

Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday December 5th at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: D. Muir (chair), S. Jeffrey C.Hendry, N. Hodgson, J. MacKenzie, A.Riddell, I. Peacock, A. McNeilly, R. Murphy, T.Millar, J. Mushlin, Cllr White, Cllr Aitchison, pc A. McNair, W.Lofthouse

Apologies: Cllr J.Mitchell

The wall at the layby was discussed. Ideally the council should reduce the wall. Posts have been put in to stop HGV lorries from parking. There is no possibility of the council doing work on the wall. The only alternative to the posts is for the layby to be closed altogether. The question arose whether the windfarm would fund this but they do not fund anything that is the Council's responsibility and it was felt that, even if they made an exception for this, it is a large sum of money which will not be available for other projects locally. It was agreed that Stow is being promoted for tourism and closing the layby completely defeats this purpose. It was proposed that bollards should be put in as suggested and this was agreed unanimously.

The patching and upgrading which was recently carried out was commented on. It is an extremely poor surface. It was paid for by SBC and the job went out to tender to a firm from out with the Borders. The road will be repaired by the contractor who will bear the cost of this. In January there will be elevation of the road at Crookston and elevation of the corner.

An amendment was proposed to the previous minutes:

The speed camera should be in the centre of Stow should read as: The mobile speed camera should be in the centre of Stow.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved : proposed by D.Muir, seconded by R. Murphy

The police report was noted. The accident involving a lorry was commented on to pc McNair. C.Hendry had tried to tell the police at Stow that the back road between Stow and Fountainhall was very icy and not safe as an alternative route to send traffic. When the road is closed through an accident, there is a great difficulty with officers from other areas who do not know the area directing traffic.. P.c McNair said it depends on how many incidents are on going and who is on duty. It was also commented that it would be useful to put a notice at the north end of Stow that the road is closed further up for all the people who live in Stow and will not see a notice at the entrance to Stow.

General Matters

The grant for microgrants from Foundation Scotland has finally been received.

It appears to be paid at intervals of 15 months rather than annually as was considered to be the case.

£1000 was received in March 2011

£2406 was received in March 2012

The next instalment was in April 2013, then 15 months later in June 2014, then 15 months later in September 2015. Now finally 15 months later in December 2016. There has been a shortfall of 10 months. That is a £2180 shortfall. Unless it is not an annual grant as we have always understood.

£54,000 is the large contribution made by EDF. Foundation Scotland say this slips because they have to invoice EDF (Why can't they produce the invoice earlier?)

Microgrants were down to £43 in funds when we received the latest instalment so we could disburse nothing.

It was agreed to pay Hamish Hunter £150 for the Christmas tree in Stow.

A microgrant was agreed for Stowed Out to hire Stow Town Hall for festivities before the New Year bonfire.

£250 was given to Fountainhall Bowling Club

£250 was given to Jessica Troughton for the annual costs of the Archive cafe

£225 was given to Fountainhall Parents Council for the cost of a bus to transport all the Fountainhall school and nursery children to the panto.

The new cinema in Fountainhall had an extremely successful showing of the 39 Steps in Fountainhall Village Hall and the treasurer gave them the £110 balance of the grant requested. This was unanimously approved by all members

Craigend Rd. There has been a broken drain cover for the last 2 months. The council put a cone on it and it has still not been fixed.

The hole in the road south at Halkburn has deteriorated.

Station Building - There is a suggestion for a potential lease between Albellio, Network Rail and Stow Community Trust. The agreement would be tripartite. A meeting should take place shortly

Station Gardening - 2.5 tons of compost from Philiphaugh have been put on.

Dog Fouling - Dog Fouling and sheep worrying have taken place at Stagehall.

Pc A. M cNair stated that sheep worrying needs to be reported to the police. Chasing sheep around a field is enough to merit prosecution. Signs are needed to alert people to this.

Dog mess on the football pitch in the park has been reported. It was agreed that the Secretary will send a letter to Tracey Logan, Chief Executive and copy in relevant councillors. Dog wardens will come to Stow if they know what time the dog is walked and have a description of the dog and its owner.

Road Safety - Ross Murphy showed maps as per the Road Safety update for December 2016. Please see separate sheets.

It was felt that more people use Church Wynd going down rather than up and when roads are icy going up is not practical.

The crossing point on Station Road should be moved further from the junction.
The junction is a priority.

Craigend Rd is also a priority.

All that has been agreed are :

Signs at the entrance to the village from the Lauder Rd to advise of pedestrians on the road and no pavements.

New signs to indicate the presence of mobile speed cameras and the 30 mph speed limit at either end of the village.

The 25 miles to Edinburgh sign towards the end of the village will be moved to outside the 30mph zone.

A speed survey will be repeated when all the measures are in place.

No funding is agreed for anything else, which are all proposals.

The Community Council accepts the proposals proposed J.MacKenzie, seconded A. McNeilly

A vote of thanks was given to R. Murphy and N. Hodgson for all their hard work.

Public consultation is needed before it goes to the Eildon Area Forum.

The schemes need to be prioritised.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Aitchison stated that the holes in the Back Road have not been fixed.

Work will be done on the A7 at Torsonce in March/April

There are issues at Stow School because the composite classes are fixed at the start of the school year. Primary 5,6,7 are a composite class that has its maximum number set by the Scottish Government of 25. Therefore a new child in the village coming to P6 could not enrol in the school, even though there is space in the school and a sibling in a different class could come to the school.

Cllr White

The Great Tapestry of Scotland either will come to Galashiels or will not happen. Revenue cost for the first year will be £100,000, dropping down to £30,000 - £40,000. The council will need to borrow but the Scottish Government will fund a part of the capital costs. There has been a survey and people have said they would pay £7.50 entrance, which is a real figure tested on the public as opposed to the £10 previously stated for entrance.

The Community Council agreed approval of the project.

Planting is proposed at the top of Ladhope Golf Course. There would be a bike track of 20-25km. It would include Old Drove Road. If put into place and designed properly it would try to split up mountain bikers, dog walkers and horses. It could link up with cycle route around Stow. For Stow station to become a centre for cycling, something needs to be done about bikes on trains. There are only 2 spaces for bikes on each train and many people are likely to want to bring their own bike rather than hire one.

Planning -Proposed development north of 28 Lauder Road. 16/ 01461/PP

AOCB

Heather who produces the community newsletter would like to expand it to 8 pages (2 sheets of A3). The 2 yearly application for funding for this goes in in January. It will come to £1,000 a year more. This was approved by the community council.

SEPA - There is permission from SEPA to do the Mill Lade. However this only applies to a short period of the year. The Community Council can apply to the Council Quality of Life scheme and Small Grants Scheme. It is important to make an application to the council at the same time as applying to SEPA to do it this year.

It was noted that Dave Kellet's uncle is not recorded on Stow War Memorial. His name is recorded at Newbridge.

The next community council meeting will be on Monday 9th January 2017 in Stow Town Hall. The Secretary will circulate all dates of 2017 with the minutes.