

Draft minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held on September 3rd 2018 in Fountainhall Village Hall at 7.30pm

Those present: J. MacKenzie, C.Hendry, I. Peacock, A.McNeilly, N.Hodgson, A. Riddell, T.Millar, Cllr Scott, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Aitchison

Members of the Public : Chris Wemyss, Debbie Matthewson, Evelyn McCue

Apologies: S. Jeffrey, J. Mushlin, R.Murphy, Cllr Jardine

D. Matthewson talked about the Disrupters event in Stow Town Hall. The pupils at Stow School have looked at different elements by which they could reduce plastics and have received a grant of £1000. The reverse machine will be at the event.

E.McCue, Stow Community Trust, stated that they are looking for a community council member to join the group. The meetings are on the second Monday of the month. They are at a pause waiting for funding decisions. The objective is to have the Station House open in 2020. Leader funding has been approved in principle. The Railway Council are coordinating Blueprint Funding and they are waiting on a decision regarding this.

There will be Bar Bistro capacity for community gatherings and also cycling activities.

The drainage problem is not holding the project back . The target is £610,000 for the project. The planning application is approved and they are working towards the building warrant. They have put an article in the community newsletter. There is a members' meeting on November 12th at 7pm.

Chris Wemyss came to discuss the Stowed Out Festival. It was a huge success with excellent performances. Last year there was an issue with young people coming on site. This year there were fences, with a bag search.

About 100 young people came from Galashiels/Tweedbank and sat in the park with drink. The police came and kids dispersed in all directions. Bottles were broken and cleared up. About 20 tried to enter the site. Chris would like to hear if any people have any stories to tell about this. There are discussions around trying to employ police to work at stations to confiscate drink from underage drinkers and stop the problem at source. There might also be a no readmittance policy to stop kids going in and out and meeting up with their pals.

Funding needs to be looked at as the Festival was very lucky with the weather and most of the funds come on the day.

All members of the public left after their talk

Amendments to the previous minutes:

S.Jeffrey did email the church regarding the second Christmas tree but had no response.

T.Millar was present at the meeting.

The minutes were approved. Proposed: J. MacKenzie, Seconded: A. McNeilly

Cllr Scott advised that police will not attend if it is only an accident, regarding the accident which was not reported last month.

The flashing lights in Stow are still flashing.

Members of the community council discussed nominating a person for the Old Station House project but no one is available to take this extra role on. The community council will ask for regular updates on what is happening.

Police Report – The police report gave details of attendance in Stow and also details of actions taken by police patrols in the area. There were no details of the accident where a lorry hit a lamp post and car and then drove off. The police were informed about it.

General Matters

The public toilets have fungi growing.

The big headstone should be going up soon. Historic Scotland are delighted with what is happening in the Old Kirk and have moved it from Status 4 to Status 2, which is excellent. The Parish Trust are going to provide some funds to put up gravestones. The amount is yet to be discussed.

Cllr Jardine has raised the graffiti problem with Network Rail who will deal with it.

N. Hodgson has details about speed signs which the community council would fund. Residents have provided positions on their land for these. He is currently waiting on statistics for speed measures. He will get quotes and give them to J.Mushlin to put together a windfarm application.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Aitchison will speak to S.Jeffrey about his walks project being entered for a Locality Bid.

The Layby has to be reassessed as it appears to have moved significantly and the situation is not looking good.

He has requested that the drains should be cleared.

The grass around the play equipment cannot be cut with a machine and will be strimmed.

Cllr Anderson

Nothing has happened regarding the A7 Build Out, Galashiels Road, Stow in spite of promises that the work would be completed. Cllr Scott has also raised this matter. Cllr Anderson has been informed traffic coning and extra temporary signing will be put in place until this has been done, possibly by the 24th. The yellow lining will be going in first. He pointed out that this should have been done when the roadworks were completed and it is a road safety issue. He received an apology and noted that the white lining has been completed.

Stow Park

Cllr Anderson met with Andrea Carlino and discussed options, including using some of the trunks of felled trees for seating/climbing upon and some to provide a biodiversity strip. Since then Andrea and Wendy Ball have met with Steven Baker (Wooplaw). Suggestions for the use of trees that are going to be felled were using the trunks for benches and tables, the smaller branches for a dead hedge about 15 ft long and larger branches to sell for firewood to raise funds. Apparently the wood itself (black poplar) does not lend itself to sculpting.

This is all subject to SBC and community council approval and obtaining funding for the project. No costs or timescale are available yet.

Housing Options Scotland.

Cllr Anderson attended the Housing Options Scotland event in Langlee. They are a housing advice charity for disabled people, military veterans and older people. They were set up in 1997 to provide a unique public access service to all disabled people in Scotland and advise on social renting, private renting and home ownership. They advise and support disabled people, veterans and older people through the complex design, financial and legal processes involved in buying or renting a property. Information, advice and training on disability and housing issues are also provided to private, public and voluntary organisations.

An important part of their work is raising awareness of housing problems their clients experience and highlighting the solutions. They have a dedicated team of former clients, HOSmates who volunteer to help people through the often stressful process of finding the right home. They also have a network of other experts to help with benefits advice, help with fundraising and advice on equipment and adaptations. Last year they helped 650 people find the right home in the right place.

They can be contacted through various media such as Facebook

(<https://www.Facebook.com/HousingOptionsScotland/>)

Their website:

(<https://www.housingoptionsscotland.org.uk/>) or by phone (0131 247 1400)

Stowed Out

A great weekend of talent was on show with hundreds turning up to enjoy the ambience of this family friendly festival. Volunteers monitored what was going on in the park and along Mill Road. As there was underage drinking and evidence of drug taking the police were called and arrived swiftly. Five police officers from the Community Action Team (CAT, paid for by SBC) arrived and confiscated large amounts of alcohol. There was minor vandalism, scuffles and antisocial behaviour outside the event during the evening which were dealt with by police and volunteers. A CAT officer commented that the event itself was very well marshalled and no fault can be attributed to the organisers in any way. However, the committee and volunteers were very concerned about negative impacts on the community and its perception of the festival.

Cllr Anderson was in contact with the police before and after the event and there will be further discussions going forward. It has been recommended we have a dedicated Police detail for any future event (which will likely have to be paid for by Stowed Out)

Treasurer's Report

The annual grant has been received from Clare Malster.(£630)

The WI had an expensive speaker and funds are depleted and they are looking for financial help towards other speakers.

Jessica Troughton requested £84 for insurance for the Community Council Patient Travel Scheme which she runs and £30 for other costs.

Fountainhall Village Hall requested paint to finish the new decking. It was agreed that T.Millar would get the paint and bill the Treasurer directly.

Correspondence

News release from Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership: 6/8/2018

PAS support for local place plans and community engagements

What Matters Hubs

Localities Bid Fund – support for applicants

Station Bridge Stow – Repair Works – Update

The next meeting will be on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

AGENDA

1 JENNI CRAIG, SERVICE DIRECTOR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES – EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP

2 APOLOGIES

3 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

4 POLICE REPORT

5 GENERAL MATTERS

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

7 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

8 PLANNING

9 CORRESPONDENCE

10 AOCB

ALL WELCOME