

# Heriot Community Council

## Minutes of informal online Meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 at 15:30

Taking part: John Williams, Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Helen Brinkworth, Gavin Whittaker. The meeting was restricted to council members for practical reasons, but had been publicised with request for representations from the community

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting (February 5, 2020) will not be ratified until the next public meeting. An item on decision making by the CC was to be included in the minutes, particularly as this is an ongoing issue.

### 2. Activities since the last meeting.

JW listed the activities of the CC since the last meeting in February and these included:

- Dealing with the ongoing issue of gravestones at the church.
- Signage at Sandyknowe
- Remedial work on the Manse Bridge – engineering work is scheduled to be started soon. SS agreed to liaise with SBC. It is not known if the bridge will be closed to traffic at any point. SS will report back as necessary.
- An Eildon committee meeting had taken place, at which the funding application for the Macie Hall was dealt with.
- School bus – another minor incident had taken place with the school bus missing the pick-up from Heriot. Cllr Aitchison had dealt with it, SBC had done a risk assessment and there were no grounds on which to change the bus route.
- Soutra Quarry – road repairs had been organised. The road was now repaired and in good order.
- Bus shelter at Nettlingflat was in process of being installed.
- The CC had organised volunteers to deal with the Covid-19 lockdown, people self-isolating and shielding from 18th March through to the present.
- In April, the Wull Muir appeal was announced and HCC agreed on the text of a submission to the DPEA.
- An application was submitted to the Carcant/Toddleburn windfarm community fund panel for the village phone box restoration and the installation of new benches. This has now

been fully funded. Thanks were recorded to Sue and Gavin for the work done. The CC is still awaiting funds from SSE, but FC will arrange to repay Sue for the bench.

- Greystone Knowe scoping application. The Heriot CC response to this proposal was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit of SG after online discussion and agreement on the text.
- A map of the wind turbines in the area had been organised and paid for, and would be available to the community. GW to link to from Facebook.
- Works to the Macfie Hall are scheduled to be completed in September.
- Money for Covid – GW to ask volunteers to submit final claims for expenses so that the remaining money could be returned from its present account back into the main CC account.
- It was noted that no-one has applied for funding from the windfarm panels for Covid-19 projects.

**3. Future meetings.** The current SBC / Holyrood advice on meetings is not to have any in person and to hold any essential meetings online. SS noted that community consultations are increasingly important in all public decision-making processes and FC noted that it was important to keep the community informed. There was brief discussion about practicalities of holding a meeting on Zoom or in person, even in the open air. It was noted that there are potential issues with identifying CC and SBC council members in amongst a larger group of people in an online meeting. A decision was made to attempt a meeting later in August. The open-air hanger opposite the Macfie Hall was suggested as a possible 'safe' venue – SS to ask Matthew Walgate for his opinion and to check on the guidance at the time.

**4. Eildon committee report** – It was universally agreed that no-one in the community would read the document as it is dull and impenetrable, although it may be up to the CC to come to conclusions. It was suggested that the CC has a responsibility to interpret that report and pass on the issues to the community, but this is just one of dozens of similar documents and we don't realistically have the time to interpret these documents. It was generally agreed that it is the responsibility of SBC to provide accessible documents. JW to ask Sandy for his opinion and comments.

**5. Facebook and Website** – it was agreed that more material and information should be distributed this way – GW and HB requested that information for dissemination would be better supplied as agreed text (where necessary) or publishable text than people simply asking for 'something to be uploaded'.

**6. Gravestones repair.** SS reported that she has now received the final quote from a monumental mason. No relatives of people in graves requiring remedial work had been contacted – most would be relatively distant anyway. It was agreed to fund the work with £500 from the CC funds, and for SS to submit a bid for the balance to the Carcant/Toddleburn panel.

**7. Road signs @ Sandyknowe.** We were expecting these in April, but no progress had been made, presumably due to Covid-19.

**8. Skip** – It was agreed to delay consideration for a few months until after the pent-up demand from lockdown has passed.

**9. Fallago Rigg project funding** – the information received would be passed round to community groups, but there are few for which it is relevant.

**10. Small grant funds** – we have around £2k available in DLX funding (minus £500 for the gravestone project). It was noted that funds may be drawn down from SSE (Toddleburn) for small grants if necessary.

The meeting finished at 16:55