

# Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6pm

**Present:** Gavin Whittaker, John Williams, Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Helen Brinkworth, Cllr. Jardine,.

Apologies for absence from Cllr Aitchison, Cllr. Scott.

1. Minutes of previous meeting. Accepted and approved.
2. Police Report. Nothing of note in the two police report since the last meeting. The police would like to be informed of in-person meetings in future, as they may be able to attend.
3. Broad Law Quarry. (Skyrora) Operating procedures and community liaison process have been agreed, and a site visit has been proposed for community council members. Outreach is planned with local schools.
4. Eildon meeting. JW had submitted a response to the consultation. HB reported on the meeting she had attended. The first part of the meeting, Places and Mechanism for Change, was of limited relevance to Heriot. The second part dealt with funding awards – in future this will be done via a new group. Limits on fund are: Constituted groups - £15k, Unconstituted groups - £5k. There will be a responsive small fund with a £1.5k limit. With its funding distribution function removed, there appear to be only very limited powers available to the Eildon Area Committee in future. The next meeting of the committee will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. Roads Issues
  - a. 20mph limits. HB commented that many parents would like to see a 30mph limit extending along the B709 from the A7 to the school. SS expressed surprise at the short length of the 20mph limit at the school. GW questioned what happened to the community consultation on the 20mph limits.
  - b. A7 and 40mph limits. Recently installed chevron signs near the telephone exchange had been demolished by vehicles, illustrating their ineffectiveness, the issue at the A7/B709 junction was being addresses by the installation of islands. GW expressed concern that roads issues were being addressed in a piecemeal approach, rather than taking a holistic view of the problems. *GW to relay the concerns of the CC to Philippa Gilhooley (SBC)*
  - c. Tour of Britain Cycling event, 11<sup>th</sup> September. The route comes from Innerleithen, past Heriot Primary School, and on to Lauder. The Macfie Hall Committee are planning an event on the day. A suggestion about indication safe viewing points was made, but concerns were put forward about our liability if we do this. SBC may put round advice about car parking, etc.

## 6. Windfarms

- a. Greystone Knowe. No news – original plans were for an August submission, but nothing has materialised yet.
- b. Community investment – FC suggested that we should consider whether we wish to invest in a windfarm or whether it might be better to investigate other avenues for investment. SS concurred and expressed concern that the amount of money required for investment in windfarms represented a potentially onerous burden for the community to deal with. FC commented about the need to invest the money from the windfarm panel, and whether there was any opportunity for overlap in how the investments could be made. *JW to approach the Chair of the windfarm panel to consider a coordinated approach.*

## 7.

- a. Bank accounts. JW had been advised that HCB should be dissolved to avoid potential future liabilities, and that the money will be returned to HCC. The existing bank account would also cease to be available for the CC to use. Discussion followed about what to do with the money.
- b. Churchyard. Grant decision dates for Carcant/Toddleburn aren't convenient for the project, but those for Dun Law are, albeit coming very soon. The CC agreed to give £1k to support an application to the Dun Law Trust. *SS to submit an application for funding.*
- c. HB commented that we may need to consider what expenditure may be coming up in the next year that will require grant funding. Benches and Bus shelters were cited as examples. It was agreed that more funding would be available by the time it was needed for these projects.
- d. Bus shelters – GW has made a start on this project, looking at location and potential use. Will follow up with discussion with SBC.
- e. Funding grant was agreed to assist the new Yoga group with £307 for equipment.
- f. GW outlined some issues with the DLX Trust, where communities outside the existing Trust area were pressing for access to the funds. FC commented that there was an acceptance that anyone can apply to a fund from any area, but such applications can be rejected.

## 8. AOB

- a. There is a need to increase awareness of the available funding support for community projects, and to promote good applications. JW and GW agreed to circulate information, possibly summarising what money has been spent, what we do with the funds, and how new applications can be funded.
- b. The CC needs to hold an AGM, which will probably be online. Elections are now permitted, but with almost no public attendance at meetings there were concerns that people would have no enthusiasm for, or knowledge of, the community council and how it operates. It was agreed that we need to get people to the meetings – possibly starting with meetings in the hall first, followed by a more open discussion about elections.

- c. October meeting: A move to change the date to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct was agreed.
- d. Playpark. GW summarised the issues – the existing playpark has not yet been assessed by SBC's commercial contacts, and attempts to look into land potentially owned by Network Rail have been stalled because there are current proposals to electrify the Borders Railway, and a need for Network Rail to assess what land would be needed for this.
- e. Oliver Mundell had contacted JW with the aim of reviving the work of the A7 action group. An initial meeting will take place via Zoom on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm. *GW agreed to attend.*

Meeting ended at 19:20