

Draft minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 7th September 2019 at 7.30pm in Fountainhall Village Hall.

Those present: A.McNeilly, N.Hodgson, C.Hendry, A. Riddell, T.Millar, J.Mushlin, Cllr Scott, Cllr Anderson

Apologies : S. Jeffrey, J. MacKenzie, R. Murphy, Cllr Aitchison

The Secretary received a letter of resignation from Ina Peacock. The Community Council wishes to thank her for her dedication and hard work as a community councillor for many years and wishes her all the best in the future. Her input will be missed.

The Secretary has received quotes for the Layby and will submit an application to EDF windfarm fund.

S.Jeffrey has submitted information regarding the walks project. David Langworth is putting booklets and leaflets of walks together. There will be copies of the first 5 walks. A licence for maps is needed from Ordnance Survey, for which there is a fee. All the maps will be put together and the mapped walks will be shown to local farmers to make sure these are the right walks. There need to be suitable gates and a proposal can be put to the windfarm fund for gates. Three or four people will initially trial the walks to make sure no problems arise with them. Initially each walk will start off with a folded leaflet. Up to 10 walks will be bound in a book.

Fraser Simm will try to simplify the accounts which Live Borders have sent to make them comprehensible.

A response has been received from Lauren Anderson regarding Stow Town Hall. Finlaysons will be on site starting work on the roof on 9th September as per their drone survey. Finlaysons joiners will be on site to undertake the remedial repairs to the lower level windows, replacing sections of wood where necessary and found rotten. There appears to be a matter regarding the heater within the men's toilets causing an issue with the fire alarm, which she was not aware of and has asked to be looked at by a member of her team. The vegetation issue was passed to Neighbourhoods colleagues in mid July. Ms Anderson has chased for an update which she will pass on as soon as possible. Members noted that there appears to be no budget for regular maintenance and it is much more expensive if work is not done as soon as it is needed. Annual checks should be done but this has not happened. It becomes a health and safety issue.

Cllr Scott submitted a question to the Executive regarding white lines. The reply included a statement that the centre lines are surveyed every 2 years, with the most recent being in 2019. Sections of the A7 have been prioritised for relining this financial year and the council are currently obtaining prices for carrying this out.

Christine Grahame, MSP has organised a meeting at the Scottish Parliament on Monday 7th October at 6.30pm for members of community councils to get together to discuss common issues . It was agreed that S.Jeffrey will attend this meeting to represent Stow Community Council.

The situation regarding playparks in the Borders was discussed. The consultation has ended. Still Haugh in Fountainhall is one of the playparks which could be decommissioned. There are young children in Still Haugh who benefit from the safe place to play outside. It is important to have play facilities close to home and not to have to travel to go and play in a park.

No police report was received for this meeting. There have been serious accidents in the area over the last few months and it is useful to have the statistics.

General Matters

The road at Bowland on the A7 is in a really rough state with potholes

There is a large pothole directly beside the footpath in the unlit area close to Pirntaton road end at Fountainhall

The Safety Camera Partnership have agreed to increase cameras in Stow. They cannot do the North end of Stow, as they cannot get in safely. They are more often at the Layby at the South end. The North end needs more attention. The traffic is fast there.

It was agreed to take the flashing signs off the action list. However the sign at Townfoot flashes after dark at 9pm.

Speed indicator signs are now permitted. We might be able to source them from the Council. They could be movable and would be best at the northbound side of the village. A difficulty would be to place them close to the school. An October windfarm application was suggested.

Some of the LED streetlights are on 24/7.

The secretary has met with Mary Craig twice regarding the book about the History of Stow which is being produced. Ms Craig produced her first report for the Community Council regarding all the work she has done on the book she is writing. Members were happy with progress. She will produce a written report every three months for the community council and meet the secretary every month.

Douglas Scott, SBC, sent a consultation regarding removal of BT payphones in the area to the community council for comment. The community council noted that there had been no phone calls made from either the phone Box in Fountainhall or the phone Box on Galashiels Rd, Stow and had no objection to their removal.

There are drainage issues in Stow. Also potholes which are left unfilled when potholes nearby are filled. People are not trimming trees which causes a hazard.

Concern was raised regarding traffic movements on the A7. The Landfill site at Langlee has been closed. The preferred route north for lorries to the Waste Transfer Station was the A68. However the Contractor decided to go through Galashiels. There is a stench coming off the lorries and stuff also falls off. The A7 is an unsuitable route for more lorries.

Cllr Anderson raised the subject of potholes on Craigend Road. All the potholes should be done. Not just the ones at the top. The drains are also blocked at Craigend Road and there is vegetation growing in some of the potholes.

Cllr Anderson has met A. Carlino regarding the logs in the park.

A limb is down on one of the trees in the park.

When the trees were felled in the park, tree planting was promised. The question was raised whether it would happen this year.

The crash barrier at Torquhan was raised yet again

Treasurers Report

Stow Patient Transport has received a payment of £84 from community council funds to cover the cost of insurance.

A microgrant of £250 was given to Stow Community Park. £100 for the cost of the hire of Stow Town

Hall for a fundraiser for their insurance of Stow Park. £150 towards the cost of insurance.

A request was received for a microgrant for a podcast about Stow . It was felt more information was needed about it.

The next meeting will be on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

AGENDA

- APOLOGIES
- MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- POLICE REPORT
- GENERAL MATTERS
- TREASURERS REPORT
- COUNCILLORS REPORT
- PLANNING
- CORRESPONDENCE
- AOCB

ALL WELCOME