

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, 15th April 2023

Present: John Williams (Chair), Sue Sharp, Helen Brinkworth, Gavin Whittaker, Cllr. Fay Sinclair.

No apologies for absence: Frank Connelly, Cllr. McKinnon, Cllr. Steel.

1. The first part of the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Sinclair. The Results of community council election were provided: Five nominations had been received and, as the CC may have up to six members, all nominees were declared as elected. The CC will comprise: Helen Brinkworth, Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Gavin Whittaker, John Williams.
2. John Williams was elected as Chair, Frank Connelly as Treasurer and Gavin Whittaker as Secretary. At this point, Cllr. Sinclair relinquished the Chair to JW and was thanked for her assistance in the election process.
3. Police Report: The Feb report was wholly focused on Galashiels, with no recognition of rural crimes. It was reported that, since the last meeting, there had been an accident at the junction of the B6367 (Tynehead Road) and the A7. There had also been a helicopter chase along the A68, following a quad bike theft that resulted in the arrest of an 18 year old youth in the Dalkeith area.
4. Defibrillators: GW reported that an application for funding had been submitted.
5. Bus service: SS and FC had submitted a single page summary of the issues to both Borders Buses and SBC officials, followed by a meeting between all parties. The point was reiterated that public transport access had worsened since the opening of the Borders Railway, but the response was that the X95 is a commercial service. Borders Buses stated that the timetable will be revised in the summer and HCC will be notified, but that a possibility was for HCC to pay for a bus service ourselves. The latter suggestion would require a test of the demand and the financial feasibility for this. Input from Galashiels Academy was also suggested.
6. A7 Accidents: GW reported that there had been no accidents at the corner of the telephone exchange since the installation of the speed activated signs, but that it was still too early to draw any conclusions as to their effectiveness.
7. Windfarms
 - a) Scawd Law: An objection had been submitted. Julie Aitken had been forced to retract her claims about the eagles in the area, as there is an active nest on the site. The SBC ecology officer had made a bizarre submission stating that every eaglet raised by the pair would probably be killed by the proposed turbines, but that he had no objection to the planning application.
 - b) Wull Muir: An objection had been submitted. There remain significant issues with the proposed design and layout.
 - c) Greystone Knowe: The SBC landscape architect objected to this scheme, subject to the removal of five of the turbines. Discussion at SBC has been delayed from April due to time constraints.
 - d) Torfichen Hill: A response to this scoping application had been submitted.
 - e) Ditcher Law: This is a proposal for 10 x 200m tall turbines in the Oxton area, but will have a major impact locally due to its scale. No formal application has been submitted.

f) Longcroft: 220m turbines x 24, approximately 4km north east of Carfraemill. Scoping response has been requested.

8. AOB:

- a) Underpass: email received from Brian Young (SBC). Network Rail are due to undertake repairs to the underpass. SBC gritting lorries will address the underpass access and gritting in bad weather.
- b) Bottle Banks: Broken glass reported at the bottle bank. GW to contact recycling company.
- c) The relocation of Galashiels Academy was being opened to consultation,
- d) It was noted that Glentress and the Tweed Valley would be among the locations for the world cycling championships, and access to the area would be restricted at times.
- e) Issues with the road signs at Sandyknowe were noted, HB to contact the council via the SBC website

The meeting finished at 20:10