

EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 (REMOTE)

PRESENT:	Chris Bruce	Chair, Oldhamstocks
	Kelvin D’Arcy Burt	Stenton
	Colin Bloomfield	Treasurer, Stenton
	Peter Branfield	Spott
	Wendy Smillie	Oldhamstocks
	Jill Malcolmson	Innerwick
	Lyn Jardine	Councillor, Dunbar & East Linton
APOLOGIES:	Anne Lyall	Spott
	David Mumford	Innerwick

This meeting followed 90 minutes of discussion with Andy Black and Sam Mac Millan from Belltown Power, and 12 local residents about the proposed Newlands Hill Energy Hub. It was not possible to discuss items in depth, and many items were postponed until the planned 20 February meeting.

CBr - proposed that in the light of the earlier discussion, no amendments were necessary to the draft **ELCC submission to Energy Consents Unit about the proposed Newlands Hill Energy Hub**, but he invited everyone to have a look through and send any comments to him as soon as possible. ACTION: all to consider, submit any comments, and CBr to finalise draft submission accordingly, 2 February submission deadline to be met. This was agreed.

Minutes December 2023 approved.

LJ asked if minutes could be shared with councillors. ACTION: Draft minutes to be circulated to the 3 ward councillors from now on, to facilitate any actions required of them. CBr

- **Stenton survey** about the proposed Newlands Hill Energy Hub - results to be put on website. CBr/KDB/PB
- **Spott Road/A1 Junction** - LJ spoken with Tony Dean. Asked if someone could meet TD at site to discuss. PB said he asked twice to meet him on site but TD advised visit had been made and everything seemed fine.

Local Place Plan - send any comments on the draft Action Plan to Sarah before the Innerwick meeting on 10 February. Documents to be included on shared drive where all comments could be added in one place. **CBr/PB**

- Second discussion to be held at Stenton, suggest a date before 8 March.
KDB to meet with Moya

Demand Responsive Transport Bus Trial- CBr has met with Eves Coaches and Andrew McGowan from East Lothian Council. LIFTANGO Software is to be used, this will provide the driver with real time passenger pick up information. Bus to operate Monday to Friday 7am - 9pm and needs regular customers to use service on a regular weekly basis. There will be 3 spaces for buggies/wheelchairs but not cycles because there is no securing strap. Launch date not confirmed but anticipated to be 12 February.
PB said although he understood this bus must not compete with existing bus service to Spott village (morning/evening), would like the DRT bus service to include Spott.

Following initial 3 month trial it is hoped there will be a second phase when changes can be made.

Publicising bus trial - IPWA Newsletter could include details, announcement at forthcoming OCA AGM, flyers to properties - approach Andrew for financial help with this. **CBr/WS/JM**

- **Statutory Review Polling Places**

Want Oldhamstocks Hall to be retained as polling station, only 4 houses across the district would be nearer to Innerwick for voting. A volunteer polling clerk was suggested, usually ex-council employees who undertake this role for a small fee, confidentiality in polling station an issue. Not known how many people vote in person or by postal vote in Spott. Council paid £220 for use of Spott Hall, setting up day before and clear hall after voting closes.

Suggestion of volunteer clerk with appropriate training to be put forward. Statement to be submitted to the formal consultation about both Oldhamstocks and Spott Halls being used as polling stations in future
ACTION: CBr.

- **Treasurer's report:**

ELCC account balance stands at £524.84. This is very low because we have recently purchased a projector which SSE said they will fund. However, we still have not received the funding (over £2000) from them to cover this.

The work regarding Local Place Plan had a budget of £6000 approved. However, the costs incurred to date are £6456.90. The overspend of £456.90 has currently come out of the ELCC Admin budget, again contributing to a very low working balance.

A separate note of discussions regarding East Lammermuir Community Benefits was made and is reported separately.

Green Energy Developments

- **Innerwick public meeting 26 February** - Council to send out invitations.
- **Community Benefits** - nothing yet from developers apart from Fred Olsen which already know about.
- **Branxton Sub Station** - report to Planning Committee postponed to at least March, this is the kingpin development. If approved all others can theoretically go ahead at the east end of community area but if delayed all the others would be too, as they all connect into the substation. Would ideally go to a public enquiry. This is final act of first phase of work, important moment.
- **Richmond's Hope** - PB and JM missed last meeting when this was discussed. If agencies unable to put funding into project, PB hoped to come to an agreement with ELCC to underwrite this to get the project off the ground. CBr asked PB to send information to him. Funding meeting with Stevie McKinley on 13 February. **CBr/PB to attend.**

Meeting ended.

Minute taken by Margaret Jenkins