

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, 22nd November 2023

1. Present: John Williams (Chair), Sue Sharp, Frank Connelly, Helen Brinkworth (minutes), Cllr. Fay Sinclair, Cllr. Neil McKinnon
Apologies: Gavin Whittaker
2. Minutes accepted

Heriot Community Council wishes to formally note our condolences to the families of Mark Williams from Heriot and Finlay Street from Hawick. We are deeply saddened and shocked by the news of the tragic fatal accident on Sunday 29th October. We wish to extend our sympathies to the local Williams family.

HCC note that following the accident work is being undertaken on the A7 regarding drainage at Falahill Farm access and the two manhole covers have been raised level with the road surface north of Falahil.

On the morning of the accident there was sustained heavy rainfall. Large areas of the A7 were covered with surface water and there was fast flowing, deep water across the A7 at the Falahill Farm access.

Extract from police statement: "Police were called to reports of a crash involving two vehicles, a black Audi A3 and a black Range Rover around 12.40pm on Sunday, 29 October.

Emergency services attended and the driver of the Audi, a 23-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Range Rover, a 45-year-old man, and the two child passengers, a 15-year-old girl and 9-year-old boy, were taken to hospital for treatment. The man died in hospital on Tuesday, 31 October.

The men can now be named as 23-year-old Finlay Street from Hawick and 45-year-old Mark Williams of Heriot."

3. Police Report
 - i. All items relevant to Galashiels, not Heriot – nothing on rural crime
 - ii. Major crimes are all drugs related

- iii. Static road checks in rural areas

4. Planning

a. Hazelbank Quarry

- i. Hazelbank Quarry notification of blasting schedule is limited to one local residence.
- ii. HCC have asked for e-mail to be sent to secretary@heriot.info for blast notification.
- iii. SBC says lack of wheel washing/mud on A7 is police issue
- iv. Quarry management are not responding to John's emails
- v. SBC enforcement not progressing on work to see conditions in place. Lack of follow up by SBC.
- vi. SS suggests we timetable a follow up meeting three months since last meeting with SBC - 30th of November – ASAP

b. Heriot Mill forestry scheme

- i. JW to check e-mail about consultation.

5. A7 Action Group

- i. GW opposed donation until A7 Action Group provide accounts and information (email discussion prior to meeting)
- ii. JW, SS and FC agree it would be OK to give a donation if there is more information about the work of the action group
- iii. Bear Scotland attend A7 group meetings, SBC do not attend
- iv. we will ask for more detailed response, GW to email
- v. donation money would come from free funds not microgrant

6. Windfarms

N.B: SBC emails about turbine transport to travel folder

a. SBC handling of S36 applications

- i. FS: SBC councillors are told to go to the ECU for community response
- ii. JW to follow up the petition that was previously discussed, requesting that s36 planning responses by SBC should include community representations.

b. Professional help for HCC regarding planning applications using funding from Raeshaw estate

- i. To be used as required by HCC for any planning applications including windfarms
 - ii. independent advice may be to oppose or support applications.
 - iii. HCC would want to use impartial experts however not readily available for windfarms as they must be accredited landscape experts.
 - iv. SS: John Campbell KC not impartial
 - v. JW: More details to follow from Raeshaw property management – condition of the offer is that HCC advice must use different experts and be independent of Raeshaw.
 - vi. Fund raising is alternative option.
- c. Leithenwater
 - i. Application expected in February.
 - ii. John attended exhibition
 - iii. want to use B709 for access
 - iv. no other impact on Heriot obvious
- d. Wull Muir
 - i. expected to be in front of the planning for committee in January
 - ii. ecology report consultation open till end of year
- e. Ditcher law
 - i. John has drafted an objection from HCC that supports upholding landscape capacity with principle concerns that Ditcher law windfarm is trying to reinterpret the landscape capacity in SBC guidance.
 - ii. Oxton CC have not made a decision or submitted comment.
 - iii. Opinions:
 - HB – to follow SBC landscape capacity guidance.
 - FC – concerns re. distance to wind farm and changing the limits on acceptable noise levels and comment that landscape capacity study should not be ignored, landscapes capacity study in ED9 Scottish Borders assessment for renewable energy, NPF 4 does not set aside planning

considerations and should protect the environment
however no decisions yet made with use of NPF 4

SS - not supporting all comments. An objection should focus
on Heriot impact, REF section not relevant.

FC - concern the plan is outside the landscape capacity
study limits and visible from Heriot

Objecting: Frank Connelly, John Williams, Helen Brinkworth

Abstaining: Sue Sharp - pending sight of final document

Supporting: none

Actions: HB - to provide comments in document to JW for
further updates after discussion to remove REF constraint
payments and focus response on Heriot impact instead of
Oxton impact

f. Longcroft

- i. Far away, but due to proposal to use very big turbines there is
some visibility at Heriot

g. Torfichen

- i. to the north of B709 Granite Road, visible on north side of
Heriot, within Middleton community council (MCC) area.
- ii. MCC more concerned with the NWH quarry in Middleton. MCC
also extend condolences to Mark Williams family in
correspondence with HCC.

7. Community funds

- a. First aid sessions - first one completed but second cancelled at last
minute due to COVID - to be rescheduled
- b. Defibrillator installations - two to be installed ASAP outside, one to
be installed at Macfie Hall is not yet organised
- c. FC to chase GW to refresh battery at phone box defibrillator
(done)
- d. Microgrants
 - i. HCC have allocated a microgrant to arts and crafts group
organised by Christine Connolly

- ii. Heriot Country Kids received grant for additional thermos flask purchase
- iii. Bonfire insurance
- iv. Treasurers report attached to end of the minutes
- v. Transport to After School Club from Fountainhall. SS - report of Fountainhall mum with school kids requesting help to arrange transport to after school club at Heriot. HCC to encourage application as it may be suitable for a trial of transport. Action: SS to respond and offer aid

8. Notice boards

- a. FC obtained costings from 10 companies to replace the 5 notice boards in Heriot
 - £3500 to replace all boards with aluminium boards.
 - £13,000 for oak
 - £11,000 for composite
- b. Due to these high costs, repair options may be more suitable e.g. replace boards and plexiglass on wooden notice boards
- c. Agreement to replace the school board completely. Action: FC to progress, HB to provide parent council contact to FC
- d. FS has a spare notice board at SBC size is 1500 * 1100 millimetres. Action: FC to find out if this is suitable for school

9. Christmas tree - Four votes yes for another Christmas tree. Action: FC and HB to organise

10. JW to circulate dates for next year

11. Windfarm (Carcant) panel has £100,000 in unspent funds. The wind farm is considering making a Community Action Plan which HCC could then use. FC has 2-page draft to circulate and intention is to use professional expertise to help create a plan

12. Micro grant currently at £250 limit. Action: FC to check limits and try to increase

13.Primary School: electric vehicle (EV) charging points. Parent council has been informed they have to organise this themselves. New information from SBC councillors is that SBC are finding a partner to provide EV charging within their car parks. Specifically looking to include small sites such as HPS which might not be profitable individually.

Finish 21:00

Heriot Community Council		As at 31 october			
Accounts April 2023 to March 2024					
Opening balance		9,270.28			
Ringfenced and carried from 2016/2017		(Car Park)	730.82		
Ringfenced for Dunlaw/DLX grants 2022/2023		Dunlaw Grants	1,215.89		
Ringfenced for Dunlaw/DLX grants 2023/2024		Dunlaw Grants	1,500.00		
Ringfenced from HBC return of monies		HBC	5,646.07		
Income		Expenditure			
June	Interest	24.46	Heriot Get Together	250.00	Helen Marsden
July	Defib and 1st Aid grant	6461.43	Defibrillator x 3	3,168.00	St John Ambulance
September	SBC Grant	540	Defibrillator heated cabinets x 3	1,125.00	Safety Tec
September	SBC - Return of hall hire	162	Heriot Sports Day	250.00	Doug Crabbe
September	interest	41.43	Defibrillator (x1) insurance	16.80	SBC
			Defibrillator electricity - Nettlingt	100.00	John Borthwick
			Fireworks insurance	176.00	Gavin Whittaker
			Flasks x 2	80.00	Helen Marsden
			Ringfenced expenditure	4,723.00	
			Other expenditure	192.80	
Balance plus Income		16,499.60	Expenditure	4,915.80	
Balance in bank (Treasurers account -)		11,583.80			
Ringfenced remaining	Car park	730.82			
	Dunlaw Grant 2022	885.89			80
	Dunlaw Grant 2023	1,500.00			805.89
	HBC return of monies	5,646.07			
	Defib and 1st Aid grant	2068.43			
Free funds		752.59			