East Lammermuir Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 27 October 2025 at 19.30 Spott Village Hall

Minute of meeting

1. **Present** Cllr. Lyn Jardine, Colin Bloomfield, Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt, Anne Lyall, Lennox Webb, Caroline Anderson, Chris Bruce, Beth Landon (Energy Projects Partnership Manager)

2. **Apologies for Absence** Suzie Fletcher, Sharon Young

3. **Roll Call of elected community Councillors and opportunity to co-opt other members**

An East Lothian-wide process of nominations to community councils was held in August and September. East Lammermuir had 5 nominations, all of whom were elected without opposition, and was therefore able to form a new community council (quorum is 4).

Ward 1 (**Stenton**) (2 Community Councillors)
Colin Bloomfield
1 vacancy
Kelvin D'Arcy Burt is willing to be co-opted – this was fully supported
Kelvin was co-opted.

Ward 2 (**Spott**) (2 Community Councillors)
Anne Lyall
Lennox Webb
0 vacancy

Ward 3 (**Innerwick**) (2 Community Councillors)
2 vacancies
Rev. Suzie Fletcher is willing to be co-opted pending any further new members being identified – this was fully supported and Suzie was co-opted on this basis.

Ward 4 (**Oldhamstocks**) (2 Community Councillors)
Caroline Anderson
Christopher Bruce
0 vacancy

4. Election of Office Bearers for 2025 – 29

Councillor Lyn Jardine chaired this part of the meeting. She asked for nominations for officer roles in the new community council, and appointments were unanimously agreed as follows;

- Chair – Chris Bruce
- Treasurer – Colin Bloomfield
- Secretary - Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt
- Planning link – Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt
- Liaison Groups representatives
    - Biodiversity Community Liaison Group - Beth Landon
    - Torness Liaison – Lennox Webb
    - Viridor Liaison - Christy Pryse-Hawkins
    - Valencia Liaison - Caroline Anderson/Christy P-H
    - Tarmac Liaison - Christy P-H
    - Dunbar and East Lothian Area Partnership - Anne Lyall, Beth Landon as substitute
    - Association of East Lothian Community Councils - Chris Bruce
    - Community And Police Partnership - Kelvin D'Arcy-Burt
- Communications lead – Caroline Anderson

Action: New leads and representatives agreed to meet with the person they are succeeding to receive a handover at a mutually acceptable time.

5. Ways of Working

<u>Meeting times and dates</u>
Members would like to meet 8 times a year from 19.00 – 21.00

<u>Preparation of agendas and minutes</u>
Request to include "what questions need answered" – **Action**: all to do this when proposing items for the agenda.

<u>Internal communications</u>; Email/whatsapp/other forms of communication – working well, too many emails. **Action**: All agreed to feedback to Chair or Secretary if any forwarded emails are not of interest to the recipient.

<u>External communications</u>; website/facebook page – Caroline offered to take a lead on this, meet with Pete Branfield to discuss what he has been doing, and come back to the Community Council with suggestions and asks for content as appropriate.

<u>Benefits funding</u> – overlaps and distinctions – Different arrangements for Crystal Rig 1 – 4, and for forthcoming benefits funds. All need to be aware of our individual responsibilities. **Action**; Colin agreed to meet with Caroline to explain what each relevant role entails.

6. **Community Councillor training**
   After the meeting, Cllr. Lyn Jardine confirmed that East Lothian Council intends to offer training for (new) community councillors, and that Stuart Baxter is the lead for this.

At this point it was already 20.40 so those present agreed to focus on four key items first – from the long list of items up for discussion.

7. **Role of Minute Secretary**
   - Discussion of broadening role to make it more of a job – **Action** Chris to draft an advert for discussion and agreement
   - Requirement to meet in public – try again to find an IT solution that generates a useable minute of meeting; **Action**; Kelvin and Lennox to investigate.

8. **Local Energy Infrastructure Developments** (see eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk)
   - Springfield Solar & BESS – ELC Planning Committee 4 November
     Previously circulated statement to planning committee was agreed. **Action** Chris to join meeting virtually to deliver the statement, if this was not possible Beth Landon would read out the statement as she plans to attend in person.
   - Repower of Crystal Rig 1 – response to Energy Consents Unit (due by 3 November) agreed for submission after some minor amendments (Add in Left on Left off A1 rule) and discussion of most practical focus for any submission where we are in support of the application. **Action** Chris to amend and submit.

   - Energy Projects Partnership Manager Beth Landon
     - Beth referred to the All Developer meeting held 22 September – findings of "sticky dots" exercise asking community members, developers and council reps about what is going well and what to focus on next; this led to a brief update on the five priorities for the Energy Project Partnership Manager for the next 18 months. Well done Beth!
     - Advisory Group – hoping to convene first meeting early December
     - Traffic and Travel Group/Lorries in our Lanes meetings will be on 10 November in Innerwick. (**Action;** Beth)

9. **Progressing our Local Place Plan – discussion** (Update from Beth Landon)
   Beth outlined progress with the three remaining workshops to inform spending of EGL1 SPEN/NnG community benefits; dates being firmed up and invites issued.

10. Community Benefits (Chris Bruce)

Relationship with East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO / Foundation Scotland – Models for Distribution

Chris made a Proposal with respect to urgent priorities arising from the first Community Ambition workshop held on 9 October about Ambition 1. "All properties within one kilometre of construction works, haul roads or access routes on public roads should be brought up to a minimum of EPC band C, with any appropriate micro renewables included."

Whilst EGL1-related funding is still not physically available, pending the process of the four workshops, there are funds available now in relation to the NnG windfarm. Chris suggested that proposals for use of these funds be submitted to ELCC on the standard application forms by the deadline 31 October, and then considered against the NnG fund by the Decision-Making Group proposed at the recent AGM meeting for the Benefits Fund. This would consist of

- The Directors of the East Lammermuir Community Fund Ltd

plus

- A community member to represent each community ambition – invited after the relevant workshop has taken place.

So for this next funding meeting (19 November) we would hope to have one community member in place – and he or she will be well qualified to comment on proposals in relation to the Ambition about heat and energy in homes.

Bids will not be invited in relation to Ambitions 2, 3 and 4 at this stage as the workshops have not taken place.

This proposal was supported. It was agreed that the implications of working this way will need thought through and we may need to increase the frequency of funding decision meetings.

Action; Chris to inform Foundation Scotland and East Lothian Community Benefits Trustees of this proposal

Beth to invite a community member from the Ambition 1 workshop to join the funding decision making group, in relation at this time to the NnG funds.

11. Correspondence

Proposal for a Visitor Levy in East Lothian – brief discussion, no strong view in the group

Papple Steading – invitation to visit – **Action;** Colin and Kelvin will go.

Alterations to 253 bus – Dr David Hogg letter discussed **Action: Chris to follow up with David and Borders Buses**

12. Local Updates

Innerwick: Community Council members to be sought. Hall refurbishment imminent
Oldhamstocks: progress with village hall – demolition imminent
Stenton; 20mph request – action in hand

13. Dates of Meetings 2025

Forthcoming meeting date Changed to 8th December in Stenton at 19.00

Dates for 2026 – Kelvin proposed a set of dates for 2026
MONDAYS at 19.00 in the village halls
Action; All to review and advise if there are dates that need changed to facilitate their attendance.

Items not discussed

14. Minutes of meeting held 1 September 2025

15. Treasurer's Report (Colin Bloomfield)
Colin provided a written report stating that the ELCC bank balance stands at £4706.11

16. Community Benefits

- **Update;** Proposal for aligning community benefits streams across East Lothian – MSP Energy Conference 29 September
- Relationship with East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO / Foundation Scotland – draft Memorandum of Understanding (previously circulated)
- Scottish Government Onshore renewables good practice guidance – next meeting 19 November - draft Models for Distribution