

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 4th JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM**

Those Present: G. Saunders (Chair), I. Anderson, I. Peacock, N. Muncaster, Cllr J. Mitchell, J. Mushlin, Cllr Aitchison, T. Millar, one member of the public.

Apologies: D. Muir, A. McNeilly, F. Lackenby

Guest Speakers: E. Rafaluk, R. Fryer, Community Wind Power

Community Wind Power

The subject of the Community Council investing in another local wind farm, using capital from Community Wind Power community benefits, was discussed. No problem was seen with this by R. Fryer. 3 community councils will be involved – Stow, Lauder and Oxton. Payment is likely to be £2,000 per megawatt, the proportion to each community has still to be decided. Community Wind Power have to discuss how to proceed. If this should be via Scottish Community Foundation, the terms will be dictated by Community Wind Power. However, they would be prepared to consider alternatives to SCF. From 2001, Community Wind Power have 2 ½ operational wind farms. At the end of the summer they will be doing a section 36 application to the Scottish Government. Their preferred route of access to Girthgate will be past the fire station in Lauder. They will send us a map of the cumulative effect of their proposed wind farm. The access road from Lauder will be upgraded for construction traffic. They were asked if wood felled could come to the community for community use. This was something that has never previously been requested.

Minutes and Matters Arising

Comments were made regarding the expense of installing a lift and an underpass was suggested, but this is likely to be more expensive. Cllr Mitchell will ask Jonathan Hepton about DDA compliance.

Historic Scotland have spoken to Mark Douglas and Cllr Aitchison will be talking to him. The Cauld beneath the bridge has also gone.

Wardens have been to Stow but not at school times.

The new hall charges were passed by Scrutiny last week and will go to the Executive next week. If approved, the new charges will come into force in the next financial year.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by N. Muncaster and seconded by I. Peacock.

Police Report

There was a bogus caller theft at Mill Court on 7/6/11. 3 callers pretended to be plumbers working on water at an adjacent house, and £50 was taken from a purse in the bedroom. It is despicable that an elderly couple were treated in this way. Please be aware that this has happened. There has also been a suspicious cyclist in the yard at Cortleferry, and a suspicious vehicle and occupants taking photos in the grounds of Burnhouse. Please be alert and report anything suspicious. On 26/7/11 a presentation will be made to the elderly drop-in lunch group between 10am – noon to heighten awareness of bogus callers, personal safety and identity theft. There was the feeling that this is a poor, late response by the police considering the incident was on 7/6 and is the second incident of its type. Cllr Aitchison will take this up.

Councillors Report

Cllr Mitchell reported that the Council are 4 weeks behind in tackling weed growth. The footpath growth at Fountainhall also needs to be tackled, as does the hole by the bridge.

On 22nd July Cllr Mitchell is holding a surgery at Old Gala House from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.

On Friday 12th August a surgery is proposed at Stow Town Hall from 4.30-5.30. This has yet to be confirmed.

Cllr Aitchison

The weakness of the wooden bridge at Stow Park is being looked into. The reduction in the number of people allowed in the Stow Town Hall was brought to his attention. Cllr Aitchison is looking at the play park in Fountainhall.

There have been complaints about a caravan in Townfoot.

Stow school – there has now been a formal meeting between the Council and Stow Community Trust and discussions about transfer of ownership. To date, everything is positive the next meeting is in August.

Wind farms and SSE

SSE have replied that they are happy in principle to allocate our share of the money through SCF for schools and green projects and will hold the money for up to 3 years. They are not willing to have it used to invest in wind farms. SSE will pay SCF for administrative costs. There is no immediate rush and this is to go on the agenda for the next meeting. The question was raised “why is EDF not paying this money?”

There was no planning.

Correspondence

Salt Bin Trial.

Stow Youth Club under 18 club night – letter of thanks from Chris Wemyss.

Natural Heritage – Nature of Scotland – 2 copies.

Claire Malster – New Community Ownership Support Service / Sitar Ramsay and other matters.

Christine Grahame, MSP.

NHS Borders Single Equality Scheme & Action Plan.

The Bridge – Community Action Plan.

Street Weed Control – Craig Blackie.

AOCB

Snowplough for Stow – never formed any plan. Now would be the time for quotes. Either quad bikes with snowplough or a hand driven one on the pavement. There would be costs in running it. 2 were suggested for Stow and 1 for Fountainhall.

There is a hole at the crossroads – Cllr Aitchison will deal with this.

The Stow to Lauder road was closed for 4 days. Numerous pot holes have been left. The cattle grid is falling in the middle. Why didn't they do the grass verges?

The bridge over the Mill Lade is a health and safety issue as is the whole of Mill Lade. Cllr Aitchison will take this up.

There is no chance of a green waste bin for our area.

The website is up and running. The map of Stow is out of date. Vicky McGee will come to the next meeting.

The question was raised as to who is responsible for emptying the bins at the multi-court.

There is a great deal of speeding through the village.

A long time ago it was raised that the gravel at the school has caused injury. Nothing has been done. Cllr Mitchell will take this up.

The road at Angel Gates was never fixed. Cllr Aitchison will look at this.

Nan and Jenny will draft up a letter about the danger at Rowantree access corner for the Reporter.

The man hole cover outside of 107 Galashiels Road is really loud when a large truck goes over it.

The cemetery is better kept, but the water is still turned off.

A toby is missing outside Stow Town Hall.

The bus stop – Philippa Gillhooley doesn't have the money to move the bus stop by the toilets and doesn't see the need for it.

We received many promises from Jan Gordon for money for Stow Youth Club. She has now left her post. What is happening with the funding she promised?

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th August in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.

ALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE. WE WILL MAKE YOU WELCOME AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS.