

Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held in Fountainhall Village Hall on Monday April 9th 2018 at 7.30pm.

Those present: A.McNeilly (chair), I.Peacock, J.Mushlin, A.Riddell, T. Millar, Cllr Anderson, A.Carlino

Apologies: J. MacKenzie, C.Hendry, R.Munro, N. Hodgson, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Scott, Cllr Jardine

Minutes and Matters Arising : The Secretary has received one response to the suggestion that there could be a gym in Stow Town Hall. This was very detailed and enthusiastic. There has also been interest from young people in this. Members wondered if there would be membership if a gym was a consideration. Stow Park includes a section of adult equipment. A good take up of this would strengthen the case for a gym locally. There used to be badminton in the Hall upstairs. New lines need to be painted for this to start up again.

The minutes were approved. Proposed: I.Peacock. Seconded : T. Millar

A.Carlino attended the meeting to discuss the proposal for the land next to Mill Court.

B. McQuat will clear and level the ground and remove roots and stones ready for planting by the end of May at a cost of £250

The Horticultural Group will help with planting . Eildon Housing Association have stipulated the trees must not grow to more than 3 or 4 metres. £250 is needed for the planting.

Eldon Housing Association have put aside £1,000 which will be used for benches. There is currently a promotion of 5 pine benches which T. Millar will look into. There will also be a path between the benches which will be suitable for people in wheelchairs and on zimmers. A. Carlino was asked to provide a plan for the Mill Court scheme to the Community Council.

The Community Council agreed to provide a microgrant of £250 for clearing and a microgrant of £250 for planting. It was felt that this is a minimal investment to provide an amenity for elderly residents and improve the appearance of the village.

A Carlino left the meeting.

Police Report - The police report was noted.

General Matters -

Potholes in the Village are a serious problem. In particular there are huge potholes in Mill Road, the bottom of Craigend Road and Lauder Road. There is very unjoined up thinking regarding potholes where some potholes are filled and others nearby left unfilled.

Cllr Anderson informed community councillors that there is a Roads Review at present. Currently some of it goes to neighbourhood services and some to Roads.

S.Jeffrey is investigating sources of funding for the walks booklet and paths with the help of Claire Penny and is hopeful that it will be successful.

The manhole cover at the Town Hall is blocked.

Once again it was raised that there are no markings in the middle of roads.

No notice was given to house owners regarding changes at Mill Road.

It is hoped that the project at the crossroads continues to the rest of the village.

The crash barrier at Bow Corner and the one at Torquhan have been damaged.

A.Riddell has received a quote from Beatties for re-erecting a stone monument in the Old Churchyard at a cost of £600. Over £650 has been raised for this by donations from the public so this can go ahead as soon as possible.

The Station Group plan to do a walk to St Mary's Well. Simple, individual walks will be outlined on sheets of A4 paper and these will be eventually put in a booklet. Costings are needed for how much is needed for the St Mary's Well Walk. There will be a meeting in a few weeks time.

New sign boards for the village are now ready.

Mary Craig has a lot of information about the old Right of Sanctuary in Stow. It would be appropriate to display it by the triple planters on the wall at the gateway of the Churchyard. There should be the same design and theme on notices throughout the village.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer handed out current accounts to those present

The website has been renewed. The website is very important but it is noted that clubs and organisations are putting activities on Facebook and not on the website. However there have been reports of difficulties getting activities posted on the website. S.Jeffrey puts community council minutes on the website. It is felt that we are not getting the support we are paying for. The website needs to be accessible to people. It was suggested that N.Hodgson might take forward how the website can be managed better.

Balance of microgrants at the end of the year are £2572.12 EDF. A further £2759 should soon be received from EDF.

There can be a run of applications and then nothing for some months. The upper limit for microgrants has been £250 since the start of the scheme. T. Millar will raise whether the upper limit could be raised to £300.

A.Riddell was congratulated for raising money by public donation for the Old Kirk. The grant application which Mary Craig will submit to the Windfarm on behalf of the Community Council was discussed. This is for £5000 for part funding for work on the gravestones in the Old Kirk. It was felt that, as the Windfarm is happy to receive applications for 3 years funding, this should be for £15,000 for 3 years. There is the problem that there are not many stonemasons who are accredited by Historic Scotland and able to undertake this sort of work and they are already extremely busy, so they can only work in Stow when they can find gaps in their schedule and work can only be done intermittently.

It was agreed to give a grant of £250 to Stow Community Trust for administration costs.

Councillors Report

Cllr Anderson stated that a speaker from Dog Friendly Newtown would be interested in talking about their scheme with the Community Council. It was agreed to invite her to the August meeting.

Correspondence

Libraries Rules Consultation

Wildlife communication from Milesmark and Baldrige Community Council

Gilston Hill Windfarm

Consultation seeking views on the update of the Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007

Bank Closures: impact on local businesses, consumers and the Scottish economy inquiry

PAS Services for Community Councils

Planning

Stow Community Trust - Change of use from dwelling house, alterations and extension to form community centre comprising commercial space and accommodation for tourist based activities including bar and bistro.

The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will take place on Monday 7th May at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall. All welcome.

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- 3 POLICE REPORT

- 4 GENERAL MATTERS
- 5 TREASURERS REPORT
- 6 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
- 7 CORRESPONDENCE
- 8 PLANNING
- 9 AOCB