

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 25th July 2018.

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

1. Minutes of the previous meeting: These were agreed without modification.
2. Police report. None received, and no word from the Liaison Officer.
3. Report from Hall Committee on Macfie Hall development. Felix Otton and Kate Finlayson reported on the proposed improvements to the Macfie Hall. The relevant points were:

- The community survey was successful, with a high level of responses, and the results would be made available to the community once a suitable means of dissemination had been identified. It was clear, however, that there was limited support for the original large-scale improvement.
- Big Lottery funding is no longer available to fund the major revamp that was originally envisaged, so a smaller scale improvement is now being considered and funding sought.
- The plans have been scaled back to extending the toilets, upgrading the kitchen, improving the insulation and energy efficiency, building storage, extending the windows and opening up the rear of the building.
- An application was underway to the Climate Change Fund, and this would be tied in to the use of the hall as a community café, possibly combined with other services.
- A car sharing initiative was being examined.
- The Hall Committee will require help as the project proceeds.

The CC agreed to offer the remaining monies (ca. £8k) from the energy efficiency fund to assist the hall, particularly in its application to the Climate Change Fund, and this was provisionally accepted.

4. Broadband provision in Heriot: Following the abandonment of its previous works, it is still 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 and is expanding into Moorfoot CC area and also further to the south.

5. Windfarms:

- a. Gilston – reporter has now wrapped up his evidence searches and is presumably drawing a conclusion and writing a report.
- b. Greystone Knowe – now news
- c. Carcant extension is at scoping stage.

6. AOB

- a. The CC was reminded of the localities fund for groups to get together and bid for money from SBC.
- b. Community path maintenance grant was discussed. The potential uses of this fund in Heriot are limited.
- c. Cllr. Anderson gave a brief resume of the current situation with the proposed National Park in the southern part of the Scottish Borders, which looks unlikely to be created in the near future.
- d. Bus shelters – planning applications have been submitted. After being initially told that only one planning application would be required, SBC Planning Officers have now required three separate applications, which delayed matters.
- e. A suggestion was made for the hire of a skip by the CC for the village. No decision was made.
- f. A complaint was made about the huge pothole adjacent to the A68 on the B6368 and the general road condition at this point. GW to follow up.
- g. SSE have produced a report on their windfarm funds.
- h. Shortly after the previous CC meeting, an application for £250 funding had been received from the Sports Committee to fund a gazebo. A decision was made by the Council in an email discussion to fund a gazebo, available for all community groups, to be stored at the Hall.
Following this decision, the Sports Committee indicated that they actually needed the money for ongoing costs and submitted a further application for £250. A discussion took place about the merits of this and the majority decision of the CC was to allow funding of ongoing costs in any application. The grant was awarded.
- i. A complaint was made about the state of Borthwick Hall bridge. The Councillors agreed to look into this.
- j. The CC members agreed to abide by the guidelines in the SBC 'Following the Public Pound' document.

The meeting finished at 20:20.

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

Oct 3rd, Nov 28th