

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting carried out via Zoom – 6pm 12/08/2020

Present: J. Williams, F. Connelly, H. Brinkworth, S. Sharp, G. Whittaker, Cllr. Harry Scott

Apologies: Cllr. Aitchison, Cllr. Anderson

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – accepted without amendment
2. **Police report** – The police were not represented at the meeting as they are not permitted to use zoom. JW reported that the police had responded to A7 issues, in particular to speeding motor cyclists, although there was no report of action against motor cyclists over the preceding weekend.

There was an anecdotal report of an attempted quad bike theft in the village that had been stopped by bike owner.

There was a theft of items from the temporary SBC storage area at Heriot Manse Bridge. The stolen equipment had been replaced. In related news, the bridge had reopened with a temporary 8 tonne weight limit.

3. **Future meetings.** The next scheduled meeting is in October (14th). The CC hope for in-person meeting, but will resort to using Zoom if necessary.

Cllr Scott reported that SBC community centres will not be open until 31st October. It is likely that SBC councillors would also be prevented from attending an in-person meeting.

4. **Eildon Area meetings.** It was reported that there is general acknowledgement that the current system is not working well, but there are a number of possible initiatives to address the failings. Cllr Scott reported that SBC is now moving forward with consultation process. Cllr Aitchison was reported to be keen that Heriot CC should be involved, particularly as funding decisions will make up part of the revised area meetings. Unless anyone wishes to be involved, though, HCC will simply keep a watch on what is happening.

5. **Windfarms.**

- a. **Greystone Knowe** – JW is currently talking with Rosemary Chambers, for the developer, who was reported to have been very responsive and helpful. A physical

exhibition would be preferred, and application probably not ready until next year, but Covid-19 guidelines will determine what form the exhibition will take. Responses from various contributors to the scoping application is resulting in changes to the windfarm design. Properties out to 3km will be considered in residential assessment. Noise will be considered, viewpoints for photomontages are being considered. There will also be a need to consider cumulative impact from the Scawd Law application.

- b. **Scawd Law** – This proposed windfarm is above Walkerburn, and involves their CC more directly. The windfarm would, however, be just 10km distant from Heriot Station and involve extremely tall turbines (180+m). A ZTV and site plan is available in the scoping application. The development would be visible from high ground around Heriot, but with low impact on Heriot Station. However, cumulative impact with Greystone Knowe should be considered. The developers are also proposing an exhibition in September / October.

It was suggested that we should propose to the developers that they set up a single, joint, exhibition with adequate social distancing in Sept./Oct, in order to reduce the number of times residents are required to attend public events. **JW to propose to developers.**

6. Community Funds

- a. Benches – The benches had ordered. The Glasdon bench (Sandyknowe) has been delivered. The large bench at Heriot Station was a victim of closures due to Covid and time was lost as a result. The manufacturer in aiming to start construction of the bench week commencing 17/8/20. It is expected to require ten days to make, with delivery around the beginning of September.
- b. Bench bases – GW and SS to arrange.
- c. Churchyard – SS contacted windfarm panel contact at Foundation Scotland to discuss the funding application for fixing the gravestones that had been laid flat. She had been asked to check whether SBC have a statutory responsibility, and to attempt to get SBC to partially fund the project. Cllr Scott reported that SBC are very short of cash and highly unlikely to be able to assist. There were complaints that Foundation Scotland is setting a lot of hoops for community organisations to jump through to get money that is, in effect, ours. FC and GW, as panel members, commented that there was no need to do anything more than simply make a reasonable case for the *panel* to consider. There is clear support for the project as reported through the community council, through the church, through the churchgoers and through people who have relatives in the churchyard.

- d. Signs at Sandyknowe – The signs to clarify directions from Sandyknowe to Heriot Station and the Church and school had yet to be installed. SBC Roads Department to be chased up by SS.
- e. Defibrillator and Telephone kiosk - -GW reported that the sandblasting was being booked. The defibrillator would need to be temporarily rehoused while the work was carried out, and HB kindly agreed to hold this when necessary. Clear notification would be provided to the community when this is done.

7. AOB

- a. Traffic lights on Manse bridge to reduce the weight limit to 8 tonnes. To be closed again in October for the completion of the work.
- b. A68 closed at Fala – road has collapsed at Fala due to flooding. In the course of the same weather event walls along the B6368 had collapsed.
- c. Following a request from a community member, the purchase of two defibrillators, one for Falahill/Nettlingflat/Brothershiels and one for Crookston/Gilston was discussed. It was agreed that JW would approach a local estate to see whether they would be willing to fund the additional defibrillators, before we consider approaching the funding panels.
- d. Cllr Scott reported that he had spoken to SBC about signage for pedestrians and reducing speed limit on A7.
- e. In considering how to determine community opinion on a range of important issues, HB was considering an online survey via SurveyMonkey. The survey is aimed at considering future plans for the community, along with opinions on development and windfarms. It was argued that there was a need to be about subjects that we can be seen to respond to, but community responses may affect funding to the community in the future via, for example, the Eildon Area forum.
- f. Playpark – GW to speak to Sandy about what is happening
- g. The AGM will take place at next meeting.
- h. The Community Councillors all agreed to abide by the SBC Code of Practice for Community Councils, 'Following the Public Pound'.
- i. Cllr. Scott stated that he would be happy to audit the accounts.

The meeting finished at 19:15.

