

Heriot Community Council

Wednesday July 17th 2024
MacFie Hall at 7pm

1. Present: John Williams (Chair), Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Gavin Whittaker, Cllr Mckinnon. Apologies: Cllr Sinclair, Helen Brinkworth.
2. Condolences and commiserations were expressed for Gordon Anderson, who tragically died a few days prior to the meeting.
3. Minutes of May Meeting- accepted with minor amendments
4. Police Reports, Crime and Farm Thefts; Progress Reports 10 mins
 - a. Again, the report only contains information about crime in Galashiels. It was felt that the SBC liaison committee should address this. There was no mention of criminal damage in the area, a recent reported rape in Stow, or wildlife crime.
5. Schools issues
 - a. Jenny and Natasha told the meeting that they are addressing the issue of the loss of the Fountainhall nursery for now, and no assistance was sought from the CC.
 - b. The meeting was told that SBC is not reconsidering its decision for 2024, but will review it in 2025. It was strongly felt that this presented a risk to long term viability due to parents sending their children elsewhere.
 - c. It was further reported that every metric for keeping the nursery open has been met, but SBC is still pressing ahead.
 - d. Sources of finance that were separate from SBC had been offered to the council, but these offers had been ignored by SBC officers.
 - e. Cllr. McKinnon was asked to intervene and to request a meeting with Cllr. Jardine (SBC council leader) to discuss the issue.
6. Hazelbank Quarry – Current Planning Application
SBC Planning Ref: 24/00731/FUL.

This application is within Stow and Fountainhall, but impacts on HCC area. Advance Construction has not fulfilled all conditions set in the original application. Although it is now getting on with some aspects, it has now submitted an application for extension. It was felt that there were issues with noise and that noise monitoring not being implemented. Furthermore, there was significant danger with traffic access and egress. Work at the quarry continued in raptor breeding season and was reported to have driven off peregrine falcons. Replanting doesn't address wildlife and ecology issues from disruption.

GW to write from secretary@heriot.info endorsing Charlottes' objection. Also request that SBC enforcement officers get previous conditions enforced.

7. Wind Farms

Result of *Wull Muir* application. The SBC planning officer had recommended acceptance on balance on the grounds of NPF4 against the concerns of Landscape Architect. This was debated at some length, although poorly, by the SBC planning committee. The application was rejected on grounds of landscape and visual impacts to the north and south, and the visual impacts not being localised. Energiekontor is likely to appeal.

John Campbell represented Heriot CC and has suggested an invoice for £700. There was a brief digression about windfarms and community funding. In the light of a statement made to a journalist by JW, SS requested that JW be more careful in his wording so that it is representative of community council opinion.

Greystone Knowe. August 22nd will see a preliminary inquiry meeting. John Campbell KC would meet with some CC members and representatives from Fountainhall, GW would probably attend. It was unclear how SBC will respond to the public inquiry. Mr Campbell's costs would be discussed at the meeting, and HCC could associate themselves with Raeshaw's landscape architect's report.

Fountainhall has formed an action group to oppose Greystone Knowe, and 31 residents attended its first meeting. At the April Stow and Fountainhall CC meeting, 80 people attended, but the minutes of the meeting were not approved at a subsequent meeting, and the joint objection was invalidated. The new CC no longer wishes to object to Greystone Knowe, hence the formation of the action group.

Torfichen Wind Farm, Longcroft Wind Farm, Ditcher Law, Scawd Law etc.

There was no news about these windfarms

8. Playpark. The Shoestanes farm land is now owned by Foresight investment company. Sue agreed to approach the company to set up an informal meeting to discuss what will happen to the land.
9. Home heating legislation. Wood burning stoves now not banned, but it is not clear what HCC can contribute to the discussion at this point. Members of the community would like to know what is happening with the legislation.

10. AOB

- a. It was reported that mobile network operators may obtain access to use the Dod Law mast over the next few months.
- b. Ian Hamilton has offered to create labels for the defibrillators.
- c. Training course. GW to apply.

- d. Heriot taxi service. Nothing solid to discuss.
- e. Heriot Notice Boards Overhaul completed. One at the school needs replacing - FC to follow up.
- f. A7 – Philippa Gilhooley had replied to GW saying that there were no grounds for changing the layout or signage at the B709/A7 junction.
- g. Grass cutting at Falahill was reported to be inadequate and had left sightlines from the junction along the A7 with obstructions. GW suggested that residents report this issue via scotborders 'report it' section, although Cllr Mckinnon agreed to follow the issue up.
- h. Hogweed at Heriot House field had been dealt with by James Fletcher / Tweed forum
- i. B6368 was reported to be being used more often as a diversion route from A68 – often due to closure at Galashiels with signage positioned at Crookston. Complaints were made that it is used by cyclists in large spread out peletons, although it is not clear what the CC could do about this.
- j. It was reported that the Scottish government will require all roads to have speed limits reviewed.

The meeting finished at 20:50.