

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: D. Muir (Chair), I. Anderson, I. Peacock, T. Miller, A. McNeilly, Cllr S. Aitchison, Cllr F. Lackenby, G. Saunders, J. Mushlin, N. Muncaster, 4 members of the public

Guest Speaker: Jonathan Hepton, SBC

Jonathan Hepton answered previous comments about the construction of the railway as it affects Stow and Fountainhall.

The distance along the new route from Fountainhall to the Northbound bus stop will be 18 metres shorter than the current route via Fountainhall Road End. The route to the Southbound bus stop will be 168 metres further – an additional 10%. The Northbound bus stop may be looked at as it is very close to the junction. Equally it might be possible to move the Southbound bus stop closer to the junction, so distances might change.

The subject of the previous plan to have pedestrian access via the current road to the road end was raised. Jonathan Hepton will look through the files to see if he can find any trace of this. The Secretary will also look for any official mention of this. The Community Council agreed we would expect the footpath to be on the East side of the new road if the bus stops are in the current position.

The culvert at Still Haugh is unsuitable for a bridge for access to the A7.

Planning Approvals

The Waverley Act provides outline planning consent. SBC has a right to look at structures Network Rail proposes, but has very limited powers to change anything. It is not a normal planning consent. There will not be the opportunity for the Community Council to see plans prior to approval. Concern was expressed that this might lead to changes without our knowledge. Mr Hepton will encourage Network Rail to engage in dialogue with us.

## Stow Railway Station

There will be a ramp fully compliant with Equality Act on one platform. On the other platform there will be steps with access for disabled people via Station Road. The specimen design has 2 tracks. Network Rail could change it to one track. Mr Hepton will let us know of this happens. Network Rail will be asked to supply a station fully compliant with the Equality Act.

## Utilities

Water mains, electricity supplies etc are being diverted away from the railway. This is nearly finished. A new water main has been provided which is unconnected and will be connected in the next 2-3 months. Scottish Water will write to the Fountainhall residents, whose clean water supply will be disrupted. There was a question about an interruption to the water supply in winter when some households rely on back boilers on fires and combi boilers for heating. Cllr Lackenby will talk to Bill Elliott, Community Manager, about this.

The sewage system of the new houses from the pumping station to the school was raised. The reed bed has never worked and the sewage pipe is running under the railway line. Network Rail will be bound by the land available and the Act. We were assured that Network Rail are happy with the plans, but can change them without consultation. They would not wish to provide level crossings. Jonathan Hepton will share information with us and come to meetings regularly with us.

Apologies: PC Lennon.

## Minutes and Matters Arising

Amendments to previous minutes.

Poppy Wreath – ATF should read as ATS.

Planning – 5 no should read as 5.

The minutes were proposed by D. Muir, Seconded by G. Saunders.

## Police Report

Members of the public noticing 2 men behaving suspiciously and contacting the police led to their arrests after attempting a break-in. One was wanted on warrant and both were detained. One was in possession of drugs. A big thank you to the community for their vigilance and please keep information coming in about anything suspicious.

There was a theft of diesel overnight Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from vehicles parked in the yard at Sheriffs. If anyone saw anything suspicious then please contact the police. The police are warning anyone with diesel vehicles, particularly commercial ones, to keep an eye on their security and regularly check them. The police have also issued a winter warning.

## Councillors' Report

### Cllr Aitchison

At the school the football goals have no nets. An application has gone into the small grants scheme. Also, applications are being done for a decent play park at the school.

### Galabank

A disabled person was unable to get off the bus at Galabank as the bus driver refused to stop. First Bus apologised. Buses stop on request in rural areas without official stops.

The problem with drains in Fountainhall is an ongoing matter.

The bin at the sports area has been emptied.

The light is out in the public toilets.

Cllr Mitchell is having a surgery in Stow Town Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> November from 4.30-5.30pm.

Low level buses are not mandatory until 2015, so disabled people cannot rely on one coming just now.

There has been no movement regarding Cllr Mitchell's request for the 95 bus to go into Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

New road signage is going to be put up at Fountainhall.

### Website

Marcus will take it over and it will be transferred to him. It is up to his discretion whether a new website will be done or the existing one improved. He wants to give experience to local young people. Vicky is not expecting any more money. The cost will be £220 per year, which can come from the Community Wind Farm fund, as can the cost of the community newsletter. Both of these are of community benefit.

### Correspondence

Rowantree Environmental Assessment – Nan will look at this.

There is a meeting in the Black Bull, Lauder to discuss the proposed wind farm at Brunta Hill at 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> November. No one from Stow Community Council is able to attend this.

There was a request for funding for a village Christmas tree and LED lighting for Fountainhall from the Community Wind Farm fund. Gordon Saunders was asked to get an estimate for LED lights. Otherwise, this was agreed.

Fountainhall Youth Club requested funding for equipment. It was agreed to give £150. The Community Council is prepared to look at a further application when we have received the next tranche of money.

Fountainhall Children's Christmas Party requested a donation. £60 was given from Community Council funds.

Seminar about Wind Farms and Renewable Energy – Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011, 7pm-9pm. Jenny Mushlin and Nan Muncaster will attend this.

Commission on Rural Education Questionnaire – Gordon Saunders will take this to Fountainhall school.

Scottish Borders Council Scrutiny Panel – there were no suggestions of issues for the panel to investigate.

Police Crash Map – there is a new website: [www.crashmap.co.uk](http://www.crashmap.co.uk) , which allows members of the public to look up details of every crash reported to the police since 2005.

Community Newsletter – Wendy Ball.

Update to Tree Work Programme – Jason Hedley.

Passenger Transport Survey.

Local Public Holidays.

Planning Aid for Scotland.

Appeal under Section 43A (8) – Steading Buildings South of Watherston.

Scottish Community Foundation – Grant from Parish of Stow  
Community Council Funds Advisory Panel.

Community Council National Pilots.

Sitar Ramsay – Energy Saving Week.

Clare Malster – Council Leads Community Resilience Initiative.

Natural Heritage – Nature of Scotland.

AOCB

Communtiy Snowplough

This has to be insured for public immunity. Sheriffs can assist us with storage. G. Saunders will look into insurance. We need a pool of volunteers. The running costs will be high. This will not be in time for this winter. We are currently discussing this – do not know exactly what type we will opt for, but the aim is to clear pavements and parts of Stow and Fountainhall which never get cleared.

The top edge of Stow Park – around the children’s play park and football pitch will be drained.

Badminton lines should be painted in the Hall in Stow Town Hall.

A salt bin at Earlston Road has been moved. A bin is needed at the steepest bit (no. 47).

There is a map of the graveyard in the Old Kirk, probably in the Heritage Hub. This would be needed for people coming to Stow to look into their family history. Wendy Ball will be asked to look into this.

The speeding in Stow appears to have become worse.

### Armistice Day

There was a request for the Union Jack to be raised on Stow Tow Hall for this. Cllr Aitchison will speak to Hamish Hunter. Ian Anderson will lay the wreath.

The constitution was discussed. We need advice from Clare Malster about this.

A member of the public raised the difficulties for the older people in Mill Court when it is snowed in. It was agreed the community should help clearing snow at Mill Court. D. Muir, the Chair, will write a letter to Ken Hastings, pointing out that Mill Road is the only safe route to school in snowy weather for children from the top end of the village, and that it should be a priority route for snow clearing.

The Secretary will circulate a list of meetings for 2012.

**Date of next meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm. All Welcome.**