

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 19th Oct 2022 at 19:00

Present: H. Brinkworth, F. Connelly, S. Sharp, G. Whittaker, J. Williams (Chair), Cllr. Mackinnon, Cllr. Sinclair plus four members of the community

Apologies: Cllr. Steel

1. Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted.
2. Revised date for council elections. Cllr. Sinclair had contacted SBC officials and determined that a delay to the elections was permissible. It is anticipated that elections will be held early in the new year.
3. Police reports. The latest police report again contained no reference to rural crime. SS reported that she had another meeting with the police scheduled for the following day, and that official police statistics pointed to a decrease in rural crimes, with 18 quad bike thefts in the Borders region in September 2022, compared with 70 in September 2021, although the region retains one of the highest rates of such crimes in Scotland. Cllr Mackinnon indicated that the police may have an initiative to better address rural crime in the near future.
4. Roads Issues.
 - a. GW reported that the new speed-activated sign for the bends near the telephone exchange had arrived at SBC, and the installation was to be scheduled very soon. An email from SBC officials had indicated that two signs may be being installed, although only one had been previously discussed.
 - b. HB reported that the signage at Sandyknowe was still inconsistent. GW agreed to raise this with SBC.
5. Eildon Area Help with Food. No response had been received from the contact for this scheme. Jenny Mushlin (Stow and Fountainhall CC) was happy to liaise about food distribution and access, but it was evident that access to foodbanks is normally accomplished via Social Services, Local support groups and Citizen's Advice Bureau. JW agreed to make further inquiries.
6. Planning application:
 - a. 22/01470/FUL Erection of dwellinghouse , Land south of Heriot Water. This was discussed and it was agreed that the proposal was consistent with the CC's previously stated preference for gradual organic growth of the community (as opposed to the imposition of large housing estates). A majority of the CC agreed that a letter of support should be submitted to SBC.

7. Wind Farms

- a. Greystone Knowe. The correspondence from the CC and other parties is now accessible on the ECU website. There has been no significant movement in the application.
- b. Wull Muir. An application is planned for submission by the end of the year. A public exhibition had been held, but it was noted that the mail drop promised by Michaela (Energiekontor) at a previous CC meeting, and in email correspondence, had been received by those affected, leaving many people unaware of the major changes since the previous mail drop.
- c. Scawd Law. The issue with the presence of the golden eagles had been resolved, with the female eagle having killed the male. An update is due on 31st Oct at a CLG meeting, JW would attend.
- d. Leithenwater Energy Hub. Heriot Cc is now a consultee. The plan is for turbines 200m to tip. Heriot is largely unaffected due to the distance and intervening hills, but the B709 through to innerleithen is planned as an access route for the turbines. The CC questioned the practicality of this approach.

8. Community funds

- a. Churchyard: SS reported that the work had finally begun, and the flooding at the gate had been partially resolved.
- b. Certified First Aid Course: A proposal from SS to hold a first aid course was discussed. Funding (£530, including hall hire) would be required. The CC unanimously agreed to fund the course, with the possibility of further funding if the course proved a success and was oversubscribed.
- c. Bonfire insurance. GW had requested a grant of £168 to cover insurance for the bonfire and fireworks event on 5th November. This was unanimously agreed.

9. AOB

- a. Festive lighting. A request for an updated certification for the electricity point for the Christmas tree was regarded as redundant, as the CC would not be using it this year. SBC to be informed of the change of correspondence address for this.
- b. Playpark. The future of the playpark was discussed as the current situation is that the park is unusable. The situation is the same as previously discussed. GW to speak to landowners.
- c. Railway issues. A meter being used to provide electricity to the pump previously used by is still subject to a standing charge that a resident is being charged for, despite the meter not being used. Its removal would incur high charges. The situation is one that Network Rail should have dealt with following the railway construction. The SBC councillors agreed to inquire with SBC about what the council was able to do and whether they had any contacts at Network Rail. JW also agreed to contact John Lamont MP.
- d. Bus shelter at Hangingshaw. Raised again as an issue by a resident, a bus shelter cannot be installed until the sale of the adjacent land is completed. The bus shelter cannot be installed on the pavement itself, nor can it be installed on the land behind if it is being sold to a private developer, and the bus shelter cannot be placed at a point

that is not a bus stop. It was suggested that a cheap simple shed be installed on the concrete as a temporary measure until the final situation with the land is resolved. GW to contact Adam Marshall.

- e. A request had been made about the possibility of funding for storage for the preschool group. It was agreed that this would have support, subject to the usual funding criteria.

The meeting finished at 20:05