

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council Held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 7th May at 7.30pm

Those present : J.MacKenzie (chair), C.Hendry, S.Jeffrey, A. McNeilly, T.Millar, A.Riddell, J.Mushlin, Cllr Scott

Apologies : I.Peacock, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Aitchison, R.Murphy, N. Hodgson

An amendment was proposed to the previous minutes. S.Jeffrey to be added to apologies.

The minutes were approved. Proposed A, McNeilly. Seconded A. Riddell

Three members of the public expressed a strong interest in the possibility of a Gym in Stow Town Hall. The Secretary has heard from Ben Lamb that Live Borders are undertaking a feasibility study into Community Gyms.

A notice was placed on Stow Town Hall that the Hall would be closed on May 7th. The Caretaker knew nothing about this and came to work as usual. Live Borders suggested to the Secretary that the Community Council could become keyholders. J. MacKenzie is willing to do this.

A.Carlino has submitted plans for the layout of the ground next to Mill Court.

Police Report – A person in a vehicle was found to be in possession of a Class A drug on the A7 in Stow. There were 3 car accidents with no injury but 1 road closure. Scams are continuing. The recent ones involve Broadband, TV Licence refund, DVLA road tax refund and telephone preference service. All involve some kind of request for account details or money.

General Matters

The Secretary's letter 'Proposed Changes to the X95 bus service' was approved

The Secretary is to contact the Southern Reporter and Border Telegraph regarding submitting a short report of each community council meeting.

The question was raised as to whether white lines will be placed on Mill Road.

Defibrillator Demonstration- 11 people came to this. With a defibrillator, 29% of people survive a heart attack in the Borders. This is the highest survival rate in Scotland. A defibrillator was suggested for the foot of Craighend Rd. The Community Council could apply for a windfarm grant for this. The box at the Town Hall also has a plastic mask in it for mouth to mouth resuscitation, but this is not obligatory.

The Secretary was requested to write to the Park Committee to congratulate them regarding the new equipment in the Park. Congratulations should be extended to the Construction Company.

Paths Grant – Scottish Borders Council need 3 quotes for a grant for the walk to St Mary's Well, which should be not too difficult to walk. The main issue is stock in the fields. The question of whether there should be a metal railing was raised. It was agreed to include it in the grant for a walk. S. Jeffrey will do this.

Cllr Scott informed the Community Council that Edinburgh airport have a fund for community groups and give out £130,000 per year.

Bill White is looking for walks around Galashiels and also is proposing a walk from Stow to Galashiels.

It was agreed that a new subgroup of the Community Council should be formed, the Community Walks Subgroup.

T. Millar has 4 benches for £500 inclusive of VAT. The benches are 5ft and made through the Prison Service. The Secretary will contact A.Carlino to enquire whether he wants all the benches for Mill Court.

The tree at the public toilets is a mess now that it is in leaf. Volunteers are needed to help to clear it.

The Station House at Fountainhall has deteriorated badly and is now covered in graffiti. It belongs to Scotrail and needs immediate action.

The AGM of Stow Community Trust is Monday 14th May.

The Station House in Stow has no sewer connection and no water and has been left in a poor state by Network Rail. However there seem to be no problems with Planning. The Architects have worked closely with Network Rail. There is a question as to who will connect the building to water and sewage. The building is meant to be wind and watertight and fit for purpose.

A vote of thanks was given to Alan and the team for all their hard work regarding the Station House.

The enormous potholes on the road by Nethershiels were raised.

The centre of Fountainhall is an eyesore since the trees were felled. It was felt that the harsh winter has delayed replanting and this will improve.

Treasurers Report – A.Riddell has collected a further £312.40 for the Old Kirk, reaching a total of £946.70 for the Parish Collection Fund. £600 has been allocated for the first gravestone, leaving £346.70 towards the next piece of work.

Microgrants - The Galawater Horticultural Society are wishing to update the format of the Flower Show. £250 was granted for formatting and printing a professional design of the schedule.

The Manager of the Kids Club, Stow requested the cost of £140 for taxis to take the children to the puppet show in Fountainhall last month. One of the requirements of the microgrant fund is that applications should be submitted in advance and not retrospectively. However it was agreed to grant half of the amount requested in this instance.

Fiona Jeffrey was awarded £250 to replace all the dead plants at Stow Station.

The Treasurer asked Cllr Scott whether SBC has decided how much community council grants will be this year.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Scott is involved with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmens Association who can help ex-service people in need. If anyone knows of anyone who would qualify, please let him know. He is also involved with the Living Wage Group. Firms who pay the Living Wage will get accredited.

Cllr Anderson submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. He arranged a site visit along problem areas of flooding and drainage around Galashiels Road, Townfoot, Lauder Road and Church Wynd on 24th April. The gullies will be cleared and drainage investigated. Some remedial work will be needed on gullies where the road has sunk or high spots have been left by previous work. SBC had done work on Lauder Road last year but will investigate further, especially the water flowing from an open pipe. There is an issue with Scottish Water owning the pipes there and refusing access

to SBC. Drainage issues to the north of the village on Galashiels Road will be investigated further and SBC are aware of problems caused by water-flow downhill and over the footway. Potholes in Craigend Road, Cockholm Crescent, Townfoot, Mill Road and Station Road have also been notified for remedial work. There are no plans for road resurfacing at the moment ,apart from the current project work at Townfoot and Mill Road.

There are further issues where water has been running over a full drain and into the back of the Town Hall. The information has been passed on for action.

Cllr Anderson will be holding a surgery from 11am -12pm on Monday 14th May at Cloudhouse Cafe and thereafter on the second Monday of the month unless notified otherwise. This is in addition to joint sessions with Christine Grahame, MSP at TESCO on the 3rd Friday of the month. These are all drop-in sessions and no appointment is needed.

Planning – Erection of anemometer mast up to 90m high – Greystone Knowe Wind Farm Ltd

AOCB – The exterior of Stow Town Hall still needs remedial work. Ben Lamb, Live Borders has stated that this is the responsibility of SBC and he would contact them. The Secretary will email him about this.

All members of the Community Council agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

The next meeting is on Monday June 4th 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 REPORT
- 7 PLANNING
- 8 CORRESPONDENCE
- 9 AOCB