

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 4th September 2017

at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: J. MacKenzie (chair), I. Peacock, C. Hendry, J. Mushlin, S. Jeffrey, T. Millar, A. McNeilly, N. Hodgson, Cllr Jardine, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Scott, 4 community councillors from Galashiels Community Council and Heriot Community Council, 2 members of the public

Apologies: R. Murphy, A. Riddell, Cllr Anderson

Guest Speaker: C. Johnston, Senior Planning Officer SBC

Members of Heriot and Galashiels Community Council were invited to attend this meeting to discuss planning matters with C. Johnston. He explained that the Local Development Plan takes a 5 year cycle to produce. Following on this is the Main Issues Report and the planning department is doing a lot of community engagement at present. Two themes within this are housing issues and Borders Rail. The target date for the Local Plan is Spring 2021 and the target date for the Main Issues Report is Spring 2018

In the Main Issues Report he is trying to find out what the public would like to see. Issues being considered are:

- . New housing allocations
- . Removing long-standing housing allocations that are unlikely to happen
- . Regeneration of town centres
- . land specifically designated for employment
- . protection of green space
- . Road Issues
- . Transport
- . Wind farms

Building design needs to be as good as possible. Policies need to be looked at to see how well they worked. Can the format of plans be done better? Can consultation be better?

There are going to be 8 public events throughout the Borders.

On Wednesday 27th September there will be a drop in for all members of the public in TESCO foyer in Galashiels from 2pm - 5pm. There will be questionnaires that

people can take away during the afternoon session. In the evening there will be more structured workshop sessions between 6 -8pm in the Transport Interchange. People will be put into working groups and sessions need to be booked Booking forms are available at localplan@scotborders.gov.uk or contact Forward Planning Team 01835 826671. People have to realise that Planning cannot solve all problems. For example dog fouling. In reality they cannot deliver everything. There will also be another session about the local plan which has yet to be organised.

Housing is an on going requirement. New sites need to be found for housing. The Main Issues Report lists options and offers. Finding locations for building houses was part of the agreement for building the Borders Railway. The Borders Railway was very successful and SBC is committed to a second stage to Hawick and Carlisle.

Regarding stations elsewhere, Network Rail insist new stations should have a catchment of 10,000 people. They could be interested in new stations if there was more housing but this could slow down train times.

A member of Galashiels Community Council raised that a couple of years ago areas were identified for housing. Waterfronts and topography with steep inclines, road issues and flooding issues make development difficult. It is a question of where else can be developed. A lot of structural damage can be done. He was assured that the site he was referring to has been taken out. There is also a question as to how to tie in Galashiels Academy. Education are trying to get sports and schools tied in together.

There has been a rumour that Fountainhall may see a great deal of development. C.Johnston pointed out that there is currently one allocation on the local plan for an infill site. There are currently no further proposals. Infrastructure has to be considered.

John Williams, Chair of Heriot Community Council, pointed out that the SE Plan mentions development needs to be looked at down transport corridors and the SESPLAN states that the corridor needs to be looked at for development. C. Johnston stated that The Reporter and Scottish Government have the final say regarding development and SBC will put in spare capacity to allow for adverse decisions. On the plan it appears that Heriot might get a station.

There are allocations of extra households between Heriot, Fountainhall, Lauder and Stow. A Community Councillor from Heriot was concerned that an area might be delineated for development and then be built on. It would be preferable to allow people to come in gradually to allow organic growth. C.Johnston said housing in the countryside kicks in and if the development boundary is removed it would be difficult to coordinate water, power supply etc. If someone applies to build on a site that has already been allocated, it will be generally be agreed. However it was stressed that if

a block of houses were wanted for Heriot, it would be preferred by the community that the houses were scattered around.

Problems Stow has experienced in the past were brought up. 300 houses were planned for the top of the Craigend Road. When the railway was coming to Stow there was an interest in housing sites but there are flooding issues and road issues. Road Issues stopped the Craigend Road site. The Reporter stopped it. Planning should add to the community, not just be a development. The Royal Hotel site needs to be developed.

C. Johnston was thanked for coming and left the meeting. 3 community councillors from other community councils also left the meeting.

John Williams, Chair Heriot Community Council, informed the community council of the first stage of notification of a new Windfarm proposed for Fountainhall by Coriolis-Falk. The windfarm will be called Greystone Knowe and will be along the ridge of land to the west of Fountainhall. There would be 12 turbines, 140m to the tip. Consultation is likely to be at the beginning of next year with a planning application to SBC in 2019. It is important that the community council should find out the views of the Fountainhall Community when more is known about it. The development is likely to be very intrusive of both Fountainhall and parts of Heriot.

John Williams left the meeting.

K.Lofthouse, Treasurer of the Park Committee talked about the project for Stow Park. They have now raised just under £90,000. SBC have offered to build a tarmac path (value £30,000). The council are keen to lay the path before the end of the financial year but it has definitely been promised if it is not possible before the end of March. There are time constraints. It has been put out to tender to 5 companies. The first company is coming to view the site. The tender process has to be for 6 weeks until October. When work can commence depends on how wet the winter is. It could commence at the end of February, beginning of March. Funding has been raised from both EDF & SSE windfarms, Landfill, Robertson Trust, TESCO, Cash for Kids. There is an appeal going out to members of the community to donate cash for a bench. The Community Council congratulated the Park Committee for their fantastic achievement.

Andrea Carlino asked whether the green adjacent to Mill Court could be put on the agenda for the next meeting. It belongs to Eildon Housing Association. He would like to place a bench on the green where residents of Mill Court could sit out in the sunshine. He is willing to come to the next community council meeting to speak about his idea and the Secretary will contact Eildon Housing Association to see if they can send a speaker.

K.Lofthouse and A. Carlino left the meeting.

Two amendments were agreed to the minutes of the previous meeting.

STUART JEFFREY IS GOING ON THE WINDFARM COMMITTEE AS THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE. The Secretary named J. MacKenzie in error.

Cllr Anderson is dealing with the whitewashing of the toilets and the possibility of a mural.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by C.Hendry. Seconded by S. Jeffrey

It was commented that the interior of the toilets at Stow are also appalling. Cllr Aitchison commented that the toilets are either going to be knocked down or be improved and have a 30p fee It was commented that, as the back door of the Town Hall is kept locked, there is not access to the disabled toilet via a radar key.

The road at Stagehall has been given a temporary measure. Is it going to be permanently fixed?

The annual insurance for the Community Council Transport Scheme has been paid. It was approved that the treasurer will reimburse this upon production of an invoice.

It was agreed that the community council will apply to the windfarm fund for 5 planters for the village and 2 for the station and £750 per annum for 3 years for planting.

The treasurer stated there are funds which need to be distributed for microgrants. 24 microgrants have been given out and there have been few applications for microgrants recently from Fountainhall.

S. Jeffrey is the new member of the windfarm committee for the community council and there will be a short induction meeting for him. The next deadline for windfarm applications is 16th October. N.Hodgson will try to find more people interested in becoming members of the community council.

It is proposed to remove the woods behind Fleming Place in front of the school, possibly in October. They will be replanted. A meeting of Fountainhall residents has been arranged for Monday September 18th in Fountainhall Village Hall at 7.30pm about this. The community council will pay for the hire of the Hall.

The A7 Action Group will take place on 29th September in Hawick. This will be an opportunity to meet the new representatives.

The Safety Camera Partnership stated they would get a new speed survey in Stow after the 30mph stickers went on the bins. This would be a good time for the survey.

The path at St Mary's Well needs investment. Cllr Aitchison and S. Jeffrey will walk it together to see what needs done. The signage needs to be increased and the fence is dilapidated. Erosion makes the path more difficult. It is not just a matter of improving the path. Any improvement needs to be maintained.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Aitchison has spoken to the Tweed Commissioners who wish to improve the pathway at Cockburn Burn. They have already made access easier at Toddleburn. They would like to come and speak to the community council about it. The Gala Water is in good health with a staggering amount of fish. They have confirmed that the Mill Lade should not be filled in. It was agreed to invite them to the October meeting. They have a video which may be of interest to the whole community and should be advertised.

Anne McNair, the community pc has been transferred. Cllr Scott will find out what is happening regarding a new community pc. The community council has for years maintained good relationships with regular attendance at meetings by the community pc and hope that this can be continued with whoever is appointed to the post.

Correspondence

Wendy Ball wrote a proposal to the community council that we should host two social meetings a year and invite two members of each local organisation to come and give a very brief presentation about their organisation. There seems to be a lack of knowledge and misunderstanding between organisations. After the brief presentations there would be a general social evening where people could interact. The reason she would like the community council to lead this is that we are a neutral body. The community council approved this

Audit & Scrutiny Committee – proposal of subjects for review

Paul McGreal of the Great Train Ride would like to talk to the Community Council about his proposed cycle ride in 2018. It was agreed the Secretary would invite him to the November meeting.

AOCB

The council have changed to a new website and the only email address they have is D.Muir. Hence no email came through about the community council grant. This has now been rectified. The treasurer will receive the £630 grant for the community council.

The painting of the seats have made a great difference. It would be good if the noticeboard could be painted red with Parish of Stow Community Council put on the top

Chris Wemyss reported that the Stowed Out Festival was a great success and they covered their costs of £24,000. The downside was a dramatic increase in underage drinkers. He would like to access funds to fence Station Road and the Gala Water side of the site with a 2m high temporary fence to tackle this problem.

The Eildon Local Area Plan is too ambitious was the opinion of one member. Copies of the plan can be obtained at the Health Centre.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will be on Monday October 2nd at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

AGENDA

1 K.GAIT, TWEED TROUT & GRAYLING BIOLOGIST , TWEED FOUNDATION WILL GIVE A TALK ABOUT THE GALAWATER. THE PRESENTATION WILL INCLUDE A VIDEO . ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THIS PRESENTATION WHICH WILL LAST FOR THE FIRST HALF HOUR (and are under no obligation to stay for the rest of the meeting!)

2 THE LAND ADJOINING MILL COURT – SPEAKER YET TO BE CONFIRMED

3 APOLOGIES

4 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

5 POLICE REPORT

6 GENERAL MATTERS

7 TREASURERS REPORT

8 COUNCILLORS REPORT

9 PLANNING

10 CORRESPONDENCE

11 AOCB