

# Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

Present: F. Connelly, S Sharp, G. Whittaker, J. Williams, H. Brinkworth, Cllr S. Aitchiston, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott + members of the public.

Apologies: Police

1. Minutes of the previous meeting: These were agreed without modification.
2. Police report. Attached.
3. Planning Application. Erection of three houses, Garden Ground Of 7 Heriot House Heriot Scottish Borders. Ref. No: 18/00520/FUL.  
A number of comments were made at the meeting regarding this application, but no significant strong objections. The conclusion of the meeting was that:

- The application is consistent with Heriot CC's previously agreed stance that we much prefer gradual organic growth of the community.
- There were safety concerns about the proximity of the road access from the proposed properties to the junction at Sandyknowe, especially as the speed limit in this section of road is the national speed limit
- There are consequences for winter parking for which the applicant should develop mitigations.
- The overall scale and massing of the proposed development is not clear from the drawings and Planning Officers should ensure that the development congruent with the existing neighbouring development.

GW to submit appropriate comments to SBC planning

4. Energy Efficiency Fund. A sum of money still sits in this fund, informally earmarked for the Macfie Hall at a previous CC meeting, but as nothing was yet forthcoming from that quarter, a discussion followed on what might be done with the fund. A decision was made to find out whether the Macfie could usefully use the money and, if not, consideration would be made to either have the CC administer the fund for small-scale (but not individual) projects in the community, or to return the money to the Toddleburn-Carcant panel for it to administer, with a condition that it is earmarked for energy efficiency projects.

5. Broadband provision in Heriot: Following the abandonment of its previous works, it is not clear what BT's plans are for establishing better broadband in the Heriot area. Meanwhile, JW reported that Heriot Community Broadband continues to operate well.
6. Kilcoulter Bridge closure. Advance notice was given that Kilcoulter bridge would be closed for major repairs in June-July. The bridge will not be closed to pedestrians or cycles.
7. Data protection. JW had attended a meeting that covered the new data protection laws. Heriot CC would be registered via SBC, and it was determined that our current very limited use of personal data (essentially just a list of email addresses for mailing community council notifications) amounted to legitimate interest, although we would require explicit consent for emails to new addresses from hereon.
8. Windfarms:
  - a. Gilston – still progressing through the appeal process.
  - b. Greystone Knowe – initial letter received by Stow and Fountainhall CC to say that this application is going forward.  
A long discussion followed about the merits and demerits of windfarms, nuclear power, UK energy policy and lots of other things that we have no influence over.
9. AOB
  - a. Resilient Communities. GW summarised a meeting that had covered the effectiveness of SBC's resilient communities programme on the recent winter weather. It was clear that, as FC had found previously, there is currently no benefit in Heriot registering as a Resilient Community. A large organisational effort would be required to formalise what already happens in the village in winter for very limited benefit.
  - b. Planning meeting. This had been forgotten, so no-one had attended from Heriot CC.
  - c. Community Engagement meeting – cancelled. The irony was noted.
  - d. X95 timetable changes – these resulted in some consternation, particularly given the adverse changes to the schedule at the start and end of the day. John Delow to be contacted.
  - e. Falahill water supply – this had still not been finalised, with the sixth anniversary of the removal of the original supply coming up in September. Cllr. Aitchison to follow up with SBC.
  - f. Heriot Community Broadband AGM takes place on June 9<sup>th</sup>
  - g. Plastic tubes protecting hedging plants at Falahill are probably in need of removal. Cllr. Aitchison to follow up.
  - h. Dead end sign at Falahill is in hand.

The meeting finished at 20:40.

**Provisional dates of meetings in 2018** (all at 7:00pm in the Macfie Hall):

July 25<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>