

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY
2012 IN STOW TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM**

Those present: G. Saunders, J. Mushlin, I. Anderson, D. Muir (Chair),
Cllr Aitchison, T. Miller, Cllr Lackenby, J. MacKenzie, A. Riddell

Apologies: A. McNeilly, I. Peacock, Cllr J. Mitchell

Guest Speaker: Craig Blackie, Scottish Borders Council

The meeting commenced with remembrance of Nan Muncaster, who passed away during the last month and was a very valued member of Stow Community Council. She was involved with a great deal in the community and will be very much missed. It was agreed to make a donation from the Community Council to Alexandra Ward, Dumfries Royal Infirmary in her memory, as her family wished.

Craig Blackie, the new neighbourhood manager for the Eildon area, addressed the Community Council. He is a single point of contact for any neighbourhood item but does not deal with refuse. He suggested we could put neighbourhood on our agenda.

The hole in the footpath by the bridge in Fountainhall was raised, as was the process of patching where the potholes re-emerge. Mr Blackie said the jetpatcher is to keep the roads safe. The programme is concentrating on A and B roads.

The budget proposal on Thursday is to put more finance into roads. Cllr Lackenby pointed out that we have relatively fewer roads in this area, compared to some other areas, and our roads also sustain heavier traffic through fewer alternative routes being available. However, the budget for roads is according to the percentage of roads in the area, which further disadvantages us. Mr Blackie said there will be routine maintenance on a percentage of roads. However, the priority is on keeping the roads safe.

Members of the Community Council stated that putting lines back on the A7 is really important, as are white lines on the edge of the road. Our wish to have the A7 from Galashiels to Edinburgh re-trunked is becoming even less likely. The A7 is being de-trunked from Carlisle as is the A68 from Newcastle to Carter Bar with the A1 becoming the only trunk route to England.

Gritting was raised. Fountainhall is still under snow, with the school access not cleared. All the main roads are clear. The gearing was wrong for gritting on Earlston Road, Stow, leaving far too narrow a path to be of use.

We are hoping for community tractors in future winters to clear snow in Fountainhall and Stow. However, we have been informed that we have to pay for insurance, compulsory training and grit, which seems very at odds with the Council's Resilience Policy. Jim Fraser will discuss the tractor with us.

The layby at Stow has displacement at an angle of 40 degrees. Councillor Aitchison pointed out that Stow Park is considered unacceptable and we are waiting for a consultant. Finances are a factor. The park is an asset to the village and cannot be allowed to become a swamp. The Mill Lade could be dug out which would increase drainage, but SEPA rules are very stringent.

It was questioned whether there is a grit bin in Hill Terrace.

Minutes and Matters Arising

It was pointed out that the secretary omitted to mention that she was circulating copies of a new draft constitution around all members. The public should have been made aware of this.

The minutes were proposed by G. Saunders, seconded by T. Miller.

There was no police report.

The motion to co-opt 2 new members, J. Mackenzie and A. Riddell was unanimously carried.

Councillors' Report

1. Cllr Aitchison said there was a meeting in the park but he only found out at the last minute, and did not have time to let interested Community Councillors know.
2. Jim Fraser will come to our next meeting to discuss the snowplough.
3. The Royal Hotel is at an impasse. There can only be temporary fencing until 1st April. Then there has to be either a wooden or

chain link fence. It is not going to be developed in the immediate future. The Community Council agreed that it should be a 6ft high chain link fence.

4. An insurance company has stated to an individual that a TD1 postcode has suddenly become a high risk area and that underwriters have reviewed TD1. Please could anyone whose house insurance is affected by this contact either Cllr Aitchison or Cllr Lackenby.
5. The schools in the valley have taken the initiative in getting the children from Heriot, Fountainhall, Stow and Clovenfords to the Olympic torch. All the schools will get together for an “Olympic time” at Caddonfoot in the morning, and then go on to Netherdale. The cost of a bus for Stow children for the day will be £200. It was agreed that the microgrants fund will pay for the bus in June.
6. Street sweeping is a mess owing to the frozen conditions.
7. Drains through the Lauder Road need specialist equipment to clean them.
8. Stones at Stow school are being removed.
9. Memorial for Ba Baker and Tom Murray – Tom Murray’s family are stating they would like a weather station in the village in his memory. The Community Council does not yet know what the wishes of the Baker family are.

Wind Farms

The public enquiry on Rowantree starts on March 7th. The Chairperson, Diana Muir’s statement is on March 13th. Stow Community Council have opposed Rowantree wind farm since the initial application.

Correspondence

Applications for microgrants from the Community Council – 2 applications have been received – from Fountainhall Bowling Club and Galawater Horticultural Society.

The cheque for the next tranche of money has not yet been received. It was decided to hold the applications over to the next meeting.

Safer Borders

Scottish Border’s Council Revenue and Capital Budget proposals 2012 – the capital budget has been reduced. There is no study support.

Nick Addington – 10.01.2012 – Long Park grant.

Scottish Border's Woodland infrastructure review.

Green Deal consultation report.

Nature of Scotland.

Spring Clean Scotland.

AOCB

The A7 Action Group is on 30th March at Selkirk.

The new draft constitution will be on the agenda at the AGM on 5th March for discussion and proposed ratification.

It was agreed to change the date of the June meeting from 4th June to 11th June, owing to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

There is £40,000 allocated by the Council for communities to claim for Jubilee celebrations. This will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The future of the Wrexham bus is still uncertain.

The next meeting will be the AGM of the Community Council on March 5th at 7pm. The Community Council meeting will follow at 7.30pm.

All are welcome. Please come along.