are concerned that the houses may be built in more than one phase, elongating the disruption.

6.3 After a discussion on the 4 street names, it was agreed that Allanbank should not be used. The surrounding trees planted by the Baillie family are particularly special and further discussion will be held at the May meeting.

7. Buses – Ross and Gordon from SBC Transport

7.1 There was concern about the lack of buses on Sunday mornings to the BGH now that appointments are being set for Sundays. Ross and Gordon will look into this.

7.2 Gordon explained that since the pandemic there have been less passengers using the bus service which has made the service less viable.

- 7.3 Various routes were mentioned which were unsatisfactory and Ross and Gordon will look into them. They asked for further details of these services to be forwarded to them.

8. South of Scotland Cycling – to be discussed at a further meeting

9. Lauderdale Wind Farms

- 9.1 Marilyn reported on a meeting to discuss wind farm Shared Ownership, and circulated information.
- 9.2 Community Benefit. The Scottish Government guidance, issued in 2019, is that each windfarm should provide £5,000 per annum installed megawatt, index-linked. However the starting point of £5000 has not been updated, and would be equivalent to £6,169 in March 2024. By 2030 (when the wind farms could be installed) the equivalent would be £7,366 assuming 3% inflation between now and 2030. Scottish (and UK) Government should update this annually.
- 9.3 If planning permission is achieved for Longcroft, we would like community benefit to apply to the town of Lauder. We desperately need benefit for various planned projects.
- 9.4 It would be helpful to develop collaborative relationships with our neighbouring communities, particularly if we decide to seek a shared ownership deal.
- 9.5 We need access to excellent professional advice to develop our local organisation for distribution of any wind-farm moneys received; and also to advise on shared ownership. Local Energy Scotland is able to provide some support with this.
- 9.6 The windfarm survey results will be distributed and a committee set up to deal with any community benefit. It was agreed to ask Mark Rowley how Longformacus handled it.

10. Reports

- 10.1 Planning. Nothing to report.
- 10.2 Treasurer. Nothing to report.
- 10.3 Lauder Common Good (LCG). Nothing to report.
- 10.4 LCC Outreach. Nothing to report
- 10.5 Paths Group. The work at the Burnmill is nearly complete. The bridge is next in line to be sorted. There was concern about liability for the path from the cemetery to the golf course which is on private land but no progress on this.
- 10.6 Eildon Area Partnership. The last meeting was cancelled due to not enough SBC Councillors present.
- 10.7 Lauder in Bloom (LiB). The wet and cold weather has held work up. There will be a display for the Steve Cully Memorial Bike Ride.
- 10.8 Lauderdale Initiative. The new lights for the Christmas tree have arrived.
- 10.9 Defibrillators. All AEDs inspected and working in Mar/Apr. There will be a fund raiser in the summer. There should be one on the south side of the town and in the new development at Allanbank.
- 10.10 Leisure Centre. It was agreed that Alistair will invite the Manager to a LCC meeting.
- 10.11 A68. Alistair has asked for improvements to the Garage and entrance to the Industrial Estate.

11. AOB

- 11.1 The OWL which was borrowed from SBC has improved the meeting communication.
- 11.2 Potholes were reported on the High Cross road.
- 11.3 Concern was raised about the prices of shopping and fuel at Penny On The Move.
- 11.4 David was asked if there could be another disabled parking space in The Avenue.
- 11.5 Permission was granted for parking throughout Lauder for the Steve Cully Memorial Bike Ride due to waterlogged fields at Thirlestane Castle.
- 11.6 It was agreed to talk to Lauder Larder about the consultation on Food Provision.

Date and place of Next 3 Meetings – **Monday 13th May 2024, Monday 10th June, Monday 12th August at Lauder Primary School at 7.30 and by ZOOM. There will be no meeting in July due to holidays unless urgent.**