

Minutes of meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 5th June 2017 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: A. McNeilly, J. MacKenzie, J. Mushlin, T. Millar, Cllr Euan Jardine, Cllr Andy Anderson

Apologies: S. Jeffrey, I. Peacock, R. Murphy, N. Hodgson, Cllr S. Aitchison, C. Hendry, A. Riddell

Those present welcomed Cllr Anderson and Cllr Jardine to their first community council meeting.

Amendments to the previous minutes:

The endowment fund is £25,000 from each windfarm fund. It stands at £50,000.

The website costs £300 to maintain.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by A. McNeilly, seconded by

J. Mackenzie.

Cllr A. Anderson will follow up the proposal to whitewash the entrance to the public toilets in Stow and trimming the trees.. The possibility of a mural there was suggested. The school could be involved in that. The toilets will be free and will not have a 30p charge.

Craig Blackie is looking into the gully and drain at Craigend Rd . He will also get the drains cleared at Fleming Place.

Due to the locked door at the back of the Town Hall, there is no access to the disabled toilet which means there is no access to disabled toilets in Stow for the general public. This has been raised previously.

The patching work is ongoing. SBC would like to do more but there are funding issues.

The Secretary has received a letter from a local organisation regarding the high charges of hiring the Town Hall. It is used by the pensioners 4 times a year and they use the main Hall once. The Town Hall is hardly used because the charges are so high. There is also the problem that the Hall is not always being opened. Michelle Ballantyne, Helen Laing and David Parker are the 3 councillors on the Live Borders Board. The matter will be raised at the new Eildon Committee.

Our Lady's Well - There is the possibility that a team of people on community service will tidy it. The path is undermining the A7. Photos have been taken of this which are to be passed on to Craig Blackie. The farmer is going to put up an electric fence and gate. A pathways grant was received for Wooplaw Wood two years ago and the cheque issued has never been cashed. The Secretary is to ask whether this money can be used for St Mary's Well. Boardwalk needs to be put across it.

There is timber to repair the fence at the foot of Craigend Road.

It was noted that there have been fewer accidents since the road was improved at Crookston and Fala.

It was noted that during a recent road closure, it was impossible for people waiting for the bus at Fountainhall Road End to know that the road was closed. There was a slow stream of local traffic. Traveline were not aware of the closure. Buses are frequently late so a bus not appearing does not mean that the road is closed. The Secretary is to write to Border Buses requesting that traveline should be notified of road closures (and also that the road has reopened). Also that it would be ideal if the X95 could be rescheduled so that its hourly stop in Stow was on the half hour when there is not a train instead of at roughly the same time as the train.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer is currently waiting for notification of this year's grant from SBC. The amount this year is unknown as is when it will be paid. The accounts have been done. Fraser Sim does the Community Council audit and the accounts have been audited.

A microgrant has been requested for matting and woodchips around the yurt in Stow School grounds. This is for safety reasons. It was pointed out that only a council approved contractor can work in school grounds. The Education Dept or Estates should be asked about this. The grant for the yurt was given by the Windfarm. No decision was made regarding this.

A microgrant of £130 was issued to the Secretary for a new printer. She has never previously made any expense claims for her work.

The sewage station at Still Haugh has been built too close to the houses and deals with all the village sewage. There is an atrocious smell from it which affects the neighbouring houses, especially when there is little wind. The Secretary went to a meeting between local residents and Scottish Water, where further odour control was promised. The residents are happy to see if this improves the situation but have asked that the Community Council are aware of it and that the Secretary will continue to attend meetings.

The Secretary was contacted by John Williams, Chair Heriot Community Council about the possibility of providing broadband coverage to residents in Fountainhall who cannot get decent broadband. It was agreed that the Secretary should look into how many people there might be and likely costs.

There was press coverage about the 30s signs being put on bins. Extra ones were put on streetlights at both ends of the village with the intention that they would be permanent and not just on bin day. Someone from the council has removed the stickers from the lights. They have been approved by the police. The Community Council requests that they should be reinstated. There needs to be respect for the 30mph speed limit and it needs to be policed.

The Twenty is plenty flashing sign is not working.

A consultation document from the Scottish Government on 20mph zones has been received. This should be forwarded to R. Murphy and N. Hodgson.

An email has been received from Gareth Shields, SSE. There is a sustainable development fund of £200,000 for transformative projects borderswide.

With the resignation of Diana Muir from the Community Council there are now two vacant spaces on the Stow Community Council for Stow residents. Anyone interested has to be on the Stow section of the electoral register. We would welcome new faces. All meetings are open to the public and if you want to know more, either contact a community councillor or you are welcome to turn up at our next meeting to decide if this is something that interests you.

The next meeting will be at Stow Town Hall on Monday July 3rd at 7.30pm

AGENDA

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