

Draft minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council meeting held on Monday 1st May 2017

at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: C. Hendry (Chair), A.McNeilly, A. Riddell, S.Jeffrey, T. Millar, J MacKenzie, Neil Hodgson, Cllr J Mitchell, J.Mushlin

Apologies, I Peacock,

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and approved by Alan McNeilly, seconded S Jeffrey.

Matters arising

Cllrs J Mitchell and Aitchison went on a walkabout around the village of Stow with Kelly Mitchell the Neighbourhood Housing Officer on Thursday 6th April. There were few problems and nothing to report.

Cllr Mitchell reported that the broken door in the Gents public toilets in Stow Public has been fixed.

He is going to follow up the problems caused by blocked drains in Stow although it was reported that some have already been cleared.

Alan McNeilly reported that he had had a meeting with Simon Lynch regarding a grant towards the feasibility study to procure the station building, and progress is being made. There are a further 4 grants pending and public consultation has arisen.

General Matters - There is a great deal of litter at the sides of the A7 . It would be useful if this was cleared whilst the traffic lights are in place.

There is a tree which is too close to the public toilets in Stow. It was agreed to employ someone to take this down, using a microgrant, providing the cost is under £250.

There has been a letter from Jenni Craig regarding public toilet provision in the Borders, suggesting that comfort schemes are possible, where a hotel, pub, shop, village hall or public building offers its toilet facilities to the public at no cost at all. It was agreed that the Council will talk to Live Borders regarding the disabled toilet being open at all times. Access to it was restricted when a lock was put on the door for safety when the nursery started, which has now closed. A 30p charge is under review for toilets . It is unknown whether the toilets in Stow will be charged for. Also whether there will be a charge for disabled toilets operated by radar key. Cllr J. Mitchell will enquire regarding this.

There is timber to replace fencing at the foot of Craigend Road, with 3 volunteers. A.Riddell agreed to supervise this.

The pothole in Fleming Place was raised. This is already in the system and should be done shortly.

The road at Stagehall Farm is a disgrace.

Patching roads is seen to be futile. The potholes just reappear. It is the only option at present, costing £53 per pothole. The council is looking into another option at present.

The Church are currently getting a committee to look into major fundraising and would welcome any volunteers for this.

Hill Terrace was never adopted by the council and has deteriorated and is in urgent need of repair. There should be a decent walkway. It is hoped that there might be resurfacing. This would not bring it up to an adoptable standard but would be an improvement.

The question was raised of a community buyout of the Royal Hotel under the Community Empowerment Act. It was felt that the Windfarm does not have the resources for this and there is no obvious use for this.

Questions were asked regarding the cataloguing of the Anderson Collection.

There will be a Parish Trust meeting tomorrow. The fence along the quoiting green needs repaired. Maybe with another type of fence.

Treasurers Report - The form was sent to Community Foundation regarding the microgrant spend 2016 - 2017. On the 24th April £2759.38 was received. There was already £2196 in funds, so some of the backlog owed through the slippage of dates has been paid. The website costs £7.99 per month to maintain. The accounts are currently with Fraser Sim. There has been no word from the Council regarding the annual community council grant. The Secretary is to put a notice in the newsletter regarding microgrants .

It will cost £249.99 to refurbish the noticeboard in Stow.

The tops of the 2 blue planters are starting to rot and need to be replaced next year. A large scheme needs to be put together .A new coat of paint is needed for this year. It was agreed to change the colour to black. Plants have been ordered, which will be planted on 20th or 27th May, depending on the temperature. The Community Council appreciate the amount of work being done to plant and maintain the planters.

The Community Council wish to thank Diana Muir for all her hard work and commitment whilst Chair of the Community Council. She will be greatly missed. All present agreed that Charlotte Hendry and Jack MacKenzie will be joint Chair of the Community Council. The AGM will take place prior to the August meeting on August 7th.

Councillors Report - Council elections will take place on 4th May.

AOCB

There have been 3 successful applications to the Windfarm Panel

- . floral display 1970.50
- .Stow Sports 1400 (3year funding)
- . community council newsletter 3314.15 (2 year funding)

This is now year 8 of windfarm funding

SSE - £32,347.14

EDF- £80,189.65

At the beginning of the year there was £55187.50

Since the funds started EDF have released £276,750 in grants

The endowment fund stands at £25,000

There will need to be a replacement for Diana Muir on the windfarm panel. The next meeting is on May 30th.

Stuart puts the minutes and newsletter on the website. There have been 1000 hits on the website last month. There were 2000 hits last September.

The next meeting is on Monday 5th June in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- 3 POLICE REPORT
- 4 GENERAL MATTERS
- 5 TREASURERS REPORT
- 6 PLANNING
- 7 CORRESPONDENCE
- 8 AOCB