

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting Wed 30th November 2022

Present: John Williams, Frank Connelly, Helen Brinkworth, Gavin Whittaker, Sue Sharp (via Teams), Cllr Mackinnon plus 1 member of the public.

Apologies received from Cllr. Steel, Cllr. Sinclair.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting. Accepted with one significant correction: Item 7b to be changed from “*had been received by those affected*” to “*had **not** been received by those affected*”.
2. Police report.
 - a. No police report had been received, but FC had received a long letter from CI Fisher, detailing the efforts that the police had made towards dealing with rural crime, including a reiteration of crime prevention advice for residents of remote properties and farmers, and an impression that rural crime had been raised up the police agenda.
 - b. One quad bike with a tracker had been recovered, but a central register of quad bikes was still to be set up. Cllr. Morrison had agreed to raise this with the Police Community Action Team or the MSP, but no information had been received about progress.
3. Eildon Help With Food.
 - a. With referrals to food banks being carried out via official channels and agencies, after some discussion, it was not clear that the CC was in a position to assist with food bank access.
 - b. The Macfie Hall’s ‘Wednesday Warmer’ initiative was welcomed as a response to the issue of access to food and warmth.
4. First Aid Course
 - a. The course had been fully subscribed and had received excellent feedback. SS was thanks for her efforts in organising the course, and it was agreed that two further courses would be appropriate. One would be run over two evenings to facilitate access to working people, and another would focus on paediatric first aid, aimed at parents of younger children. It was agreed that, due to the costs, an application for windfarm funds would be appropriate.*
 - b. GW reported that the defibrillator battery required replacement. Funding for this from CC accounts (approx. £300 plus VAT) was agreed.
 - c. Additional defibrillators for other parts of the community had been discussed previously and the discussion was revived at this meeting. With the defibrillator in Heriot Station being impractical for much of the wider community, it was agreed that funding would be sought for additional defibrillators at Crookston (to serve

Crookston and Gilston) and Nettlingflat (to serve Nettlingflat, Brothershiels and Falahill). The Macfie Hall would be an appropriate site for residents in the area of the school and Borthwick Hall, in addition to Macfie Hall users, but the CC did not feel it appropriate to encroach onto the Macfie Hall Committee area.*

5. A7 Issues

- a. The speed activated sign had still not been installed, but SBC officials had indicated that it would be in place in the near future.

6. Network Rail

- a. Andrew Pate informed the meeting that the issue of poor fencing installation along the railway adjacent to his farm had been addressed by Network Rail.
- b. No news had been received about the electricity meter at Falahill.

[SS left the meeting at this point]

7. Windfarms

- a. Greystone Knowe. The SNC response to this application was scheduled for discussion at the April meeting of the SBC planning committee.
- b. Wull Muir. Feedback received from attendees to the public exhibition indicated that the exhibition was inadequate and the Energiekontor representatives were poorly informed about the scheme.
- c. Scawd Law. It is probable that this application will be submitted in the new year to the Energy Consents Unit. Walkerburn, the resident community council, is not in favour of the scheme. More distant community councils in Innerleithen and Walkerburn have indicated their support which appears to be based on access to community funds.
- d. Leithenwater Energy Hub. No news.

8. AOB

- a. The work on the Gravestones had been completed. SS was thanks for all her efforts.
- b. Bus shelter at Hangingshaw: GW had sent emails to the resident who was pushing for the shelter, but had not received a response.
- c. Christmas Tree: A new holder for the tree had been installed at Sandyknowe, with the aim of making the tree accessible to more residents than at its previous location on Shoestanes Road.
- d. A public Transport survey had been made available and would be made available to residents via the CC's Facebook page.
- e. Playparks – no progress. HB to contact SBC playparks department to determine what they can do. GW to speak to the landowner and also liaise with Andrew Pate to discuss whether Glendinning could offer any advice.
- f. It was reported that there was no update on the Skyrora rocket engine testing site.
- g. Dates for CC meetings in 2023 were selected as follows:

Feb 8th Mar 29th May 17th July 12th Sept 20th Nov 29th

The meeting finished at 20:18

[* In post-meeting discussion, the first aid and defibrillator funding were rolled into a single application, with a Macfie Hall member indicating that a unit for the hall in the same application would have their support]