

Draft minutes of meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on January 13th 2020 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

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

Cllr Aitchison

Apologies: Cllr Anderson, A.Riddell, R. Murphy, N.Hodgson

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed S.Jeffrey. Seconded J.MacKenzie.

Cllr Scott has contacted Martin Joyce about Stow Town Hall and the A7.

Live Borders changed the date of the Pensioners ' Christmas Party. The Hall had been booked well in advance but they were told it had been double booked. They had to change entertainment. When they went in the drains were blocked. Whilst waiting for a plumber they sourced rods and unblocked the drains. There were no heaters in the bathrooms. The caretaker went and bought heaters but these had to be switched off at 2pm so the bathrooms were cold. A window in the cloakroom had been boarded up. The fridge was in the middle of the kitchen and the caterers had to work round it. There were no knives. Cutlery had to be borrowed from Fountainhall Village Hall. Olly Robertson came to a meeting at the Hall and said that drains and heaters are a SBC responsibility .No one seems to be taking responsibility. The Pensioners are not willing to pay the bill for such a shambles. SBC and Live Borders should get together.

Lauder Road – There are deep holes in parts of the road. No sooner have potholes been filled than the filling comes out and they reappear. A more efficient way needs to be devised.

Police Report – This was noted. There was a survey which ended on December 30th regarding public priorities . The Community Council felt that roads and road safety on the A7 are the priority for this area and that police reports and the presence of police at our meetings are the most effective way of communicating with us.

There needs to be communication with Martin Joyce regarding roads. Drains need to be done on Lauder Road. There is cross drainage with so much water coming down the hill. This has gouged out stones and the input to the wood is blocked with leaves. The new drains have sunk. There has been no further activity regarding the Lauder Road.

It was noted that there has been lumber extraction from Ferniehurst using the C11 through Stow. The question was raised whether a licence has been given for this. The lorries are going over Stow Bridge. It was understood that, after the new bridge had been built over the railway at Fountainhall, this bridge would be used. However the Fountainhall Community were promised full consultation regarding this which has never happened. One member commented that the occasional timber lorry does pass through Fountainhall. The Community Council has never been approached regarding the transport of timber through the area. The timber industry do pay SBC for the upkeep of roads. The drains at Craigend Road are blocked. Cllr Aitchison will take this up.

The gully cleaner is needed at Hill Terrace and Craigend Road.

Mary Craig, Stow Archivist, is applying to the Lottery Heritage Fund for a project researching hill forts and castles around Stow. The Community Council will support this project. S.Jeffrey will be on this committee if needed.

S.Jeffrey is proceeding with a Heritage Walk. He will see Christine Grahame who will put him in touch with people who can help .

Scottish Walking Festival have contacted the Secretary regarding the festival this year. It is from 24th -26th April. S.Jeffrey will respond to this.

The Windfarm have granted £8000 for the scheme for the Layby wall, which is in conjunction with SBC However conditions have been applied to this which need to be confirmed by SBC in writing before any payment can be made. The funding will be in the 2020-2021 . The scheme needs to be completed in 12 months. Cllr Aitchison will speak to the Council Engineer and to Community Foundation.

The Bollard at the Layby has been damaged.

The drainage of the Mill Lade needs to be done to help the park. There is no likelihood of it being done this year. There will have to be test borings if a pump track is to be constructed.

The unkempt state of the park opposite the school garden was noted.

Treasurers Report

SSE microgrants - £660

EDF microgrants - £3413

There is approximately £4,000 for microgrants.

A letter was received thanking the Community Council £100 for the grant awarded for the community consultation for the pump track and requesting a further £100 for preplanning advice from the Planning Department. This was approved in principle after there has been further consultation with the Council.

A letter of thanks was received from Fountainhall WI for the microgrant awarded.

Planning -Mr David Smith – Erection of 2 dwelling houses, land North of Braedale, Lauder Rd, Stow.

Councillor Aitchison is hoping to organise a small scheme for upkeep of Stow Cemetery.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

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