

Inaugural meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 2nd May 2016 at 7.30 pm in Stow Town Hall.

Those present: I. Peacock, S. Jeffrey, J. Mackenzie, A. McNeilly, C. Hendry, A. Riddell, M. Craig, D. Muir, T. Miller, B. Jamieson, Cllr. Mitchell, Cllr. Aitchison, N. Hodgson, J. Mushlin.

Returning Officer – Fraser Sim

Apologies – B. White, R. Murphy.

The Returning Officer commenced the meeting reading out the names of community councillors nominated.

C. Hendry (Fountainhall)

N. Hodgson

S. Jeffrey

T. Miller

D. Muir

J. Mushlin (Fountainhall)

A. McNeilly

R. Murphy

I. Peacock

A. Riddell

A late nomination was received from J. MacKenzie. It was proposed to co-opt J. MacKenzie at the next Community Council meeting: proposed J. Mushlin, seconded I. Peacock.

The Returning Officer asked for nominations for Chairperson.

Diana Muir was proposed by A. McNeilly, seconded C. Hendry.

The Returning Officer handed the meeting over to the Chairperson and the Community Council thanked the Returning Officer for his work undertaking the task of elections. He then left the meeting.

The Chairperson then took the chair and the following were elected.

Vice Chairman – C. Hendry: proposed J. Mushlin, seconded A. McNeilly.

Secretary – J. Mushlin: proposed T. Miller, seconded C. Hendry

Treasurer – A. McNeilly: proposed J. Mushlin, seconded S. Jeffrey.

Road Traffic Campaign – N. Hodgson reported back on the Stow Road Traffic Campaign. There was a good response to the surveys which have been passed to SBC and the Police. There has been a response from between 200 – 300 people. There has also been a survey of parents of primary school children. A walk round the village to highlight the main issues was proposed – narrow pavements, no pavements, speeding traffic. Unfortunately Brian Young, SBC, couldn't make the proposed date but it will happen soon.

Andy Jones, Safety Camera Partnership, Christine Graham MSP and Calum Kerr MP are also involved.

The next meeting of the A7 Action Group is at 7 pm on June 2nd in Stow. The meeting is generally about the Selkirk by-pass but it is hoped that as it is happening in Stow, matters of importance north of Galashiels will be raised. Calum Kerr chairs the meeting. It is only open to community councillors – not to members of the public.

The Police Reports for April and May were noted.

Talks are progressing between BAM, Network Rail and SBC over the state of the roads following the construction of the railway.
The back road to Fountainhall has had repairs done to it.

The Old Station House – more than 50 people were at the public meeting. There were no negative reactions to the ideas put forward. People wanted a pub but this is not allowed by Network Rail. The Community Trust are going ahead with their plans. A business plan has to be formally submitted.

Councillors Report – The park drainage has been done, including the part behind the bowling green but the play park is currently waterlogged. The Mill Lade has not been dug out. It is important this is rectified at the first sign of deterioration in the park. Cllr Aitchison will talk to SEPA again about what they will permit. The Mill Lade serves no useful purpose and maybe could be filled in. It was proposed that a SEPA Officer should come up and walk it with a couple of people to see the hot spots. Councillor Aitchison will contact SEPA and arrange a walk.

The Right of Way at Watherstone. Fencing at the ford has been put on the land that the railway owns leaving the right of way clear. The wall is in a dreadful state. There are issues at the road from the pedestrian bridge. A barrier to protect the railway from cars makes it difficult for pedestrians.

The Lay-by – the Council has admitted legal responsibility and Dave Richardson, SBC is dealing with it.

Cllr Mitchell is looking into a bottle bank at Fountainhall. The situation has changed since the initial request, since the new bridge has been built. He will contact Viridor but they are currently retracting rather than expanding.

Galawater History and Heritage Association – Mary Craig, Community Archivist suggested Stow should work towards becoming Stow of Wedale, Heritage Village of Scottish Borders. There is a great deal of historical interest in the village. The first stage is to draw up pamphlets and fliers and look at replacing the boards at the lay-by, old graveyard, Bishop's Palace. During the summer Mary will pull together a Heritage Plan for the village, including getting proper surveys done. Funding bids will go in over the autumn and winter. This whole project will take place over 2 or 3 years. Historic Scotland are supportive as is Chris Bowles, Heritage Officer SBC. There are 7 forts and 4 castles in the vicinity of Stow.

It was agreed to give a microgrant of £250 for signs and microgrant of £250 for leaflets.

It is hoped to enter Europa Nostra (Cultural Heritage) to put Stow forward for a prize. There are minimal initial costs for the development plan.

The planters the Community Council ordered have been assembled and the water bowser has arrived. Hopefully they will be planted by June. The long border at the Station should also be planted by June. Currently a site for the horse trough is being sought. This is 8 feet long and 24-30 inches wide. The Council will sandblast and drill holes for us to plant. People would like it in Townfoot. Possibly a space around the Town Hall. The turning area is a possibility. The A7 was also discussed, with a possibility of by the park or by the lay-by at the Old School. Cllr. Aitchison will look into what SBC will permit, including speaking to the Parks Department, and also see someone at the Council to sandblast and drill holes in the trough. There are 12-14 volunteers. C. Hendry can add on facebook requests for volunteers any time it is needed.

The car boot sale went well.

There will be one triple planter near the planter where the pavement widens at the Old Kirk and one at the end of the Royal Hotel between the phone box and the Old School.

The poppies at the War Memorial are due to come down in January 2019. This is because the ceramics will not withstand frosts forever. The planter can be used by the community in any way they choose then.

On Monday 9th May the Historical Association are having their AGM at 7.30 in Stow Town Hall.

£63 was left after railway celebrations. It was agreed by the funder that this could be used for the open meeting for Stow Station House.

A microgrant of £250 for incidentals for the Old Station House was given to Stow Community Trust.

The members of the Community Council agreed to abide by the constitution. Proposed A. McNeilly, seconded J. Mushlin.

The minutes of the last meeting of the previous community council were approved. Proposed D. Muir, seconded S. Jeffrey.

The previous community council elected D. Muir and T. Miller as community council representatives to the Windfarm Panel.
This decision was noted and seen as valid.

It was noted that the fence at the park by the football area has been damaged.

The School Estates Review is underway and information collected is being worked on. The strip of grass by the Park on the A7 was considered the best site for the Horse Trough. Cllr. Aitchison will talk to the Parks Department about this.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday June 6th at 7.30 pm in Stow Town Hall.

Parish of Stow Community Council meeting to be held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 6th June at 7.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Motion to co-opt as a member of Parish of Stow Community Council:
Jack MacKenzie, 5 Burnside Way, Stow TD1 2RS Electoral roll 3C 18
Proposed by J. Mushlin, Electoral roll 3B 102
Seconded by I. Peacock, Electoral roll 3C 285
4. Police Report
5. General Matters
6. Councillors Reports
7. Planning
8. Correspondence
9. AOCB