

Draft Minutes of meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 11th January 2016 in Fountainhall Village Hall.

Those present – A McNeilly, J. MacKenzie, N. Hodgson, S. Jeffrey, J. Mushlin, D Muir (Chair), T. Miller, Cllr. White, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr. Mitchell

Apologies – A. Riddell, Cllr. B. Herd, R. Murphy, C. Hendry, I. Peacock

Speakers – Paul McGreal, Jeremy Fraser and Andy Millar

The Chair welcomed all members to Fountainhall Village Hall and wished all a happy new year.

Paul McGreal described his plans for a cycle ride on the A7 in July 2016 or July 2017. This will necessitate a road closure of the A7. It is not a sporty event. It is to be family friendly with the aim of mass participation and getting people on bikes. It is based on Pedal for Scotland which is held between Glasgow and Edinburgh. The ride starts at the Mining Museum in Newtongrange but actual cycling commences south of Gorebridge at the Shell garage. A phased road closure is being sought. Dalkeith Transport will take the bikes back from Galashiels with participants using the train. This is presenting an opportunity for a cycle ride on a road parallel to the railway. The A7 has the capacity for the numbers involved. The back road does not have the capacity for the numbers. The event is safe. Short term road closures are 3-4 hours. The organisers will have a vehicle and can put on the equivalent of an on-demand bus service to the nearest point where buses are operating for people who need to take the bus while the road is closed. Between Galashiels and Bowland, traffic will be open going North. It is possible for local organisations to have stalls on the route selling cakes and juice to raise funds. Local organisations could help with marshalling and raise some funds in this way. It is proposed to be on a Sunday morning. Local churches have been approached about this, with no response as yet. There has been no negative response from the Council to the closure of the A7. A member of the community council pointed out that Paul McGreal has an excellent record in organising orienteering and was also involved with the Commonwealth Games. It was also noted that there are fewer trains on Sunday. The Community Council agreed to back this event and requested Paul to come back to update us when there are more developments. A kids run from Stow to Galashiels is possible. Paul McGreal will know whether it is going ahead this year in 4 weeks time.

The second speaker was Jeremy Fraser who introduced himself as a corporate lawyer and planner of microbreweries along with Nigel Millar. The plan is to have a microbrewery in a field by the station. A business plan is being put together. They are currently having meetings with planners who are very interested in this and could make this scheme an exception to the normal rules as it could bring people to visit Stow by train. The site is 3 – 4 minutes from the station and will make a range of beers. They were at the Stowed Out Festival in August and received a very positive response. They need to raise funds, get plans, and planning permission, possibly in March.

There will be a Dutch-style 100 feet by 40 feet wooden barn. They will need drainage etc. There will be an area for storage, brewery, tap area, small shop area for farm foods. They are not in competition with Cloud House Cafe. There will possibly be memberships where people can get discounts on beers. They will stage events but also involve Cloud House Cafe. It is critical that this fits in with the local community. They envisage a Stow Craft Brewery and Rural Heritage Centre. They want to have old

farm implements in the field.

Ideas are:

A cooper will on occasion do barrel making.

There will be horse drawn ploughs.

They might do bike hire.

In phase 2 they might make gin and also distilled non-alcoholic gin and non-alcoholic beers.

They hope to be able to cater for shops and restaurants within a 30 mile radius.

They suggested they could run a restaurant/bistro in the Old Station House, a pop up as required. It could be run by either Jeremy or the Community Trust.

The Old Station House was then discussed. Events can be put on there. There would also be a meeting room. Plans for a Waverley Line museum are on the go. Stow Archive are keen to be part of this and there will be an exhibition area. Storage for archive materials is needed. The museum needs to have its contents changed regularly, but needs to use all space. Jeremy Fraser said that they could maybe help with storage space. There is the possibility of a vending machine at the Old Station House. Hopefully exactly what will happen there will be put together by the end of February. There should be a long term lease from Network Rail who would be responsible for the fabric of the building. It appears that the Old Station House could work together with the microbrewery. Everyone was in agreement with this.

2017 is the anticipated date for the Old Station House. There will be a public meeting but only when the Community Trust know what Network Rail will agree to.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by J. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Muir.

The Eildon Area Forum is on 18th February. J. MacKenzie has agreed he will do a presentation to highlight Parish of Stow Community Council at it.

J. Mushlin contacted Stuart Herkes at Planning regarding the Community Council not having been consulted about the proposed extension to the Bowling Club and was informed that he does not normally notify Community Councils about extensions. Permission has been granted. There was concern that the building is not to be elevated even though Stow Bowling Club has been flooded.

Police Report

A day of action was carried out in Stow, Fountainhall and the A7 north and south of Stow on 16th December 2015 by the Community Policing team. A total of 11 hours of road checks, foot patrols and speed checks were carried out, resulting in 4 speeding offences, 2 speeding warnings, 6 parking warnings, 6 negative breath tests and 11 vehicles stopped and checked. Members of the Community Council felt that it is obvious the Community policing team will not find many offences as drivers warn each other about their presence.

A member of the community council was concerned that police came to a lady in the village at 9.30 pm one evening to ask if there had been a disturbance. There is so little liaison between Headquarters and the local police that when he phoned to ask about the disturbance, Headquarters could not say that there had been an incident.

It is regretted that, whilst our local beat officer can be contacted by email, there is no phone number for her which can be used by people who are not able to use email for

whatever reason. This especially applies to elderly people. The 101 service is not the equivalent of raising a matter with your local officer.
The comment was made that the southbound flashing sign at the north end of the village is useless.

Cllr Aitchison reported that there are still outstanding railway issues beyond Stow Community Council area.

J. Mushlin raised that the path on the new road to Fountainhall does not get salted in icy conditions and is treacherous. Previously pedestrians could walk in the salted part of the old road but that is now completely unsafe. Cllr. Aitchison will take it up as part of the safer routes to school initiative.

The Reporter from the Scottish Government has agreed in the 5 year plan that the area south of Wedale view will be used for housing. The 30 mile limit will be extended. Sewage will have to come up to standard.

Cllr. Mitchell raised the advantages of SB Alert and advised people to sign up to it and made the Community Council aware of the Youth Borders Impact Report.

It was raised that there is no longer access to the disabled toilet in the Town Hall from the outside. The handle has been taken off the outside door.

J. MacKenzie is looking into planters and bowsers.

The A7 Action Group is taking place on Friday 15th January in Langholm. J. MacKenzie and possibly N. Hodgson are going to this and will update them on the road safety campaign. There is now some interest in the A7 north of Galashiels.

S. Jeffrey distributed a graph of the number of hits on the website during the last year, including hits for each category.

In his absence, A. Riddell asked for it to be raised that he would like to raise community awareness and involvement in the Old Kirk by going round all Stow households asking for £1 contribution towards raising of gravestones. He has received a quote of around £10,000 + VAT for raising some gravestones. The Community Council agreed to his plan. The balance can be raised by an application to Windfarm funds.

The Community Council received an email from Fiona Walling, Democratic Services SBC enquiring when the next election is due. The new community council is due to be formed in May 2016. It was agreed that nominations would commence on April 5th and the date of the May meeting would be changed from the 2nd to the 9th to accommodate elections. Fraser Sim will be asked to be Returning Officer.

T. Miller stated there has been a draft document of the Community Endowment Agreement of £25,000.

A memorandum of understanding of microgrants between EDF and the Community Foundation has been received.

A memorandum of understanding from SSE is still awaited.

The situation as to whether there is still a youth club in Stow is unknown.

Fountainhall has received this years tranche of funding from SSE. There is now £1553 in the kitty.

The next meeting will take place on Monday February 1st in Stow Town Hall at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY
1ST FEBRUARY 2016 IN STOW TOWN HALL AT 7.30 PM.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
3. POLICE REPORT
4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS
5. GENERAL MATTERS
6. COUNCILLORS REPORTS
7. PLANNING
8. CORRESPONDENCE
9. AOCB

ALL WELCOME