

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD  
AT 7.30PM IN STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2017

Those present: C.Hendry (chair), I. Peacock, A. Riddell, T. Millar, A.McNeilly, J.Mushlin, Cllr Aitchison, M. Craig (archivist), J. Williams (Chair, Heriot Community Council)

Apologies: Cllr A. Anderson, Cllr E. Jardine, J.MacKenzie, S. Jeffrey, N. Hodgson, R. Murphy

The Secretary received a card of thanks from D.Muir who is no longer able to be Chair of the Community Council. This expressed her wish to keep in contact with us.

M. Craig explained that she is currently looking for the Rights of Sanctuary for Stow. At the end of July there is to be a meeting with Historic Scotland and SBC regarding the old churchyard. There is to be an article in the Southern Reporter to notify relatives of proposed work.

The next 2 interpretative boards will be put up. £132 is needed for the Old Kirk and Bishops Palace, which was agreed as a microgrant.

The path to St Mary's Well is being improved. There is a paths grant of £450 from SBC. Heavy rock might be needed for the A7 which has deteriorated. There is also an electric fence over the path and 2 posts are needed.

Town Hall - Ken, the caretaker has been off sick and cover is needed for him. Live Borders cannot give cover for him every day and the Archive Group have found themselves without access to the Archive Room, which it had been agreed previously that they could use free of charge. The Archive Group have booked the room for one day a week in July from 10am - 4pm. A microgrant of £240 was granted to cover the cost of rental. It is hoped that Ken will be back soon. Cllr Aitchison will take the matter up with Euan Jackson, Live Borders. There is no local person for the key and access to the Town Hall has become very difficult. The Secretary is also to write to Euan Jackson that the situation regarding the Town Hall is totally unacceptable. The cost is too high to be affordable. The lack of access for the public to the only disabled toilet in Stow is also to be highlighted yet again. Cllr Aitchison will seek out a breakdown of costs of running the Hall in case any community group might want to take it on. It was suggested that we should invite him to our meeting in September. This meeting usually takes place in Fountainhall but it was felt to be important that he should see Stow Town Hall and that the AGM should take place in August in Fountainhall. The Secretary will rearrange the bookings.

John Williams, Chair Heriot Community Council spoke to the meeting about Heriot Broadband. There are now 110 connections with 70 Heriot connections and 40 masts across the Borders. This started 5 years ago and is out of Edinburgh University HUBS. There are a lot of people on the fringes who do not get high speed broadband. Heriot is close to having all the masts built which are needed and requests are coming in from the Fountainhall area. Talks are on going with Burnhouse who have offered a site for a mast. People who live near cabinets in Fountainhall get good broadband but others don't. J. Williams would like to

approach Fountainhall residents who want improved broadband. C. Hendry agreed to send an email round the community resilience email network, if he forwarded her one. The Heriot Broadband raised money for the infrastructure from local estates and £10,000 from SEE and Dun Law. 2 masts would be needed for Fountainhall at a cost of £8 - 10,000. Maybe some of it could be raised from local landowners. There are contours and trees and antennas are needed with connections into houses. When people sign up with low download capacity it costs £12.50 per month. People with no broadband and slow speeds cost £ 25 per month. There is a commercial rate for large estates between £150 - £200 per month. A small antenna and wifi router is put up. The individual has to make sure there are good connections in the house. It is possible to buy gadgets to send signals around the house. Technical people will come for a fee to find a way around problems. The speed is 30mgbs.No bt line is needed and it does calls through voiceover internet. A major powercut is a problem. It was agreed that C.Hendry will forward an email and anyone interested can approach either John Williams direct or the Secretary, Jenny Mushlin.

It was noted that there has been no further feedback from Cllr Anderson regarding the removal of 30mph stickers from the street lights in Stow.

Cllr Aitchison said that his remit is now neighbourhood and communities.

There is a new scheme about to happen where 1% of the council budget will be determined after local people have had an input. It is not clear whether this is 1% before or after items such as staff costs have been considered so it is completely unclear how much this will actually be.

There are now 5 area fora of which Cllr Gordon Edgar is the Chair.

Eildon now has £150,000, which will be spent on community projects. Communities can bid in for part of the money. Any club or organisation can do so. It is calculated out according to £4.65 per head of the population. Projects for elderly people and young people are particularly important as are immigrant communities and matters which address equalities.

The treasurer stated that no grant has yet been agreed for community councils and this is long overdue. Unrestricted funds in the community council account are extremely low.

There has been recently a review of the bus services by Borders Buses but we were not notified of the date of the dropin at Galashiels bus station until after it happened. There is also an internet survey which is equally poorly advertised. Concern was raised that few of the Stow and Fountainhall residents who use the X95 have known about the review or fed into it. This is particularly crucial as it has suffered cuts already owing to the success of the Borders Railway and people who rely on the service are anxious about further cuts. Councillor Aitchison will take this up.

There has been a quote of £200 for tree cutting at the local toilets. A microgrant was issued for this. The first step is to get the tree down and then whitewash the wall. Cllr Aitchison will see about whitewashing.

An amendment was made to the previous minutes. They should read 'The twenty is plenty flashing sign is being ignored by traffic'.

It was agreed that the loss of the smiley face has stopped traffic from slowing down.

The minutes were approved, proposed by A. McNeilly and seconded by T. Millar.

Police Report - A mobile phone was stolen in Cloudhouse Cafe.

There was a road traffic accident south of Stow.

General Matters:

A van has been parked in Station Road for a long time. This needs to be attended to.

Halkburn- The left side of the dip is full of water and is at least a foot deep with a serrated edge. This is a hazard and needs attention.

The white lines have gone at Sheriffs.

Permission has been given to repair the old bridge.

There is a need to improve the 6 seats in Stow. T.Millar will organise a new coat of paint for them.

Treasurers Report:

There has been no mention of the community council grant. The community council is due April, May, June , July. This is now being subsidised by microgrants.

The Secretary has received the Scottish Borders Main Issues Report: call for sites. Cllr Aitchison stated that there needed to be consideration of further development in our area. Amenities should be part of this. He considers that there is little scope for further housing development in Stow but a great deal of potential for development in Fountainhall. The community needs to get involved in this. He is going to ask Charles Johnston, Lead Planning Officer to address the community council on the subject .This is for the next Local Development Plan. However the communities involved should address these issues now.

The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will take place in FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. This will follow the AGM at 7pm. All members of the public are welcome at both the AGM and/or the following meeting.

## AGENDA

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

