

Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 2nd November 2015 in Stow Town Hall at 7.30 pm

Those present – D. Muir (chair), PC Anne McNair, I Peacock, J. MacKenzie, A. McNeilly, C. Hendry, T. Miller, S. Jeffrey, J. Mushlin, Cllr. B. White, Cllr. Mitchell, 2 members of the public (one arrived at the end of the meeting).

Apologies – Cllr. Aitchison, A. Riddell, Cllr. Herd.

The Chair welcomed all present.

The minutes were approved by C. Hendry, seconded J. McKenzie.

A report was provided by Cllr. Aitchison for November 2015.

1. He has received a letter from Mrs. Lofthouse supporting the idea that the layby is the responsibility of SBC. This letter has been passed to Mr. David Richardson for consultation with the legal department of SBC and Cllr. Aitchison will be seeking their views.

2. The fence at the park has been constructed by professional fencers.

3. Alan Scott consulted him about the request from the Masonic Lodge about their boards and other things being hung in the Main Hall. He has no personal objection but asked that Mr. Scott consult the Community Council. The secretary has had a letter from Mr. Scott about this and all present agreed that there was no objection and the secretary should reply to Mr. Scott.

4. There are continuing matters regarding the Railway Construction. The blocking of the right of way at the 'ford' at Watherston is an ongoing matter to be resolved. The fence on Station Road is also an ongoing matter.

5. Network Rail has agreed to complete the noise barrier fencing at Stow School. This will complete the work along the complete length of the playground and that has been welcomed by the school staff. No time has been given for this job but it will be costed and done as soon as possible.

6. Ongoing works at the school.

The fencing has not yet been completed because of delays in getting the gates etc. the job is nearly complete and the rabbit problem will be addressed. Landscaping will be undertaken by SBC as a part of the longer work scheme. It is hoped to clean the grass area and returf probably with turf to allow wild flowers to grow. This will mean it has to be cut twice a year to allow the variety of flowers to grow.

7. The Neighbourhood Services Team have asked for other areas for wild flowers for help to promote biodiversity. Possibly the area parallel to the A7 through the village?

8. The railway has proved to be very busy but there has been concern about the reliability of the service and also the number of people who appear to have been travelling free. There has recently been tightening up of ticket collection along the line.

9. Congratulations to the Archive Group on the installation of their WWI Memorial Artwork – ceramic poppies and forget-me-nots – which have been put down at the War Memorial. This is a great achievement.

10. Horse drinking trough – the drinking trough which was removed from the area south of Torquhan is in the Burgh Yard. We need to think where to put it. The station seems to be favourite.

11. There is still no date for park drainage.

It was noticed that the public toilets in Stow had been closed but they have now been reopened.

Sam Smith of SBC has contacted the secretary about coming to the December meeting to see what she can do in Stow.

On the 17th November – Stow Community Trust and Archive Group will meet James Legerwood. If they can get a reasonable deal there is funding available for the Old Station House.

On the 19th November there is a launch at the Mining Museum in Newtongrange of the Rail Partnership. Stow station will have a stand at this.

There was a meeting between Calum Kerr, Christine Grahame, Brian Young and Andy MacLean on 20th November to discuss road safety with Ross, Neil and Fiona. On 15th November there will be an open meeting in Stow about road safety.

PC Anne McNair stated that some points on road safety in Stow have already been responded to by Philippa Gilhooley SBC and the local police. Highlighting speed is a problem. Police need information of key days and times when speeding happens. The police and Philippa Gilhooley are on phase 2 of a survey of Stow. It was pointed out that the figures are not representative as there were traffic lights. However the road safety department of SBC are gathering information. There was a suggestion of a 20 mph speed limit in Stow.

Police Report. Crimewise there has not been a great deal. There has been wild life crime in Heriot. An injured buzzard was found somewhere on the B7007 or B709 between Middleton, Heriot and Innerleithen. It had to be put to sleep as a result of its injuries and it was found to have been shot. This was on 24th July. If anyone has any information about this or any other wild life crime please contact james.hood@scoland.pnn.police.uk or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

There has been one road accident in Stow. The request for a countdown to 30 mph signs in Fountainhall or moving the signs has not been agreed by Scottish Borders Council. However a two part planned speed survey has been recommended and will be carried out within the village.

Cllr. John Mitchell stated that a 5 year budget to save £28 ½ m. over 5 years is currently being planned.

A report from Stowed Out was circulated.

The Defibrillator box has been delivered to Ken Loftwaite, the caretaker. Scottish Borders Council are arranging installation. There will be 24 hour access and the Ambulance Service will be informed of its position so they can tell anyone in the area dialling 999 about it. It will be on the left hand side of the wall by the Office at Stow Town Hall.

The possibility of a bottle bank at Fountainhall was raised again. There seems to be a space between the northbound bus stop and the old road end where loading will be possible. Cllr. Mitchell will look into this. He dealt with it previously and thought it was the weight restrictions on the bridge that made the site at Pirntaton Road End impossible and the new bridge has no weight restriction.

It was noticed that the path from the bridge to the Well in Stow has been cut off. There are 3 large stones under the road at the side of the A7. It is unknown whether this is permanent.

J. MacKenzie has found 3-tier self-watering planters at £330 each. A bowser would also be needed. We should get 2 and approach the windfarms for funding. It was suggested we should ask Colin Robertson, Charlesfield, St. Boswells, for a quote. D. Muir volunteered to do this. The Community Council have to decide where the planters should go. Possibly cross diagonal opposite each other at Stow Crossroads. Planters with a diameter of this size are not suitable at the other end of Stow. The matter of tubs was suggested – 4 tubs and 2 planters.

It was raised that broadband in Fountainhall is a nightmare. We are supposed to have fast broadband. Stow is also having trouble. It is very difficult for people running businesses.

It was agreed that January 11th will be the January meeting, if possible in Fountainhall.

Windfarm.

At the last meeting in September the Head of Finance, Scottish Foundation, Hamish McCall Smith agreed to £25,000 being put into an endowment plan. The paperwork is being drawn up and contract to be signed prior to the next meeting. The fund will be split down the middle equally between SSE and EDF. This will be added to and give the community an income after 20 years.

The applications have been simplified. There is now a single application for large grants so they can be done in one quarter instead of taking 6 months.

At the end of August EDF had £50,163 in funds.

SSE had £72,087 in funds (including the one-off £27,000 green deal payment).

Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue were allocated a total of £10,000 (£5,000 EDF, £5,000 SSE) in recognition of their importance to our area.

Fountainhall Parents Council was allocated £4,415 for a stage on condition that it is available to the wider community.

Fountainhall Village Hall committee were allocated £4,000 towards costs of tables and chairs.

12th October was the final date for the last round of applications. Decisions will be made on 12th December.

Ross Murphy joined the meeting. He is drawing up a local action Plan for road safety along the A7 with both short terms goals and long term goals.

Ross Murphy and Neil Hodgson both agreed to be co-opted at the next meeting as members of Stow Community Council. They will be members of the A7 Action Group for Stow.

The next meeting will be on Monday 7th December at 7.30 pm in Stow Town Hall.

All welcome.

MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2015 IN STOW TOWN HALL

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Borders Railway Tourism – to be confirmed who is to attend.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising
4. Motion of Co-option of 2 members to Parish of Stow Community Council – proposed J. MacKenzie, seconded J. Mushlin.

NEIL HODGSON – 127 GALASHIELS ROAD, STOW, TD1 2RF.
Polling district 3c/registration no 287.

ROSS MURPHY – ASHLEA, 217 GALASHIELS ROAD, STOW TD1 2RE
Polling district 3c/registration no 336

5. Police Report

6. General Matters

7. Councillors Reports

8. Planning

9. Correspondence

10. AOCB

All welcome.

To members of Parish of Stow Community Council

the new road and pavement bridge over the railway, from Fountainhall Village to the A7.

There had been snowfall during the night and in the morning this snow had iced and hardened, making the pedestrian path extremely slippery. The road had been gritted, and presented no problem, but the pavement had not been. This pavement is of course, a necessity for the inhabitants of the village who do not have a car, and who rely on buses on the A7 for all transport, including the necessary food shopping. It particularly concerns me that the elderly, whether or not they need a walking stick for assistance, and the disabled, who do rely on mobility devices, would find it if not impossible at least highly dangerous.