

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM

Those Present: I. Anderson (Chair), G. Saunders, D. Muir, T. Miller, N. Muncaster, J. Mushlin, Cllr. Aitchison.

Apologies: Cllr. J. Mitchell, I. Peacock, A. McNeilly.

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by D. Muir and seconded by G. Saunders.

Matters Arising

The Secretary informed the meeting that Ros Holdsworth of the Scottish Community foundation had stated that we cannot apply for wind farm money to invest in the community-owned wind farm as this would be seen as using the money to invest in competition. The Community Council will receive £1,000 to be given out in small grants and can proceed with any current applications. All necessary documentation will follow.

Chairman's Report

Thanks to everyone who has organised and participated in activities in the community over the last year. Thanks to all the organisations that have contributed to Stow and Fountainhall. The communities would be a desert without these organisations.

Councillor's Report

Cllr. Aitchison has contacted the Roads Department to say that the road to the school must be finished before the end of the financial year. The Secretary is also to write on the matter, following up the letter she received assuring her that it would be completed during the autumn holiday.

The track between Plen Path and Burnhouse is in a bad state. This is an adopted road so it is, therefore, a roads problem. Sandy is bringing David Brown to have a look at it.

The drain outside Stow Town Hall at the corner is sunk in. It was also reported that the crossing at Wutherstone would be useful if it were only navigable.

Salt bins at Earlston Road were mentioned. It doesn't appear to be on the gritters' list and they have to do it themselves so they need grit and bins, and another salt bin at Cotland Road end. Still Haugh in Fountainhall would like three bins but Fountainhall has been getting supplies of grit.

Stow would like to see wheelie bins emptied on the same day. Currently it is alternate weeks; Weds/Thurs which is confusing.

On the back road between Stagehall and Wutherstone a huge hole appeared. It was a relined water main where the field drain had not been tied. The contractors came and filled it in. There is concern as to how many other field drains were done like that. All the Tobys along the road have been put back too tight and could rip the tyres of a car straying off the road. The drain in Fleming Place is causing problems as usual. Sandy will bring David Brown to look at it.

There are no longer street light patrols at night. If anyone notices any not working, please could they note the number on the lamp post and either phone the council or Sandy Aitchison. Sandy will check Galashiels Road.

Hall rental charges – questionnaires are being given to all hall users as to how charges affect them. Everyone is complaining – not just Galawater. The increases will remain but can be tinkered with to soften the blow.

The roundabouts at Fala Hill are an ongoing issue. Jeremy Purvis and Christine Graham are getting involved. This is not anti-rail, Fala Hill is about the road and road safety. It won't come up to Planning for another two months.

Jan Gordon has had her contract extended and there is a meeting scheduled with her and Chris Wemyss.

Cllr. Aitchison is going to Blantyre for a seminar by the Scottish Executive for people interested in the purchase of community assets.

The project for the school is still ongoing. A public meeting should take place in the not-too distant future. As yet, there is no price for the school. Asbestos has been found at the school which will be dealt with by the council. Luckily the school has not been vandalised. The project cannot happen without community go ahead.

It was pointed out that the pavement between the Town Hall and noticeboard has been out of action because of snow piles. It hasn't been missed. If it were removed, cars could park there.

There was a query as to whether there are any results of the school holiday consultation.

Planning

Internal and external alterations – Burnhouse

Little Cathpair – replacement of existing dwelling-house and erection of replacement farmhouse and change of use of agricultural building.

Correspondence

SEPA view

Community Commitment – North Community Policing Area

Low Carbon Stow

Scrutiny – Key Issues

The Secretary is to write to ask what costs are involved in the collection of the recent day service charges in comparison to the money saved. Is it worthwhile in financial terms?

The second issue is to consider the result of the survey of grit and salt, which has not been reported back.

Wendy Ball – Newsletter Schedule

The newsletter will be a month later. All community councillors will help with distribution.

Ian Lyndley Public Consultation: draft supplementary planning guidance mini planning brief. South Fountainhall, Fountainhall

The Secretary will contact Planning regarding a possible planning meeting in Fountainhall.

Community Wind Power

The secretary has been contacted regarding a new proposed wind farm below Rowantree between Stow and Lauder. The developer wishes to meet with us. It was agreed to invite them to the February meeting and that we will discuss community benefit with them.

AOCB

Water seems to be coming off the wind farm at the Bow and collecting at the bottom.

There is water at Galabank.

Mains gas would be useful. Some people had difficulty getting fuel deliveries in the severe weather. Sandy will look into the possibility of mains gas in Stow.

PLEASE NOTE ALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE. WE WOULD WELCOME YOU AND EVERYONE GETS A CHANCE TO PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS.

Date of next meeting – Monday 7th February 2011 in Stown Town Hall at 7.30pm