

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY
COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER
2010 at 7.30 pm.

Those Present: I. Peacock, G. Saunders, T. Millar, W. Ball, D. Muir, A. McNeilly, I. Anderson (Chair), J. Mushlin, S. Aitchison. One member of the public.

Apologies: N. Muncaster.

Adoption of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to say the pavement at the War Memorial has been tarred. They were proposed by W. Ball, seconded by D. Muir.

Police Report: PC Lennon was not present but concern was expressed that at a recent accident, traffic police directing traffic were not able to say where the accident spot was, thus re-routing drivers on unnecessarily long journeys in bad weather. This theme constantly recurs at our meetings and the Secretary is to write a letter to the Chief of Police on the matter. It was noted that a minibus crashed on the A7 near Fountainhall with no major injury owing to all passengers wearing seat belts.

The Community Council expressed thanks and congratulations to the milkman for managing his deliveries, the shop for getting extra supplies, the postman for managing to deliver post and those people who kept the bend clear at the bottom of Lauder hill. This was during the atrocious weather when the Borders, in general, came to a standstill.

Bus Users Meeting: The Chairman reported back on the bus users meeting in Galashiels which he attended. It was raised that bus users beyond Galashiels have a last bus from Edinburgh at 9.10pm. With new traffic plans, there will be changes to buses around Galashiels. It was confirmed that First Bus policy is for passengers to get on the bus at Galashiels before the change of drivers. This never happens. Passengers always stand waiting for the change of drivers.

Gritting during cold weather: Grit bins are essential. The grit lorry came up Earlston Road at the beginning of the cold spell but there were no grit bins. The grit bins came later so the grit lorry had to come back. A grit heap might be better than grit bins which have a very small capacity. It was commented that there are many community minded people who would help with snow clearing but there are many restrictions.

Christmas Tree: We received £320 from the PTA for a Christmas Tree fund. H. Hunter will be buying the tree this year. The position of the tree was queried. The Parish Trust received money for Christmas lights which are power-saving.

Pensioners Christmas Dinner: There was no piano so the singer had to sing unaccompanied. The Secretary is to write to the council about this. The electrics in the kitchen are also poor.

Treasurer: We have received the annual grant from the council which is £620. Approximately £7,000 has been entered into the accounts for the archive, which is ring-fenced. The website income has not yet been dealt with.

Correspondence: Fountainhall Christmas Party requested a donation. It was agreed to increase this to £60.

Low Carbon Stow: A request was made for a grant of £160. £1,000 has been agreed for the community council to disburse from the Wind Farm but we have no official confirmation of funds. We were informed by T. Millar that it has been agreed on the understanding that applications should be made by letter at any time. Decisions should be made at every community council meeting and the community council are obliged to give a report. The Secretary is to phone Ros Holdsworth as to when we can expect this. The decision regarding Low Carbon Stow is to be deferred until the next meeting.

Scottish Government: ASCC Stakeholder Survey. Our budget – your services.

Jeremy Purvis: Vehicle activated signs.

Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2011: This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Safer Borders.

White Ribbon Campaign.

Stow Town Hall reading room.

SBC finalised Local Plan Amendment: Intention to adopt Fountainhall Primary School.

School Travel Plan – G. Saunders to be representative.

Safer Communities Team.

Craig Blackie: SB Wardens.

Councillor's Report: Sandy Aitchison investigated Jim Shank's community owned wind farm. Jim Shanks would like to share out its benefits. The Scottish Parliament, in general, passes wind farms. There could be a possibility of the Community Council taking a share in the wind farm for the Stow community. The two wind farms, Toddleburn and Long Park who contribute to the wind farm fund have both a fixed and a variable element. The fixed element for Toddleburn is 19,146 and for EDF is £45,000. Future years monies cannot be drawn down from EDF but 5 years can be drawn on Toddleburn, if the Wind Farm community panel wishes.

The community owned wind farm site is just inside Allenshaws. Melrose, Stow and Lauder are the beneficiaries. However, we have to invest to benefit. It was agreed we should invite Jim Shanks to speak to us again at the February meeting. The Secretary

is to contact Ros Holdsworth as to whether it would be possible for the Community Council to apply for money to invest in the wind farm.

The Community Wind Farm Panel will have 4 deadlines for applications for funding during the next year. The next deadline is 18th January. There is a maximum of £10,000 for applications.

It was felt that the Wind Farm Panel should promote their scheme alongside the Community Council and that the Advisory Panel should take the lead. The Wind Farm Panel will be appointing a secretary who will take minutes and report back to applicant.

Winter Weather: Mill Road was considered a priority and was cleared. A great deal of time was spent clearing both sides of the A7 and Earlston Road was left.

It was felt Townfoot should be cleared and one side of Galashiels Road. Also access to Mill Road. The question was asked, "How do you get from Craigend Road to Mill Road?" This is an essential route to Stow school. The bottom of Craigend Road should be cleared to the top of Mill Road. The priority is A7, the school. It was noted that the grit bin by Cotland Place has been taken away.

It was deplored that there were 4 days with no buses when car drivers and lorries could manage the A7. Also when the buses started running again, passengers were informed there was an hourly review as to whether the service should continue running, making it impossible to go anywhere in case one couldn't get back.

Jan Gordon is looking at Stow, Oxton and Lauder joining together for a youth club.

W. Ball stated that she wishes to resign as a Community Council member but will do the newsletter as a member of the public. Her resignation was greatly regretted and she was thanked for all her hard work and input. She will give a draft of the newsletter in January. The Community Council will take over distribution.

Plans have been drawn up for the archive in the reading room. Work will start in February. There is a possibility of a Wi-Fi point in the reading room. The opening should be in April. The archive is planning to become constituted but ultimately does need to be under the Community Council. The opening in April could be part of a promotion of the wind farm fund.

An archive report will be given to the AGM.

It was pointed out that the old bridge badly needs pointing. This has previously been done by Historic Scotland.

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on 10th January in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.