

DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD  
IN MAIN HALL  
STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Those present: J.MacKenzie (chair), S.Jeffrey, C.Hendry, A.Riddell, J.Mushlin,  
Cllr White,  
Cllr. Aitchison, James Campbell (member of the public)  
Apologies: D.Muir, A. McNeilly, T. Miller, Cllr. Herd, Cllr Mitchell

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved , proposed C,Hendry,  
seconded J. MacKenzie.

James Campbell described his proposal for a wind turbine on his farm. He farms at Burnhouse Mains, Stow and gave a general history of his family. Farming nowadays is very volatile and it is necessary to find an additional income. He is proposing to site a single wind turbine at least 1 km from the nearest house outside the farm. It will be 80m high at the tip , will have a capacity of 500 kw and the energy proposed will be for both the farm and the grid. He feels that farmers have an important role to play in carbon dioxide management and can supply clean energy and cited the Isle of Eigg which has community owned wind and solar energy as an example. He proposes to pay community benefit to the whole community. He has not yet drawn up detailed plans for Planning. Members of the community council felt that the time to discuss this proposal is when we receive it from Planning but will circulate his full presentation to all members who were not present for information.

#### General Matters

Wendy Ball is unable to produce the next 2 issues of the newsletter and is looking for someone to step in and produce it. C.Hendry said that Heather Johnston had approached her asking for copy. J.Mushlin will phone both Wendy and Heather to see if this has now been resolved. It was suggested that we put in an appeal in the newsletter for help with further issues.

A proposal for a grant for railway celebrations on September 5th has been put in to the Railway Fund on behalf of the Community Council. This was done by J.Mushlin and A.McNeilly who had to make an immediate decision owing to time restraints. This was done after full discussion with Jemma Reid who will organise the celebrations. This was approved by the Community Council.

J.Mushlin has contacted Alan Scott re the defibrillator at Stow Town Hall who is very supportive but said Tom Holmes, Building Inspector would need to be

approached. This has been done and Tom Holmes might need to make a site visit to decide how best to connect the defibrillator box to the electricity supply. If so, J.Mushlin will meet him.

The path at Cuddy Brae which appears on council plans for Fountainhall has been obliterated completely by BAM. It is a matter of urgency that the path should be replaced as it is the access for the bus at the A7 for Pirntaton Farm and Cottages. The alternative route that they are currently having to use is very much longer. Cllr. White will look into it.

There is a crash barrier on the footpath on the new road to Fountainhall which suddenly ends leaving a steep slope which is unfenced. A fence needs to be erected there .J.Mushlin produced photos and Cllr White will look into this.

The snow gates at Heriot have been replaced but the gate is on the wrong side so they won't close.

The benches which were promised on the new road to Fountainhall have never materialised. This will be referred to Jonathan Hepton.

Ian Anderson has requested that we should put a petition in the Post Office to request that every train should stop at Stow. The trains will stop every half hour at rush hour times but otherwise every hour. It is also a concern to the parents council that trains which are not stopping will be passing at 70mph. The timetable is dictated by Transport Scotland and some trains are also going further than Edinburgh. The community council decided not to put in a petition but the Secretary will write to Transport Scotland with a copy to Albellio regarding this.

The Keep Fit in Stow has disbanded. There is just under £100 left in funds which they would like to be used for play furniture in the Park.

A new fence has been enforced on the owners of the Royal Hotel. This is not improving the centre of Stow.

The state of the layby wall was raised again. The council say they are monitoring this and it has only moved 1cm. Many other restraining walls in the Borders are in a similar state and there is the added problem of ownership . Ownership was never handed from Midlothian to the Borders. Previous minutes state that the Community council is not going to do anything about it. However it was suggested we could go to the Windfarm for funding.

The planters were going to be moved from the layby at Stow Sports Week but this has not been done and they need to be emptied first .

An invoice was received from Inspirations at Early Vale for upkeep of containers.

The Fountainhall community is concerned at trucks from Wutherstone coming through the village. Currently there is no permission for this. The community would like full consultation regarding this.

Stuart Jeffrey is doing the Stow Website. He is collecting information about the number of hits it gets and would like to discuss how to get more hits and advertise it.

There was a suggestion of more noticeboards at historical sites in Stow. This could be done with Windfarm funding.

## Councillors Reports

Cllr White stated that the last train to Stow stops at Stow at 12.38 a.m. The official opening of the railway will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September and the Queen and Prince Philip will be coming to the Borders for this. The Transport Interchange will be opening on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Born in the Borders will run the cafe. A7 Update – A7 Action Group. Suggestions for major projects have been given to Gordon Edgar. Retrunking of the A7 North of Galashiels is a priority.

Cllr Aitchison stated that an appraisal of the Gala Water has been done by Tweed Forum. They have found that it is in good condition.

The new headteacher at Fountainhall is Susan Anderson.

Stow School is going to be used for official celebrations on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Golden ticket holders will be bussed to Stow. The school will be busy in the morning but after that will be free. The train from Stow is at 12.30pm.

The football pitch is operational. Other drainage is going to happen. The small bridge in the park is too narrow for disabled access. Currently he is waiting for information regarding upgrading this.

The Mill Lade will have to be done again. SEPA will need to be approached again and told it was done 3 years ago.

## Correspondence

Proposed Local Development Plan - Stagehall

Draft Supplementary Guidance on Waste Management Public Consultation can be found on

<http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/sgwaste>

Responses need to be in by 28 September 2015

Public Consultation – Main Issues Report – Local Access and Transport Strategy.

The Secretary will respond to this.

The document is available on

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/lats](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/lats)

Comments must be submitted by 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. Page 4 of the document highlights various ways in which comments can be submitted

Local Boundary commission for Scotland public consultation

AOCB

Street light no 1 in Stow is not working

A fence is needed at the playground at Stow School. People have been dogwalking through the school playground .

There was also a query about the need for a fence at the area where children play football at Stow School.

Closed circuit TV will be installed at the school. Cameras are already in the station.

Stow Town Hall is not available for a community council let in the first 2 weeks of September . The Secretary did not book the September let with all the other lets for this year because she expected this meeting to be in Fountainhall. However the Fountainhall Village Hall will still be closed for refurbishment. A booking in Stow Town Hall is available for August 31<sup>st</sup>. We all deplore being unable to use the Hall on the dates we want because of financial considerations but agreed to have our next meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> subject to this being acceptable to the members who are not present.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will be in the Main Hall of Stow Town Hall on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME