

Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council (LCC) on
Monday 14th March 2025 at Lauder Primary School and by ZOOM at
7.30pm



1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Alistair Smith, *Chairman*, Lorraine Crawford by Zoom, *Treasurer*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Marilyn Aitkenhead, Joanne Dryburgh, Judi Gunn, Jack Ponton by Zoom, Councillors David Parker, Jenny Linehan and John Paton-Day Scottish Borders Council (SBC)

Apologies: Edward Maitland-Carew, Emma Herdman

64 members of the public

PC Ian Porter

2. Conflicts of Interest. None so far.

3. Police Report. – Ian introduced himself and asked that any police matters be directed to him.

4. Adoption of Minutes of previous meetings. The March minute was approved by Marilyn and seconded by Judi.

5. Threepwood/Woodheads (Gala North) Substation at Threepwood Brig, Cross Border Power Connection Pylons, Dun Law Extension Pylons (all SPEN), Woodheads Solar Panels and Battery Proposal (ABO Energy), etc.

- 5.1 There has been no further information from Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) on the Threepwood substation.
- 5.2 Alistair asked Rory Steel to lead comments on these proposals. Rory noted that although residents in Lauder had received notices of this development there had been none in Blainslie which was nearer. He thought that this was illegal and therefore should the consultation be re-opened as it was invalid.
- 5.3 It was observed that the 3 SPEN applications had come in as separate submissions although they were all connected to the Threepwood proposal. The question was asked if this was on purpose to mislead.
- 5.4 It was mentioned that construction traffic for Threepwood and the Woodheads solar panels would be through Thirlestane Drive which is a residential street with children playing. Also the question was asked about the Lauder to Galashiels road being fit for heavy vehicles.
- 5.5 David stated that any Planning Application would need a Transport Assessment.
- 5.6 It was mentioned that it seemed terrible that nothing could be done until the planning applications were put forward.
- 5.7 It is not public knowledge but a further pylon line is planned from Harburn in West Lothian via the Threepwood substation to Eccles to supply energy to further south.
- 5.8 There was an observation that the bat survey for the Woodheads solar panels was carried out in December when bats are hibernating.
- 5.9 It was agreed that, because Threepwood is the lynchpin for all the pylon applications and further solar and battery proposals, LCC should call a public meeting with SPEN, politicians, SBC, media including investigating journalists, Eccles CC and local residents.

6. Lauderdale Wind Farms

- 6.1 A new consultation for a wind farm and battery storage unit on Burnhouse Mains (Longmuir) is in progress. A list of all proposals, past and future, has been posted on the LCC website with contact details of all developers.
- 6.2 Alteration to the Ditcher Law proposal has been published and will be available to study in Oxton Memorial Hall and SBC HQ.
- 6.3 David will ask the Scottish Government about additional battery storage proposals and the dangers therefrom.
- 6.4 Jenny will check on the progress of SBC mapping of all wind farms past, present and future.

7. Allanbank Development - SBC has nothing further to report.

8. Cycle Track – David reported that consultation on this should happen within the next months. It should take around 12 weeks.

9. Reports

- 9.1 Planning. Application for a further house at Pyatshaw. So far there have been no objections. Planning Application for a replacement henhouse between Legerwood and Morriston – no comment.
- 9.2 Treasurer. Lorraine is still struggling to get internet banking. Accounts are finalised and just need auditing.
- 9.3 Lauder Common Good (LCG). David reported that the Shepherd's House is costing a lot to re-furbish.
- 9.4 LCC Outreach. There was a query about the pause in support for Village Halls but David assured that this was only a one-year pause.
- 9.5 Community Action Plan (CAP). The committee has been concentrating on consulting with younger people including Scouts, Primary School, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Explorers. Compilation of all the clubs in Lauder is in progress. The Community Leisure Centre would like to be involved with CAP and offered a meeting room if needed. The next important consultation meeting is on 13th May in the Public Hall from 7.00 till 8.30.
- 9.6 Paths Group. The bridge between Castle Wynd and the Chuckie Lodge has become unsafe and will be mended shortly. Vegetation has been removed from the gas pipe line on the Burnmill loop.
- 9.7 Cemetery. A successful meeting had been held at the cemetery.
- 9.8 Lauder in Bloom (LiB). Preparation for the summer is ongoing. Watering volunteers are needed for central Lauder.
- 9.9 Lauderdale Initiative. Nothing to report.
- 9.10 Defibrillators. There is a delay to the delivery of the pharmacy cabinet and new pads are needed for the Blainslie one. It was noted that there should be one at the Community and Leisure Centre and at the Public Hall.
- 9.11 Lauder Community and Leisure Centre. Steve Aitchison as Chairman gave an update. The heating system has been overhauled and the entry fob arrangement is now working. Membership has doubled and an e-bike hire is beginning.
- 9.12 A68. Nothing to report.

9.13 Lauder Resilience. Nothing to report.

10. AOB

10.1 Alistair asked that SBC look into the repairing the wall at the A68 end of Crofts Road.

10.2 Loose dogs in the enclosed Children's Play Park was discussed and David will check with SBC Legal Department about bye-laws and notices.

10.3

Date and place of Next 2 Meetings **Monday 12th May and Monday 9th June 2025 at Lauder Primary School at 7.30 and by ZOOM.**

LCC Elections will take place thereafter