

Draft minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council meeting held on Monday 6th February

At 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: D.Muir, (chair), C. Hendry, A.McNeilly, A. Riddell, R.Murphy, S.Jeffrey, T. Millar,

J.Mushlin

John Paton Day – Chair Earlston Community Council

John Williams – Chair Heriot Community Council

2 community councillors from Eildon Area community councils

Mary Craig, pc A. McNair

Guest Speaker – Clare Malster SBC

Apologies: Cllr Mitchell, I. Peacock, J.MacKenzie

Clare Malster outlined the Community Empowerment Act to those present. There are 11 parts of the Act. Amongst them are::

National Outcomes

Community Planning

Participation Requests

Community Right to Buy Land

Allotments

Participation in Public Decision Making

Non domestic rates

Community Planning

This is making sure organisations work together for the public good. SBC, NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue, Scottish Enterprise should all work together.

A Development Local Outcome Plan needs to be put together by the partners to improve outcomes in the Eildon Area. An important part of this is going out and speaking to areas.

On 16th march there will be a dropin session from 3-6.30 pm at the Transport Interchange, Galashiels where questionnaires will be available to be filled in about the community. The questionnaire is also available online. There will be further information about events. 5 locality plans will be produced which will be finalised by the end of October 2017.

Asset transfer

The Council and other authorities have to publish an asset transfer register. There will be one for the Eildon area of land and buildings. The Community Transfer Body has a right to lease/buy property. The Council/NHS have to look seriously at asset transfer plans, which include a business plan. This includes live borders properties. This is not for peppercorn rents. The market value applies.

For further details please refer to community engagement at scotborders.gov.uk

On 16th March property transfer will be discussed at 7pm at the Transport Interchange, Galashiels.

Clare Malster is the lead on Community Transfer.

In response to a question about public transport Ms Malster stated that the body which represents bus companies is SESTRAN

The Chair thanked Ms Malster for her presentation and she left the meeting, as did the community councillors from other community councils.

Minutes and Matters Arising : The amendment was agreed to delete the words per year on the last page of the minutes.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by D.Muir. Seconded by J. MacKenzie.

Police Report . pc A. McNair stated that there had been a report of a person at a farm at 3am. It is very important to report people who are hanging around places , especially at odd times.

Road Safety Campaign

The 20mph speed signs have been installed.

The Safety Camera Partnership will repeat their survey of Stow

The proposal is to make Church Wynd a one way system. Members present felt that there is no way to make it one way and it really needs to be kept as a two way system. The plan to widen the pavement at the bottom was felt to be an improvement.

The proposal for the junction of the A7 and Station Rd had been questioned by the Community Council, as to the best crossing point. However the Council feel that the best visibility both for pedestrians and drivers is at the point they have chosen.

SBC have suggested bringing the pavement out and having a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road on the A7 at the park. The bus stop would be moved. There were concerns about the safety of a pedestrian shelter but also that moving the bus stop would mean losing the bus shelter, which is essential with bad weather and buses frequently running late.

Road markings were brought up yet again.

It was felt that proposals for Mill Road and the A7 could make the junction more dangerous. It was suggested to put blocks in as a trial to see how it works. No parking should be implemented in front of the step out. It is important to get traffic slower at this point of the A7. The Mill Road is a sliproad but proposals will change its whole nature. It is a main crossing point for the school and the Health Centre from Craigend Rd.

On the A7 at the north end of the village cars are parked on the pavement but no solution was suggested for this.

It was agreed that the priorities are as follows:

- 1 .Junction between Mill Road and A7
2. Junction of A7 and Station Road
3. The A7 at the north end of the village.

It was suggested that children could go into the park and across the park to school. Other budgets exist for pathways across the park. The path beside the bowling green has been put in and it is part of the park project to put paths in. It might be possible to breach the wall and go into Manor Park. This could be a small scheme but nothing can be guaranteed regarding funding

There needs to be more discussion regarding Mill Road and the A7.

There is an offer of 30mph roundels for wheelie bins on Galashiels Road, which would be successful if enough people adopted them.

The Chair thanked Ross Murphy and Neil Hodgson for their endless work concerning road safety in Stow.

Dog Fouling – Craig Blackie, SBC and Cllr Paterson visited Stow Park regarding this in response to the Secretary's letter to the Chief Executive. Their main message was that people have to report to the council details of any people who regularly walk their dogs and do not pick up after them. This can be done anonymously. If details are given of what time the dog is walked and a description of the dog, then a dog warden will come up to Stow and fine the owner .It is important that members of the public do not become involved and leave it to the wardens ,to avoid difficult situations. Craig Blackie also promised to send notices and leaflets, which the Secretary distributed at the meeting for both Stow and Fountainhall.

Microgrant - A microgrant was requested for WiFi in Fountainhall Village Hall. It will cost £344 for the first year. A microgrant of £250 was granted towards the cost.

Mary Craig, archivist, described the heritage of Stow. In 972 it was part of the diocese of Lindisfarne. The archive group are planning a major lottery bid to do up the Old Church and the Graveyard. It has the backing of Historic Scotland. The community council agreed to be the named organisation for the lottery bid, acting in partnership with the Archive Group.

The situation with microgrant allocation by the Community Foundation on behalf of EDF was discussed. The question was raised as to whether, if we spent the

£2500 we have received in 9 months instead of a year, we could receive a further payment of some of the money we feel we are owed.

The Community Council has applied to the windfarm for a grant for planting at the station. However the wire fence at platform 1 is bare and J.MacKenzie and S.Jeffrey asked whether the community council would consider a microgrant to buy climbing plants and chickenwire to go around the azaleas. This has to be ordered within the next few weeks so cannot be part of the general windfarm application. £120 is needed for this. This was agreed.

Cllr White stated that there is an extra £2.8m revenue for the SBC budget from the Scottish Government .

A letter was received from Chris Wemyss regarding the cancelled Hogmanay event in Stow Town Hall.

He asked for the following points to be noted:

.Any further instances of failure of relief of cover at Stow Town Hall should be passed directly to Alan Scott, Halls Manager 01896 661166

. Live Borders are very keen to have local relief caretakers and anyone interested should contact Alan Scott direct. Relief caretakers would not be required to provide cover e.g. if an employee was asked to open up the Hall and already had a prior engagement they would not be instructed to work. Live Borders would just move to the next person on the list. Having a number of relief caretakers would help to reduce the risk of problems happening again.

It was agreed that the community council would ask for the microgrant for the failed let to be returned and would consider another application in the future.

Cllr Aitchison said that he had met Stuart McKay, BAM , who has asked for a list of all the landscaping jobs BAM were meant to do that have not been done. D .Muir will contact people at Wedale View to find out how many trees and what varieties they want. The land around the Old Station House at Fountainhall, which is an eyesore was also mentioned.

The Community Council stated that the toilets in Stow are needed and should be retained.

Cllr Aitchison stated that white lines on the sides of roads are not being done any more but there will be some on the sides at Fala Hill.

Cllr Aitchison also mentioned that he is trying to organise transport to take children from Fountainhall school to Heriot after school club. There have been specific requests for this. There will be a charge for this. The community council could help with a microgrant. Parents would be responsible for collecting their children from Heriot.

Planning - 37 Townfoot Stow -Alterations to dwellinghouse and installation of external boiler

Former Stow Primary School - Partial demolition, alterations and extension to form two

Dwellinghouses.

Land North East of Watherston West House, Stow - Erection of two dwelling houses

AOCB

A.Riddell and Cllr Aitchison will fill in the SEPA form .

A.McNeilly stated that he has been into the Old Station House, Stow and looked around it and discussed funding implications with the council.

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

AGENDA

1. Erica Niven, Countryside Ranger SBC
2. Heather Johnston & Wendy Ball - Parish of Stow Community Newsletter
3. Apologies
4. Minutes & Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. General Matters
7. Councillors Reports
8. Planning
9. Correspondence
10. AOCB