

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY
COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Those Present: I. Anderson, G. Saunders, I. Peacock, W. Ball, PC Lennon, J. Mushlin, N. Muncaster, S. Aitchison, T. Millar, M. MacReadie (on behalf of Jim Hume), 4 members of the public.

Speakers: Jim Shanks, Jan Gordon.

Apologies: D. Muir, A. McNeilly.

Police Report:

There have been 5 car accidents, including a 3 car accident north of Fountainhall with injuries, no fatalities. There has been an attempted housebreaking and theft of diesel at Stagehall. A car was stolen which was recovered. There have been neighbour disputes. There were threats on Facebook where someone was verbally attacked – police advice is to be cautious when on Facebook. Young people who are not local are frequently at the crossroads. On 1st October, children who were not local were seen drinking in the play area. There was an attempt to break into Toddleburn Wind Farm. PC Lennon asked for vigilance. The people stealing quad bikes and diesel are still going about. They are using vans. If anyone sees any behaving suspiciously, please note whatever is possible and contact the police, but don't intervene.

Jim Shanks

Jim Shanks is proposing to develop a community owned wind farm at Allanshaws. This is an excellent location with plenty of wind. He is proposing 9x100 m wind turbines; it has transport access, grid access. All the ecology and scoping has been done. Melrose Community Council, Stow Community Council and Lauderdale Community Council all are on the boundaries of this. Jim Shanks will take the project through planning and allow the Community to own the turbines instead of foreign multinationals. An organisation - Energy for All has 7 community co-ops up and running and have a long list of people also interested in investing. Energy for All are non-profit making. The project at Fintry is their shining light. Energy for All figures are a 12% return on money invested. Individual investments can be between £250 and £25000. There can also be a savings scheme for people who cannot immediately afford £250. Estimated profit per turbine is £1/2 million per year. The project will be taken forward by Jim Shanks who owns Dylan Renewables. Councillor Aitchison commented that the council now insists that siting plans include a plan showing superimposed all existing wind farms alongside the proposed wind farm.

Jan Gordon

Jan Gordon, who is from the Youth Border Team, Langlee, Galashiels explained her work is on a 6 month contract - with 3 months further to go. She is funded to do strategic work across the Borders as to what youth services are provided and where the gaps are. In the East, there are many youth groups. There is a gap at Stow, Fountainhall, Heriot, Oxton and Lauder. She is introducing the idea that she wants to

put in a funding bid to get a youth worker to provide a facility for at least 3 years. 3 young people were present who stated that they wanted to do different things rather than just to go and do the same thing. Ms Gordon pointed out that in Selkirk there is dancing; kick boxing, 5-a-side, climbing walls, pool tables, games, films going on. In TESCO car park there had been an event showing facilities available in Galashiels. People had an interest in sports, games, a place to hang out, and music. Over 70% wanted a youth facility they could walk to. In Stow there are not that many young people. Somebody is needed for organising events and activities for young people to do. The age group would be S1-S4 and would address all young people in the area. There are no youth activities in Fountainhall. The project could bus young people to other areas. The youth worker would work 7 hours a week. Ms Gordon is hoping to put in funding applications in December. These are expected by the trusts who are funding her. This is the pilot project. The young people present prefer something in Stow. Something constant but not always the same, changing frequently. Sometimes going away – sometimes inviting people up. Can have competitions at the multicourt. Different areas have different things. It is about having new experiences. Transport needs to be a priority. Needs in Fountainhall are unknown. Jenny Mushlin is to contact local parents and let Sandy Aitchison have contact details.

The minutes of the last meeting were then amended to include apologies from I. Peacock and AOCB: garages were getting flooded, not houses. The minutes were approved, proposed by G. Saunders, seconded I. Peacock.

Matters Arising

The license for the Springbank Inn was approved. The Springbank is re-opening on Saturday 6th November. The licensing consultation has been approved.

Community Event

This would be about the wind farm money where the Community Council provides a forum for community ideas. The Wind Farm Panel are still getting organised – they have not yet elected a Chairperson. The next meeting will be held on November 16th. It was felt that there is no point in a community event until the Wind Farm Panel is fully organised.

Chairman's Report

There is new gravel in front of the public toilets. Not much has been done on Station Road, in spite of promises that work would be completed during the October holiday.

Councillor's Report

There has been damage to the fence at the children's park. If any street lights are out, please take the number and phone either Sandy or the council. Many street lights are not working and Sandy has been reporting them.

Sandy attended a wind farm consultation at Fala Village Hall. The proposed wind farm is at Gilston (Ridge Wynd). It is a northerly extension of Dun Law at Gilston Hill. The Mid Lothian plain and Fife coast are most affected.

The War Memorial has been tarred. The seats are now back.

On the 1st December at 7pm the Volunteer Hall is open for a “conversation with the public” about the budget. David Hume and Cllr Parker will be there.

There have been complaints about damage on the Fountainhall and Heriot back road. Sandy is taking it up with the Waverley Line managers as it is thought to be due to the heavy lorries bringing stone for the work of shoring up the Gala Water in preparation for the railway.

Bulbs have been bought which will be planted.

Royal Hotel – children have been going in. D & M Hall have made it secure.

There has been dumping at Wooplaw but nothing could be done about it.

It was commented that the map about the fortnightly bin collection could have been clearer.

It was also commented that there are TV adverts that we can now contact the council until 8pm and on Saturday mornings, at a time when there are cuts proposed due to lack of money.

The old school – there is a meeting with a group looking at taking it to the next stage of developing it as a business hub. Depending on the result of the meeting, there will be a public meeting about it. If there are enough interested people, it will go on to the next stage.

Sandy will take up the issue of the tables being removed when the Flower Show took place. Jenny has had no reply to her letter about it.

Hall rentals – have gone to review. The rentals have been called in to be reviewed by Scrutiny. Organisations affected by increased costs can claim for the re-imburement of them through the Community Grants Scheme. This is a one-off claim.

Planning

Erection of fence and gate (retrospective) and erection of summer house with decking and boundary fence. Erection of replacement summer house.

Correspondence

Ian Lindley – SBC – Early engagement on Local Development Plan.

Falahill – A7 Steering Group & response – Jeremy Purvis.

Lothian police – involvement of school children in the management of speeding.

“Walk It” health walks.

Ian Lindley – Planning Aid seminar for Community Councils.

Claire Maister- Annual National Conference 20/11/2010.

Claire Maister – Companies offering free solar PV community renewable energy projects in the Scottish Borders.

Information for Community Councils Public Consultation: Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on shop fronts and shop signs.

Claire Maister – re libel and insurance cover. Safer communities conference.

Claire Maister – information re SES plan SEPA view.

Claire Maister – Voluntary Sector Conversation 26/11/2010. Energy Saving Scotland.

AOCB

Gordon has had same day response from SB local when he contacted them.

The drain at the bottom of Hill Terrace is flooding badly. Sandy will mention drains on the A7.

Wendy will give an archive update at the next meeting.

The next A7 Action Group will be on 7th January at Langholm, weather permitting.

Next Meeting: Monday 6th December 2010 in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.