

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2016 IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

Those present: I.Peacock, N.Hodgson. D.Muir (chair), C.Hendry, J.Mushlin,Cllr J.Mitchell,

Cllr S. Aitchison, W.Ball, 4 members of the public.

Apologies: A. McNeilly, J. MacKenzie, S.Jeffrey, A. Riddell, R. Murphy, T. Millar, Cllr B. White

The meeting commenced with 2 residents of Wedale View asking the community council for assistance. Prior to the railway they planted trees and had a beautiful view. At the construction of the station all the trees were cut down and the promise was given to replace them. This has never happened and they are now looking down on the station. The trees were on land belonging to the Wedale Estate. Cllr Aitchison indicated that there are a lot of landscaping problems following the construction of the railway and a person is employed with the brief of tidying up these problems. Cllr Aitchison will follow this up. The Railway took out 40 trees from Wedale View. Another possibility is that the residents could put in for a microgrant to plant trees.

An amendment was proposed for the second paragraph of October 2016 minutes from 'It was agreed' to the end of the paragraph. It should read:

It was agreed that the Parish of Stow Community Council have reservations about this proposal and are awaiting the planning proposal to come to a decision. The Community Council have normally jointly formally objected with Heriot Community Council and would wish to continue with this arrangement should both community councils wish to object.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed C. Hendry, seconded N. Hodgson.

W. Ball updated the community council on the progress of the online interactive guide to Stow for which she received a microgrant. The map can be embedded on any website on application to info@locus-focus.co.uk. It contains walking and cycling routes originating from Stow and also historical information. She is hoping to put it on the community website. It could also go on the Stow Facebook page. In future more can be added to it.

Andy, a member of the public, informed the community council of plans for a garden which would be a place of reflection, possibly in the area between the bowling green and the Gala Water. There would be issues around drainage. The centrepiece would be a piece of sculpture reflecting Stow history. Input is needed as to what the community wants. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 30th November in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm. Questionnaires are being distributed, to be returned by 19th November. There are various options as to funding for the commission. There could be a covered space in the garden.

Correspondence – A letter was received from the Fountainhall Christmas Party Committee. A microgrant was agreed in principle, with the amount to be

determined by the Treasurer according to the amount left in the fund. The Community Council are currently awaiting funding for the next year from both windfarms.

Neil Hodgson expressed an interest in the SES plan

Councillors Reports

Cllr Mitchell stated that BT wish to remove pay phones in the Borders. Both Stow and Fountainhall are on the list. However they have both been used for several 999 and 101 calls in the past year and SBC are objecting to their removal.

The SBC budget is due in February. There have to be 27m savings in 5 years so cuts are likely.

Cllr Aitchison stated that the layby at Stow will be reduced in size so cars can stop but not lorries. The DLO have given estimates for the wall twice but the Stow Community Council have done nothing. There is no chance of the Council repairing the layby. There are many higher priority jobs needing done. If the community wants it done it will need to be done by the community. He has sent estimates to the secretary and will resend them.

The money has had to be diverted from the proposed £100,000 Station Bridge upgrade so this will not happen. There is no danger to anyone in this not being done.

The A7 has been patched and upgraded at Heriot.

There are concerns about the A7 at Crookston. The Council are allocating money for works at Crookston within the next financial year from the accident prevention budget. There may be straightening of the road.

No money has yet been received from Network Rail for damage to the roads caused by railway construction.

There is a meeting at the Council about Broadband issues on 8th November.

A7 signs - The wording for the signs has to be decided. The application to the windfarm has been for 6 signs at £600 per sign. Black on red signs is a possibility. Official colours cannot be used on these signs and they must not be obtrusive. John Frater has picked out the best sites for these signs. We have to find out how large they are and place them behind fences.

AOCB

There is a van in Station Rd which is an eyesore.

Road Safety

The BT telegraph pole on the footpath has to be there on health and safety grounds.

The priority is to make a crossing from the War Memorial to the old Cafe and use that as the route to school.

A crossing is also needed at Sheriffs.

The speed camera should be in the centre of Stow.

The meeting closed at 9pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.