

## **Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Stow Town Hall at 7.30 pm.**

Those present – D. Muir (Chair), J. Mushlin, C. Hendry, J. MacKenzie, I. Peacock, A. Riddell, R. Murphy, P. Hodgson, T. Miller, Iver Salvesen, Cllr. Aitchison, Cllr. Herd, Cllr. White.

Apologies – S. Jeffrey, A. McNeilly, Cllr Mitchell, PC Anne McNair

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by I. Peacock, seconded J. MacKenzie.

I. Salvesen brought to the Community Council's attention that Scottish Borders Council is carrying out a 'Call for Sites for development' to meet additional requirements for sites in the Scottish Borders, as identified by the Reporter. All proposals for sites have to be submitted before the end of March.

Within the Local Plan there is an alteration to the local development plan for Stow – Craigend Road is preferred for landscape development. Mr. Salvesen is proposing a link road between Lauder Road and Earlston Road which will have further central housing in Stow.

The question was raised as to who would provide the infrastructure. If it were to be the developers, it might be looked on favourably. Mr. Salvesen stated the developer would in all likelihood finance the link road. He is willing to talk to any member of the public who wishes to approach him about the proposed development.

Wedale View and the Royal Hotel are currently proposed for housing. It was agreed Craigend Road, Lauder Road and Earlston Road are at full capacity.

916 additional sites in the Scottish Borders have been called for by the Reporter.

The Stow Road Action Group have surveyed the school. They are also surveying all of Stow.

There will be a further site visit to discuss future proposals.

The A7 Action Group will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm at Langholm. J. MacKenzie can't go. R. Munro will attend. A. McNeilly has agreed that the Community Council can fund £50 for the survey. This was agreed by members of the Community Council.

Forthcoming Community Council elections were discussed. This is the final meeting of the current Community Council. Nominations will open on 20<sup>th</sup> March and close on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 6 pm. There has been extensive publicity through an article on the front page of the newsletter which is hand-delivered to all houses in the area. This explains fully the whole process of Nominations and Community Council Elections and that nomination forms are available from Stow Post Office, Cloud House café or Mr. Fraser Simm, the Returning Officer, and should be returned to Mr Fraser Simm before 6 pm 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr. Aitchison stated that pavement works at Townfoot are due to start soon. He was asked what material would be used. The C11 holes will be filled in and the landslide north of Wutherstone Corner is threatening the A7.

The A7 has had holes filled in with coal tar but a new system is coming in.

After many meetings spent discussing the subject, SBC has finally accepted that it is their responsibility to repair the layby outside the village. A letter was produced by Wilma Lofthouse which was agreed to be authentic which finally settled the matter. David Richardson will measure it and try to fit it into SBC plans.

There are great concerns about how Network Rail have blocked off the Ford, thus interfering with core paths from Craighend to Galabank. They have agreed to remedy the matter.

The School Estates review is online. On 21<sup>st</sup> March from 3 pm – 7.30 pm there is a consultation at Galashiels Academy on all aspects of schools in the Borders. The pre-consultation will go on to formal consultation. In August the full plan will go for debate, consideration and planning. Every decision has to pass Scottish Government criteria. SBC has data for all schools but need community involvement. Primary, nursery and secondary schools are all involved.

The entire length of railway works on the A7 has been walked and damage noted in terms of verges. A claim is in for £1,500,000. to the Scottish Government, BAM and Network Rail in addition to money for flood and storm damage and money in the Council budget. £500,000 extra is going into SBC budget for roads.

It was pointed out that the state of the verge at Bowland was reported 5 months ago. Cllr. Herd has approached Rob Dickson about this. He will approach him again.

J. MacKenzie reported that there have been 2 meetings regarding Stow Station House. Heritage Rail can give funding for 40% of the build cost and point the Stow Community Trust in the direction of suitable architects, grants etc. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April to consult the community about the Station House.

SCOTRAIL are happy to let the community landscape the station. There will be a grant of £500 per year for landscaping. The Northbound platform has a broad bed and will be tackled first. He intends to talk to suppliers who supply traders. The old trough which was near Torquhan is currently at the Council. SCOTRAIL are happy for it to be placed at the station but will secure it themselves. There are only certain areas where planters can be placed. It will not be possible to have involvement by the School at this as children cannot be on the platform when anything is taking place. However children can be involved in the Station House.

An outside tap was requested at Stow Toilets. However a Toilet Review is about to take place by the Council. The garden at the back of the Old Station House will need water but there will be a small hand bowser.

It was pointed out again that the disabled toilet is inaccessible to the general public because there is no handle on the outside door at the Town Hall. There is no other disabled toilet in Stow.

The Windfarm Panel have all the paperwork in place for the endowment fund. £12,500 SSE and £12,500 EDF.

It was discussed whether it should be called Parish of Stow Community Foundation Fund or Parish of Stow and Fountainhall Foundation Fund but agreed that as Parish of Stow includes Fountainhall it should be called Parish of Stow Community Foundation Fund.

A memorandum of understanding is in place for the EDF Longpark Fund.

No memorandum of understanding is in place for SSE yet.

The funds from EDF Longpark are late and due to be paid on 12.3.16.

Jack MacKenzie requested approval for a microgrants application for compost for flowerbeds as there is no meeting in April. It was agreed that he should write an official letter to A. McNeilly and the Community Council has approved this.

Plaques have been supplied by EDF and SSE. The plaque posted to Fountainhall

School by EDF was considered not fit for purpose. It was requested that this should be returned for a replacement to be issued and it will be discussed by the Head Teacher as to when and where this can be put up at the school.

With Community Council elections happening, there is a possibility that there could be huge changes of membership of the Community Council. For the 2 representatives of the Community Council on the Windfarm Panel, T. Miller and D. Muir, this could be the last meeting. Therefore T. Miller has stood down as Chair of the Windfarm Panel and Jane Ellis will chair the next meeting.

It was proposed by J. MacKenzie and seconded by C. Hendry that if D. Muir and T. Miller remain on the new Community Council, they should continue as Community Council representatives on the Windfarm Panel.

The next application for Windfarm funds closes in April.

Paul McGreal contacted the community council to say that the cycling event planned for July 2016 will now take place in Summer 2017. He has previously attended a community council meeting to discuss his plans for a family cycle ride on the A7 and thanked the community council for help, advice and enthusiasm shown and will be back in touch.

Tower Mint have sent a sample medal of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was agreed to give this to Stow Archive.

The pothole at Crookston was mentioned – it needs filled in immediately.

C. Hendry was congratulated for the very successful Grand Opening of the Refurbished Fountainhall Village Hall.

It was also noted that Graeme Hendry is a world class gold medallist as world champion at tug of war. He has 17 gold medals.

This is the final meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council until the new Community Council comes into being in May. If more than 10 people in Stow, or 2 people in Fountainhall, stand as members, there will be elections in Stow and/or Fountainhall. If no more than 10 Stow and 2 Fountainhall members stand, there will be no elections and the new Community Council will be appointed. If fewer than 6 people stand as members, there will be no Community Council for 6 months.