

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOW AND FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2011 IN STOW TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present: I. Peacock, G. Saunders, D. Muir (Chair), PC John Lennon, A. McNeilly, Cllr S. Aitchison, T. Miller, J. Mushlin, and 2 members of the public

Apologies: I. Anderson, N Muncaster, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Lackenby

Minutes and Matters Arising

It was raised that the minutes on public display in Stow did not mention that the constitution of the Community Council is currently being discussed. The secretary apologized for this and stated that Clare Malster has sent us a model constitution. All Community Councillors will receive a copy before the next meeting.

Councillor Mitchell attended the last meeting but was not listed as present in the minutes.

G. Saunders stated that the snow plough would not be covered under the public liability insurance which SBC pay under their Council insurance for Community Councils. The Community Council would have to pay a small amount. He was assured the amount would be negligible. However, we do need an exact figure.

The Council could provide training for drivers but we would have to pay for training. We would also have to pay for salt for the snow plough. This appears contrary to the community resilience policy. Cllr Aitchison will look into this.

D. Muir stated that she has emailed that Mill Road, Stow is a priority for snow clearance. Cllr Aitchison will ask for a quote for a snow plough from Sheriffs, for use in Stow and a hand plough for Fountainhall, J. MacKenzie will advise as to a suitable hand model.

The salt bin has been removed on Earlston Road. Cllr Aitchison is investigating this. Hopefully, it will be replaced. Craig Blackie has said that salt bins will be filled as soon as possible with help from SB local. Salt bins are currently empty.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by A. McNeilly, seconded by D. Muir.

Police Report

PC John Lennon apologized for his absence from meetings. The problem is our meetings are on a Monday, which is frequently his rest day.

In the last month, there have been 24 calls to the area.

There have been no road accidents with injury. There have been four speed checks.

There has been no local information about the recent theft of fuel from outside Sheriffs. Gangs come through from outside the area. One gang has been caught and is now in custody, but there are other gangs also operating. Community beat officers are changing their shifts to correspond with the times that the gangs generally operate.

There was a road rage incident which started in this area. Police would like information about dangerous driving, especially if there is another witness and/or the licence plate number. If there is something so dangerous that it could cause injury or death, it is appropriate to dial 999. Otherwise, either phone the local police station or Crimestoppers.

The police would like to speak to a male, "5' 6," medium build, in his 50's, balding, close shaven, white hair and ruddy complexion who was seen in Station Road on 17th November. If anyone knows this person, please could they contact the police.

In Mill Road there was a remote key logger fraud, which is where the computer is hacked into, and every keystroke can be tracked. This is especially likely when a computer is on an unsecured wireless network. So far there has been one instance. A username and password are needed to avoid this happening.

There are regular speed checks. Inspector Sillito can come and explain the figures to us. D. Muir will invite Inspector Sillito to February's meeting. Community Councillors still have a great deal of concern regarding speeding through Stow. Traffic Wardens can go out with speed cameras and note speed, but they have no powers to prosecute.

PC Lennon stated that on Thursday 1st December there were cash machine card skimmers in Galashiels at Nationwide. Police advise that if a card sticks going into or coming out of a machine, let the police know. If there are out of order signs on machines, directing to one particular cash machine, do not use that machine. If there is anything suspicious about a cash machine, do not use it.

The Scottish Business Crime Centre will be at TESCO on 16th December 10am – 2pm, and ASDA on 17th December 10am – 2pm.

PC Lennon also asked that drivers should be aware that if they have been drinking, they will still fail the breath test the morning after.

Councillors' Report

Ferniehurst Bridge – there has been a lot of flooding which is almost impossible to drain. This has been flagged up with Chris Hardie.

The drainage on Galashiels Road is appalling and this is on-going. Cllr Aitchison has asked Chris Hardie to walk round with him.

There are suspicions that one of the drains to the Gala Water is blocked.

The National Express bus to Wrexham which currently stops at Fountainhall and Stow, and is a direct link to Newcastle, and Newcastle Airport, is being withdrawn.

Speed limits at Galabank are being put on the agenda.

It is important that people realize that Crimestoppers are a separate organization from the police. They liaise and pass on information to the police, but are not a police organization.

On 6th December, the proposal will go to the Council from Scrutiny that Hall charges for regular users will change. On payment of a small fee (£20 for Stow Town Hall), the organization will be given a membership of Stow Town Hall and will qualify for a 25% discount on rental. If the kitchen is only used for making tea and coffee, there will be no charge for use of the kitchen. It is also proposed that this will be backdated to 1st December. (Secretary's note: this was all agreed by the Council on 6th December).

Wind Farms

Nan and Jenny couldn't go to the SBC meeting on 1st December. Cllr Aitchison will get details.

There is now a scheme by which all homeowners can get free insulation, irrespective of income in this area. For more information please contact Stefan at Low Carbon Stow.

Planning

There are no planning applications.

Correspondence

Stow Community Trust applied for £249 to cover general running costs to the Community Council. Wind farm fund This application was approved.

There was an application to the Community Council Wind Farm Trust from Fountainhall for £85 for a film licence. We are currently awaiting the next tranche of money from the Scottish Community Foundation, which is due at the end of the year, and it was agreed to pend this application until the January meeting in the hope that we will have the money then.

It was agreed that the Secretary will apply to the main Wind Farm Fund for £600 for the newsletter for 1 year and £500 to renew the Stow Community website.

The Stow Community Trust needs at least 100 members for the buyout of the old school to be possible. Fountainhall Village Hall could possibly help to get people to sign up. Jack MacKenzie will give the Secretary forms. As many of Stow and Fountainhall residents as possible are asked to sign up to this. Nothing else is expected of you.

It was agreed that Stow Community Trust was initially formed by Stow Community Council and that it is a sub-committee of the Community Council.

AOCB

Fountainhall is receiving a Christmas Tree which is 8 feet high from Hamish Hunter for outside the Village Hall.

The connection of the new water main has taken place. One household only received the letter that the water supply would be interrupted the day before. The notice itself was not at all easy to understand. The water has been very cloudy in Fountainhall since this took place.

Stow Park

There is a nasty bit at the bridge by the changing rooms which could be made into a walkway.

Dog Wardens have been up. More dog fouling notices are needed. Dogs should not be allowed in the children's play park or on the quiting green.

Cllr Aitchison is trying to liaise with schools so that Heriot, Fountainhall, Stow and Caddonfoot children all get to see the Olympic torch on June 16th. Unfortunately, it is not proving simple, as the torch gets taken by vehicle through part of the area, rather than by a relay of runners and it is not clear how it is passing through Caddonfoot. It is possible the children will be bussed to Peebles for this.

The next meeting of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday January 9th 2012 in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm