

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held in Stown Town Hall on Monday 6th May 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies : Cllr Anderson, N. Hodgson

Correction to previous minutes: £136.69 in unrestricted funds.

The minutes of the previous minutes were approved. Proposed J. MacKenzie, seconded S.Jeffrey

Police Report : The police report was noted. The break-in at Cloud House Cafe was appalling.

Walks around Stow – The Countryside Consultant is unsure whether the Stow area will be cut out of the Report for the Leader Scheme. It was agreed to see whether she will cost out how much the walks in Stow would be . A microgrant could be used for this. The walk through Torsonce looks very good but the one to St Mary's Well is likely to be very expensive. The path is difficult in terms of width to St Mary's Well and there is also an electric fence. It has all been done in the past and was above board as far as the landowners were concerned. However access to land is now contentious. It is possible to put in leaflets which walks are suitable throughout the year and which should not be attempted between April and June. Cllr Aitchison will speak to Erica Niven, Countryside Ranger. The possibility of asking Criminal Justice for workers was also discussed.

It was agreed to provide a microgrant for the cost of petrol for grasscutting at the Old Kirk.

SEPA are willing to come and look at issues regarding the Gala Water and will meet with the Community Council to walk from the Station to the Bridge. S.Jeffrey volunteered to do this

There is a new planting zone in the park which is a joint project of SBC and Stow School. It was commented that a hedge appears to have been planted by Mill Lade. The Community Council were informed that access to clear out the Lade will be from the dam.

Lauren Anderson, SBC , has not responded to an email requesting the Report about Stow Hall, which is long overdue and informing her of on going problems. Cllr Aitchison will take this up.

A7 Action Group – There is nothing in the SBC report to the Group about the Layby wall.

The Layby was discussed. The ownership is in doubt

There are two options:

. Close the Layby. The wall is likely to fall down but it will not take the A7 with it.

■ Take the wall down to road height and top it with concrete and put in a fence. This would be closed to heavy traffic. This will cost £10,000. The council would pay £5,000 if the community would match fund. If a fence was put in, the wasteland would need to be tidied The quality of the fence needs to be considered. If the Layby were closed, the quiting green could be used for parking. However the cost of creating parking at the quiting green is likely to be high.

Paul Frankland, SBC, would like the job done quickly and will meet 2 or 3 people on site. Cllr Aitchison will arrange a meeting with Paul Frankland. T.Millar and A. Riddell will meet with the engineer.

It was also noted that the railing on the other side leaves a great deal to be desired and a gate is needed on to the Subscription Bridge. However this needs to take into account the presence of stock.

Parking – It has been noted that people leave cars at the station when going away on holiday. This leads to parking problems for other people wanting to park for the day. Network Rail should be monitoring parking. There is no sign regarding parking. Cllr Aitchison will speak to Network Rail about this.

The state of the public toilets in Stow is deplorable. There will probably be a decision about toilet provision by SBC within the next 2 or 3 months. It was agreed that the provision of public toilets in Stow is essential. The question was raised as to whether the community could take over running the public toilets. If so, would the council clean them? These were initial questions posed for further discussion, with no commitment on the part of the Community Council to do so. The public toilets in Stow are considered to be a classic sixties building and there are understood to be moves to list them.

Cllr Anderson forwarded a survey form which could be given to passengers using Stow Station. Stow has never been surveyed. The community council felt that the best way of doing this would be via the community council facebook page and Fountainhall Community Resilience email. It could have a final return date, with survey forms returned to Stow Post Office and available at Stow Post Office. This would obviously be subject to their agreement. C.Hendry will discuss this with Cllr Anderson.

Noticeboard – The funding for the noticeboard in Stow has been received from EDF windfarm funds. This will be freestanding. The colours and heading were agreed.

Fountainhall Parents Council have received the funding from EDF windfarm funds for a table tennis table in the playground at Fountainhall School. Permission needs to be given by the Education Department. Cllr Aitchison will ask for this.

Cllr Aitchison reported that the neighbourhood services budget has been separated from the roads budget.

Cockholm Crescent will be resurfaced.

White lining is happening again on the roads. It is to be hoped the A7 will soon be done.

There are 5 prospective windfarm developments from Heriot to the south.

The Wull Muir proposed windfarm which is between the A7 and Carcant will have turbines which are 200m high. The windfarm at Soutra has turbines of 85m. Above 150m there have to be lights to warn aircraft, so there will be continuous red flashing lights at night.

The Floral Gateway awards were mentioned. It was felt that the criteria are too difficult for Stow to consider entering. Funding for the planting at the station has been reduced from £500 per year to £300. Volunteers working at the station were promised that they would get a free rail pass for their efforts but this has been cancelled.

Cllr Aitchison informed the Community Council that Rev Duncan, who used to be the Minister for Stow and Heriot has most sadly passed away.

Cllr Scott reported that there has been no further action regarding radar speed signs.

There is a need for further caseworkers for SSAFA, who help exservice people and their families in times of financial hardship. If anyone is interested in doing this, please could they contact either Cllr Scott or the Community Council Secretary, Jenny Mushlin, who will pass their details to him.

The Accounts have been audited by Fraser Sim. The funding from SBC will remain the same and the funding for this year will hopefully soon come from Clare Malster. It was agreed that the AGM will be on July 1st at 7pm in Fountainhall Village Hall . The Secretary tendered her apologies for this meeting but agreed to stand as Secretary again.

Microgrants:

It was agreed to give Debbie Mathieson, Stow School a microgrant of £300 towards the school project at Stow Park.

Planning

Proposed Wull Muir wind farm.

It was agreed to support Heriot Community Council in their final decision.

The next community council meeting will be on Monday June 3rd at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 OLLY ROBERTSON, GENERAL MANAGER , LIVE BORDERS TO DISCUSS STOW TOWN HALL
- 2 APOLOGIES
- 3 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- 4 POLICE REPORT
- 5 GENERAL MATTERS
- 6 TREASURERS REPORT
- 7 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
- 8 PLANNING
- 9 CORRESPONDENCE
- 10 AOCB

ALL WELCOME