

Leadhills Community Council - Minutes of Regular Meeting

03 April 2025

Present (LCC): Steve Johnstone (SJ), Margaret Harley (MH), Nigel Davies (ND), Bryan Turpin (BT) and Joshua Howard (JH)
South Lanarshire (SLC) Councillors for Ward 3 - Clydesdale East: Ralph Barker

Six Members of the Public were also present

Meeting commenced at 19h45

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 SJ welcomed the SLC Councillor, Leadhills Community Council members and members of public to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Ian McAllan and Alex Alison (SLC Councillors)

2.0 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting

- 2.1 Draft minutes were circulated to all LCC members by email on 21 March 2025 and again on 23 March 2025. The comments received were incorporated and the draft was reissued by email on 26 March 2025. The draft minutes issued on 26 March 2025 were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.0 Questions and Answers – Questions from Residents

- 3.1 No questions were raised

4.0 New Members for Leadhills Community Council

- 4.1 Joshua Howard (JH) was unanimously appointed as an elected member of Leadhills Community Council – **information**
- 4.2 Stuart Marsh (SM) was unanimously confirmed as an elected member of Leadhills Community Council instead of a co-opted as he was previously - **information**
- 4.3 Gerard Godfrey and Gordon Ross were unanimously appointed as Associate Members of Leadhills Community Council – **information**
- 4.4 Effort to recruit two new members continue by word of mouth and by advertising on Facebook and on the village notice boards. A new recruitment poster was circulated late last month - **information**

5.0 Grant Visor Scheme

- 5.1 Nothing to report.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

- 6.1 MH reported that the current balance in LCC's account is £11,048.44

7.0 Secretary's Report

- 7.1 No formal correspondence received or issued in the period since the last meeting - **information**

8.0 Informal Meeting with members of Wanlockhead Community Council to discuss Points of Mutual Interest

- 8.1 An informal meeting was held in Wanlockhead on 17 March 2025 - **information**
- 8.2 Alteration work in the former Moffat Cottage Hospital building to accommodate the Moffat GP practice is nearing completion. This was taken as a positive sign because it aligned with the intentions of the Moffat practice that were published on the internet / Facebook shortly after they replaced Alba - **information**
- 8.3 WCC has appointed two individuals to represent them on the CLG for Ravengill and other renewal energy developments - **information**

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Application Ref P/24/1428 for a meteorological mast has been approved – **information**

9.2 Planning Application Ref P/25/0274 for a BESS Battery Storage System and Associated Infrastructure at Douglas has been submitted

9.3 Planning Application Ref P/24/1025 for Formation of a Private Way for forestry purposes on land 1km Northeast of Lettershaw Cottage near the Abington to Leadhills Road has been submitted. This falls within the Duneaton CC area and is included here for reference only.

10.0 Village Hall Resilience Plan – Asset Transfer

10.1 An asset transfer to bring the hall into village ownership must be seriously considered. It is rumoured that, in the not too distant future, only nine (9) village halls in South Lanarkshire will continue to operate under the care of SLC – **Action All**

11.0 Suggestions for Projects / Improvements

11.1 SJ urged all residents and LCC members to put forward suggestions for project and improvements in Leadhills.

11.2 The following suggestions have been received and are awaiting investigation / implementation:

- (a) Service / refurbish existing play equipment / apparatus in play-park – **Action SJ**
- (b) Provide improved apparatus in the play-park for younger children to enjoy. Will SLC maintain such equipment? **Action SJ**
- (d) Repair collapsed section of cemetery wall – **ND following**
- (e) Resolve concern regarding movement / slippage of William Symington Memorial – **ND following**
- (f) Reduce grass / vegetation by strimming to expose footpath from new footbridge on Ramsay Road to the Symington Memorial **ND following**
- (g) Water jetting to clear obstruction in outlet drain from gully at junction of Bell View and Store Brae – **Completed**
- (h) Make good depressions in Menzies Place / Bell View roadway surface between end of Curfew Place and top of Store Brea – **Action SJ**
- (i) Make good depressions in roadway surface on low-numbered section of Lowther View (i.e. to the right from the junction with Menzies Place) – **Action SJ**
- (j) Clean-out the three surface water channels on Menzies Place – **Action SJ**
- (k) Copy of Leadhills Conservation Area document to be provided in village hall – **Done**

12.0 Comments Box

Six comments were received.

12.1 First Comment:

I live in Leadhills & struggle to make ends meet. The LEDS that was discussed in the last meeting is a brilliant idea & I hope the Leadhills Community Council can make this happen.

Answer: If the support for this continues to grow, LCC will have to make representations to SSE.

12.2 Second Comment:

Interested in the LED Scheme (as last council meeting). Active in Douglas and Sanquhar where householders receive a subsidy of up to £400 a year.

It appears SSE are not in favour of a scheme in Leadhills. However with enough support the SSE will have to reconsider its position,

Can we collect support in the village for this scheme?

Answer: Before LCC can approach SSE, it will be necessary for the level of support in Leadhills for a LEDS scheme to be measured.

12.3 Third Comment

There is a wheelie bin on Horners Place that is full of bags containing dog muck. This bin is actually overflowing. The bin is on a corner next to a red mail box.

Will the community council please do something about this.

Answer: Action is already underway in the hope of achieving a satisfactory outcome.

12.4 Fourth Comment

Could the community council address the lack of adequate waste bins in the village – to include dog waste bins – around the hotel area and park-up area. Bins at the bus stop and shop always overflowing. Thanks.

Remark(s): During discussion of this comment, it was suggested that some of the waste deposited in the bin at the shop and the bin at the bus stop may come from camper vans using the hotel car park. Perhaps the hotel could provide a bin on their car park for the use of camper vans if they don't already do so.

Answer: Situation will be monitored.

12.5 Fifth Comment

Would the council consider organising a skip to avoid fly tipping, also keeping our conservation village tidy.

Answer: The cost of providing a skip on a permanent basis would be prohibitive. The cost of providing one skip on a spot basis can be investigated.

12.6 Sixth Comment

What is happening with the grey car (Audi) parked on the square for a year. It is taking up space and inconvenient.

Answer: If anyone knows who owns the car in question, will they please enquire and inform the community council what the owner intends to do with this car.

AOCB

13.0 Advance Notice of Leadhills Power Outage

15.1 A power outage will occur on one day during the first week of May 2025 between 09h00 and 12h00 to facilitate the replacement of two transformers. The date will be advised in due course.

14.0 Ravensgill Energy Park (“RAP”)

14.1 The drop-in open day at Leadhills Village Hall will be held in the last week of April / early May 2025 actual date to be advised. Once it is known, LCC will advertise the date on the local Facebook pages - **information**

14.2 Draft of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Community Liaison Group (“CLG”) for Ravensgill Energy Park and the other Renewco projects that are to be included in the same basket – not yet received – **Action SJ to chase**

14.3 Due to the high level of concern within the community about Ravensgill, two representatives of the Ravensgill Action Group (“RAG”) have joined LCC as Associate Members (see item 4.3 above) to represent Leadhills on the Community Liaison Group – **information**

14.4 Renewco / Cavendish today advised their intention to install a set of LiDAR equipment on the Ravensgill site. LiDAR equipment performs the same function as a meteorological mast so the number of meteorological masts can be reduced from three to one – **information**

14.5 In order to gauge the actual strength of feeling in the community for or against RAP, LCC will post a Questionnaire through the letter box of every live address in Leadhills. The Questionnaire will be distributed after the drop-in open day.

14.6 The proposed format and content of the Questionnaire was previously circulated by email to all LCC members for review and approval. No comments were received on the version circulated by email on 03 April 2025. The version of the Questionnaire circulated on 03 April 2025 was unanimously approved for use - **information**

15.0 Phone in Village Telephone Box

15.1 It was reported that the phone in the village phone box has been repaired - **information**

16.0 New Website for Leadhills Community Council

16.1 It is recognised that creation of a new website or resurrection of the most recently created existing “redundant” website is necessary.

16.2 There will be confusion if the other redundant websites are not taken down.

16.3 A renewed effort has been made to find the passwords / administrators for the redundant websites – **information**

17.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

20.1 The **next Regular Meeting** will be held in Leadhills Village Hall on **Thursday 05 June 2025 – Commencing at 19h45**

18.0 Close of Meeting

SJ thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 20h30.