

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 24th January 2018.

Present: S.Aitchison, S.Sharp, G. Whittaker, J. Williams

Apologies: F. Connelly

1. Composition of the new Community Council. This part of the meeting was chaired by cllr. Aitchison. Cllr Aitchison, as Returning Officer for the recent Community Council election, reported that there had been just four nominations for six available places on the Community Council. Heriot Community Council now comprises the following: Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Gavin Whittaker & John Williams. JW was nominated as chair by GW and seconded by SS. Cllr Aitchison ceded the rest of the meeting to the new Chair.
2. Council offices: FC had previously agreed to continue as Treasurer, and GW to continue as Secretary. With no other nominees, these positions were confirmed.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting: These were agreed without modification.
4. Police report. There was no police report.
5. Planning. 17/01738/PPP Erection of dwellinghouse at Stagebank. There was some discussion of this application, but the Council had no objection and no significant comments to make. JW will respond to SBC in respect of this.
6. Heriot Community Broadband: JW reported that things were operating normally. Money had been secured from the Dun Law Trust for funding additional work. Plans for expansion into Moorfoot were under way. It is not clear what is happening with Commercial (primarily BT-based) broadband in Heriot. No official information has been received by the CC, but it *appears* that there are plans for 'fibre to the cabinet' (FTTC) to two locations in Heriot at the telephone exchange and close to the school. If true, this would increase speeds for ordinary users that are close to these locations.
7. Winter issues: As usual, winter conditions brought accidents and incidents that were the result of various combinations of driver stupidity and road conditions. The CC agreed to look into what could be done to improve the situation at Nettleingflat and the B709 in particular.

8. Eildon Area Partnership. There was to be a meeting of this group on 25th January. Heriot CC would only have one representative present. Following instructions from Holyrood, funding allocation of 1% of the SBC budget (it is not clear whether that 1% includes or excludes the salary budget) will be allocated in conjunction with community opinion in order “to improve community involvement”. Heriot has windfarm funds, but that does not prevent Heriot-based projects from bidding for funds from this source. In the first tranche, up to £60k will be allocated to fund 3-5 projects from a list of 14 that have been shortlisted. Funding will be decided by popular vote of SBC area residents, via the SBC website. Any unspent monies will be returned to the pot, for allocation in a second tranche later in the year. There will be no weighting of the votes to compensate for the sizes of the communities that are bidding for funds, but the effectiveness of the system in allocating funds to a range of areas will be assessed after the first grants are made, and before the grants for the second set of applications are made.
9. Windfarms: Gilston windfarm has gone to appeal, following its rejection by SBC Planning
10. Community Council Insurance: FC is dealing with this.
11. AOB
 - a. Falahill water supply. Installation of the new mains supply is proceeding, but no connections have been made yet.
 - b. Bus shelters. GW has recently received maps of services around the proposed locations and aims to submit a planning application for the shelters soon. GW stated that if anyone would like to help with this project, they would be very welcome. This was followed by the sound of tumbleweed.

The meeting finished at 20:15

Provisional dates of meetings in 2018:
(all at 7:00pm in the Macfie Hall)

Mar 21st, May 23rd, July 25th, Oct 3rd, Nov 28th