

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, 7pm on 18th March 2026

Present: Neil Mackinnon, Helen White, Helen Brinkworth (minutes), Sue Sharp, Claire Rogers, Suzy Dun, three members of the public (Gavin Whittaker, John Williams, Frank Connelly)

Apologies: Faye Sinclair

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Declaration of Interests
 - a. Sue Sharp declares an interest in the planning application for Wull Muir Windfarm
3. Membership of the Community Council
 - a. The following members have been elected.
 - b. Helen White, Helen Brinkworth, Sue Sharp, Claire Rogers, Suzy Dun
4. Appointments
 - a. Chair: Sue Sharp nominated by Helen Brinkworth and seconded by John Williams
 - b. Vice Chair: Helen White nominated by Helen Brinkworth and seconded by Sue Sharp
 - c. Secretary: Helen Brinkworth nominated by Helen Brinkworth and seconded by Sue Sharp
 - d. Treasurer: Suzy Dun nominated by Sue Sharp and seconded by Helen White
5. Speed Limits on B709 between Macfie Hall and School and Borthwick Hall
 - a. Sue Sharp raised on behalf of a community member that speed limits are too high on the B709 outside of the school 20 MPH zone. The length between the Heriot Station crossroad and the Borthwick Hall bridge is of concern.
 - b. Neil Mckinnon agreed to contact Philippa Gilhooly (Team Leader, Traffic and Road Safety, SBC Roads Department) to request a reduction in speed limits within Heriot Village on the basis that children and families regularly walk along this road. The length from the bends near Heriot Toun and the Borthwick Hall bridge are of highest priority.
6. Training and Educational Grant Awards
 - a. Community council members discussed each application (8) that had been made for the grant.
 - b. Decision was to award 7 grants that were received within time and considered acceptable, one was declined. (SS and CR abstained for applications from family members).

- c. Seven grants were awarded totalling £2891.20. Sue Sharp to contact all applicants with the outcome.
- 7. Frank Connelly was granted authority from HCC to sign the cheques to be sent out for the grant awards and the microgrant applications until such time as the accounts can be signed over. New signees to be Suzy Dun, Helen White and Helen Brinkworth.
- 8. Microgrant applications.
 - a. HCC has received 1 application from James Fletcher for £213 to set-up Heriot Community Trust to hold the ownership of a potential community woodland at Shoestanes Farm between the playground and the underpass. The Community Trust could in the future take on other projects or responsibilities such as the upkeep of the defibrillators; more people are wanted to become members of the trust.
 - b. Funding already granted so far in support of the Community Woodland project is £5k (£500 Microgrant and £4.5k from DLX)
 - c. Microgrant application will cover £50 for Macfie Hall hire for consultation exhibition, £115 for Companies Hours registration of the community trust, and £48 for printing A1 size posters to outline the plans.
 - d. Public exhibition will be held at Macfie Hall on 24th March plus neighbouring properties will be visited.
 - e. Deadline for purchasing the land is 28/06/2026 at a cost of £13k + £2k legal fees.
- 9. Windfarm panel funds and representatives.
 - a. GW and FC standing down from their positions representing HCC on the 2 local panels.
 - b. The DLX fund (Dunlaw Extension) has £200k available for use by Oxton, Heriot, Humbie and Fala, growing at £65k/year. One representative from HCC to join this panel. TBC at next meeting.
 - c. SSE/Foundation Scotland = Heriot Community Windfarm Panel (Carcant Wind Farm and Toddleburn Wind Farm) receives £38,200 p.a., inflation-adjusted and currently has £190K in the bank. Helen White and Claire Rogers to join as the HCC representative(s). TBC at next meeting.
 - d. Both funds need to spend more on grants to deliver on OSCR (Office Scottish Charity Regulator) regulations.
- 10. Windfarm applications and power lines.
 - a. John Williams summarised local windfarm applications, current assistance to deal with applications including John Campbell KC and Lauderdale Preservation Group and current powerline proposals.
 - b. John Williams agreed to HW request for a written summary of all windfarm applications.
 - c. HB volunteered to store physical copies of current windfarm applications from John Williams

- d. Digital copies of all windfarm applications and comments are available through, SBC Planning Portal, Energy Consents Unit: Scottish Government, or DPEA Website (Planning and Environmental Appeals Division)
- e. Gavin Whitaker outlined that historically HCC decisions on windfarms and other planning applications looked for the opinions of those most impacted and advises continuing with this approach.
- f. Longmuir windfarm public consultation occurred 18/03. Comments: The benefitted areas for community funds did not include Heriot. It is within the Eskdalemuir exclusion zone. Galileo have not applied for a grid connection and JW stated that the National Energy System Operator (NESO) do not have a grid connection slot available for this development.

11. Auditing of accounts

- a. Frank Connelly requested £75 for HCC to pay for the auditing of the accounts in preparation for handover. Approved.

12. Update on defibrillators

- a. The 3 newer defibrillators have been refurbished by Frank Connelly. FC has volunteered to continue to do this on behalf of HCC.
- b. Heriot Station defibrillator still waiting for a replacement. FC and GW will send details to HCC, to progress replacement.
- c. FC to investigate adding HCC Secretary to update notifications on defibrillator maintenance.

13. Email and Website responsibilities

- a. Ownership to pass to Helen Brinkworth from Gavin Whitaker
- b. Email list and GDPR responsibilities also to be transferred to HCC, c/o Secretary.

14. Swimming Lessons

- a. GW gave update that Heriot Parent Council will take over this item with an application to DLX trust for funding.

15. Future meeting dates

- a. Agreed to change the June meeting to 10/06/26. Sue Sharp to check Macfie Hall diary with Kevin Roose TBC.

16. GW request permission to use HCC email list to inform the community about the public exhibition for the community woodland. Granted.

Finish at 20:45. Next meeting of HCC is on 15th April.