

Minutes of meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Stow Town Hall

Those present – D. Muir (Chair), A McNeilly, I Peacock, J MacKenzie, S Jeffrey, J Mushlin, Cllr. White, A Riddell, T Miller

Apologies – Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Aitchison, R Munro, N Hodgson. PC A. McNair

Sam Smith, Programme Manager, Borders Railway Blueprint was unable to attend but stated she would be delighted to help with the Old Station House.

A McNeilly stated he met James Legerwood, Head Economic Development SCOTRAIL and two other officials. An Expression of Interest was put in on 30/11/2015. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December there will be a meeting to discuss the business plan and the Stow Community Trust hope to get the plan in before Christmas. The building will be let at a peppercorn rent. Dave Maxwell is acting as business advisor to the Community Trust.

Stow had a table at the Launch of the Borders Railway at Newtongrange which attracted interest.

Unfortunately nothing further can be done at present regarding trains not stopping in Stow every 30 minutes. There are timetable changes on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The numbers using the railway exceeded all expectations.

**NB** When buying a ticket at Stow Station, always press the button requesting a receipt so that if anything goes wrong you have proof of purchase of a ticket.

The minutes were approved, proposed by J MacKenzie, seconded A McNeilly.

D Muir contacted C Robertson regarding a second quote for planters but was informed he does not do 3-tier planters.

The motion to co-opt Ross Murphy and Neil Hodgson was unanimously agreed.

Police Report:

It was commented that the police no longer issue statistics of how many crimes are solved.

There have been 7 accidents on the A7 in the last month. According to a farming programme, white lines down the outside of a road are important.

A McNeilly reported on the meeting with Christine Grahame regarding road safety. The Community Police Inspector was present and stated that speeding is a serious issue for the local community. Brian Young, Roads SBC and Calum Kerr MP were also present. Ross Murphy gave a presentation.

The group that has been formed – Road Safety Stow – comes under the umbrella of the Parish of Stow Community Council. A listing of what is wanted, why it is wanted and the outcome was requested by Christine Grahame. 20 people came to the public meeting on road safety.

Councillor Aitchison submitted a report as he was unable to attend the meeting, with the following points:

1) Drainage of Lauder Road. Scottish Water are currently not permitting SBC to use their drains because of capacity issues. This could become a major issue necessitating a lot of digging and a road closure. Hopefully an accommodation can be reached with

Scottish Water.

2) The pathway past the Royal Hotel is now programmed. It will be done after current works are completed. Cllr Aitchison will pass on more information as he receives it.

3) Railway issues are still not resolved but affect Heriot far more severely than Stow.

4) Cllr Aitchison has had three meetings with the group progressing the upgrade of Stow Park. The grant of lease has been approved. Prices have been obtained for pathway work and a new bridge and gates to the area of the lease. This work, although the responsibility of the council, does not burden the park Group either financially nor indeed in the future for maintenance. Consultation with planning is ongoing.

5) Cllr Aitchison has checked with Dave Richardson about the lay-by at the bridge. The Legal Department are studying previous Kelso documentation. There is no date for a decision.

6) During the recent flooding, flooding was mainly restricted to the areas of the Haughs. Although the park is wet it is mainly confined to the areas which have not been done. The work has been signed off and is not likely before the spring. This does not affect the football pitch or the Sports areas but will be confined to the areas of lease for the new park and behind the bowling green.

7) Cllr Aitchison is concerned about the interaction between the Gala Water and the A7 just south of the Church. A few years ago he had to call out the Roads team for emergency work. It looks as if there might be a continuing problem there but he has not been able to ascertain the situation because of the height of the water and has asked the roads people to check it as soon as possible.

8) SBC's Quality of Life fund has supported the Commemorative booklet produced by the Archive Group.

9) Cllr Aitchison has checked with roads people about the application for funding the repairs and maintenance of the roads because of the excessive wear during the rail construction. The Scottish Government has still not responded.

10) Due to the Forth Road Bridge closure Albellio Scotrail are putting on extra services to Fife from Edinburgh. This might impact on the size of trains on the Borders Railway but has not happened yet.

11) We are in the final stages of landscaping at the school but he has not seen the work as yet.

12) The possibility of the Old School being used for community use is still ongoing. He had advised the people concerned that there is a document with 38 recommendations gathering dust on a shelf somewhere in the Scottish Government which has not been passed into law and would be a great help in this situation.

It was commented that we need another noticeboard in Stow specifically for Stow Community Council. Cllr White suggested that there should be a regular community council spotlight at Eildon Area Forum. J. MacKenzie will do a presentation at Eildon Area Forum for Stow Community Council on the Stow Road Safety Campaign.

It was noted that the traffic lights at the crossroads appear to have been removed. There has been some very poor driving and it has not been well managed. The traffic lights with pedestrian crossings were switched off and pedestrian access removed. Children are involved in this as it is a safe way to school and one community councillor saw a child come close to being knocked down crossing the road. Cllr White will take up the implications for children.

The Cuddy Brae path was raised. A brand new path is probably the only option as the original footpath has a fence across it.

The new Fountainhall footpath to the bus was also raised. It is not safe in icy weather and is the only access to the bus which is also used by elderly and disabled people. Cllr White will look into both these matters.

The Community Council granted a £250 microgrant to Stow Archive Group for their commemorative booklet as well as the SBC Quality of Life grant mentioned by Cllr. Aitchison.

The path from the A7 to the Well appears to have completely disappeared.

Heather Johnston at Watherstone, who is now producing the newsletter, has highlighted the position regarding the Old School House most effectively to the Scottish Government.

The upstairs kitchen at Stow Town Hall has been upgraded and is working.

The defibrillator at Stow is now in position on the Town Hall and working. The Community Council has been informed that we would be charged for installation. However there is a new Council policy not to charge for installation of defibrillators on council buildings. Kevin Sewell of Emergency Planning is taking the matter up for us. The grant for the defibrillator has been approved by the Windfarm.

It was agreed to give a microgrant of £34 + VAT to purchase scissors etc to use with the defibrillator to remove clothing, shave chest etc.

The ambulance service have been informed of the position of the Stow defibrillator (beside office on ground floor of Stow Town Hall – 24 hour access) and the position of the Fountainhall defibrillator (on outside of wall by disabled path to the lefthand side of the front entrance of the village hall).

The question of planning applications was raised. The Extension to Stow Bowling Club 15/01/250/FUL was of interest to the Community Council but we were not notified of it. The Secretary is to contact Planning to ask for full plans for the January meeting.

The Fountainhall Children's Christmas Party requested a contribution to the party. There will be 70 children present this year. A microgrant of £140 was granted.

A £250 microgrant was awarded for the opening party of the Village Hall for people in Fountainhall.

A £250 microgrant was also awarded for the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party of Fountainhall SWRI.

Correspondence.

Paul McGreal contacted us regarding a proposed new cycling event on the A7 in July 2016. It was agreed to invite him to speak to us about it at a meeting.

The public are being encouraged to take part in the budget setting process.

A new online tool called Dialogue has been launched as an easy way for Borders residents to submit their ideas. It can be accessed via <https://scotborders.dialogue-app.com> and enables people to put forward their own suggestions and rate those of others.

In addition, residents can write to the council, email their views to: [budgetteam@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:budgetteam@scotborders.gov.uk) or use the hashtag #sbcdialogue on Twitter. All feedback will be fed into the financial planning process.

AOCB

The streetlighting on Earlston Road is atrocious. There are potholes and broken bits on the pavement which are not visible. The new LED lights on Earlston Road are too far apart and not high enough and the lighting is poor.

People north of the bridge at the station in Stow are complaining because the broadband is awful. The new broadband has not been taken further than the bridge. BT are looking at putting satellite dishes in.

Heather Johnston should be asked to mention the Stow website in the newsletter. It is not being used.

A document was produced: 'Village Enhancement Scheme – 1995' which has simple achievable measures to improve Stow. This should be circulated and appropriate measures implemented by the Community Council.

C. Hendry volunteered to set up a facebook site for the Parish of Stow Community Council.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL.

All welcome to come to see the newly refurbished Hall at Fountainhall.

MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY  
11TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30 IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL.

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Paul McGreal – Proposed new cycling event – July 2016
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
4. Police Report
5. General Matters
6. Councillors Reports
7. Planning
8. Correspondence
9. AOCB