

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, 20th October, 2021

Present: John Williams (Chair), Helen Brinkworth, Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Gavin Whittaker, Cllr Aitchison.
Energiekontor representatives (2), plus two members of the public.

Apologies from: Harry Scott

1. Minutes of previous meeting: accepted
2. Wull Muir wind farm.
 - a. A brief summary of the application was presented by representatives of Energiekontor. The site area has been moved from that of the previous application to reduce the impact on Midlothian, but at the expense of a greater impact on Heriot households. The planning application for 8 turbines, 135m tall is expected to be submitted next year. Layout plans were available.
 - b. Questions were raised about the height to be employed, since it is understood that 135m turbines are becoming more difficult to obtain, with the implication that the developers may opt for a variation to permit 150m turbines. It was not denied that these may also be cheaper. The developer stated that they will be applying for 135m turbines.
 - c. The distance to the nearest properties was questioned, and was stated as being approximately 1.3km, which would potentially raise significant noise issues and residential amenity impacts.
 - d. In response to a question about MOD resistance to the application, the developer stated that they expected a response.
 - e. The distance of the proposed turbine positions was queried as they are immediately adjacent to the core path through the area. The developer stated that there would be an appropriate standoff from core paths.
3. Police report: There was nothing relevant to Heriot in the police report
4. Cllr Aitchison reported that the new fence at the school had been installed. The playpark astroturf at the school is suffering from use and may need remedial work. Also the lights may require padding to prevent injuries from collisions.
5. Church Drainage: This was reported as not being in good order, although the large puddle has now been prevented from forming.
6. Septic tank on Heriot Way. SBC is dealing with the gutter issues, but Scottish Water are still waiting for contractors to empty the septic tank itself.
7. Hedging at Sandyknowe: It was reported that this was in need of a first cut. SBC is responsible for the hedging and Cllr Aitchison agreed to check the position with SBC Roads.

8. Roads issues

- a. 20mph limits. It was reported that the 20mph speed limits throughout the Borders area had reduced the average speed through the affected areas by 3mph, which was apparently regarded as a good result...
- b. A7 Action Group: GW had attended an online meeting, but did not find it particularly useful.

9. Windfarms:

- a. Greystone Knowe: Rosemary Chambers has been away, so there was no new information.
- b. JW had spoken to Colin Hood about the possibility of investing unspent community funds, and they had agreed for John to approach a broker in Edinburgh for advice. FC and SS reported that the level of funding required for community investment in energy projects is onerous for a small community.

10. Community Council bank account. The application for a more appropriate bank account had been completed.

11. Bus Shelters: No progress.

12. Graveyard. Funds from the Dun Law Extension Trust had been agreed to pay for the remedial work. SS to follow up.

13. Grant application from the Hall: Due to the amounts of money involved, it was agreed that this would be better addressed to one of the community funds.

14. Bonfire and Fireworks: FC was arranging the insurance via SBC.

15. A7 and safety. A car had driven off the A7 at the telephone exchange on Sept. 25th. The chevrons require replacement following collision damage. SA suggested the installation of rumble strips.

16. Christmas Tree: HB agreed to arrange for a Christmas tree to be purchased.

The meeting ended at 20:30