

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
AT 7.30PM IN STOW TOWN HALL**

Those present: G. Saunders (Chair), A. Riddell, J. MacKenzie, A. McNeilly, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, Cllr Herd, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr White, 2 members of the public.

Apologies: D. Muir, I. Peacock, Cllr Mitchell.

Andy Millar, Stagehall Farm, described his plans to extend Wedale View with an additional 16 units, including affordable housing and generally add amenity to the area which has an unfinished look to it. He proposes to deal with the problems left behind by the developers, including the mound of subsoil. Sewage capacity was raised. Scottish Water has to make a new reed bed where there is meant to be one. The planners see traffic as an issue, but the station will address issues and a traffic study on road capacity has shown that there is road capacity. This is the only place where it is feasible to add housing in Stow, but this piece of land needs to be included in the settlement boundary. After discussion the Community Council passed a motion to back the housing development in principle. Proposed by J. MacKenzie, seconded by G. Saunders.

Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Aitchison produced an archaeological report regarding the Bishop's Palace. Ownership of the Bishop's Palace is similar to Old Kirk.

The minutes were proposed by G. Saunders, seconded by J. MacKenzie.

Police Report

Cannabis growing has been discovered in Stow.

Stow Park – Scottish Water will not lower the Station Road pipe. There is only £100,000 in the SBC capital budget for all flood repairs. Stow Park is not considered the highest priority. There needs to be a plan and timescale to clear Mill Lade. There are 2 options:

- 1) The Council does a 5 yearly clean out.

2) Close the water off at the top and leave a flood drain, but this fills with grass and has to be cleared regularly.

The Council is responsible for the area adjacent to the park. In floods, water comes up from Gala Water into the park and down Lauder Road into the park. The Community Resilience Plan are going to provide a flood plan. Any action that is taken has to be with SEPA approval. Scottish Water and SEPA need to look at the problem of rainwater. The park used to be dry. Eventually slow and gradual degeneration has become much faster. The Galashiels Councillors might go to David Green and ask him to do a study. Cllr Aitchison will expect someone to come to the Community Council regarding the plan. The Community Council wants a timed plan of action. Renewing the drain parallel to the A7 would be helpful.

### The Old Station House

The Station House is bigger and in better condition than was realized. There is a good response from Network Rail. Rooms would possibly be leased, under Stow Community Trust. The Transport Police also need a base. More people in the community need to get involved.

It was agreed to have a special meeting for consideration of the new Station area on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

### General Matters

Resilience Committee – 70 people signed up in Fountainhall. 20 people have signed up in Stow, but more are willing to help. Alan and Judy McNeilly are co-ordinators. The resilience plan for Stow and Fountainhall has been printed. A. McNeilly attended a meeting recently. It has been established that individuals can clear pavements of snow without being responsible if someone subsequently has an accident. However, farmers have to have their own insurance for any damage done whilst clearing snow.

£957 has been received from Toddleburn for microgrants. Grants of up to £250 are available to unconstituted groups and individuals for anything that is of benefit to the Community. For details of how to apply, please contact any Community Council member or, alternatively, the Secretary, Jenny Mushlin on: 01578 – 760297. Applications for grants are considered monthly at every Community Council meeting. There is no application form. A letter is all that is needed.

Work on the A7 South of Stow is scheduled to start tomorrow. However, there is an amber weather warning.

There has been asbestos dumping at Wooplaw Woods.

A sofa has also been noticed. It is important that all members of the public realize that large domestic items can be taken free to Langlee.

There is a problem with the G20 bus. It is in poor condition without heating. In the recent bad weather Still Haugh, where the bus turns, had not been gritted.

### Correspondence

Scottish Police Authority Draft Consultation Plan  
One Billion Rising – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
Invitation to Briefing Meeting – Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Feb at 6.30pm  
Clare Malster – tell me Scotland update  
Clare Malster – CRNS network  
UK Honours  
Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill -  
Analysis of Responses – Clare Malster

### AOCB

Streetlight no 6 (Stow) is not working.

Chris Wemyss – talked about last year's Stowed Out festival. There were 13 acts, 41 performers. Up to 500 people attended. There were 40 volunteers. There has been discussion about going for funding for a bigger event this year. There is a possibility of a large marquee on the Friday evening for a sit down event with someone well known performing, then the festival all day Saturday. The problem is that there are too high costs with this. They are trying to identify funding. There needs to be more for children. A questionnaire is going out with the newsletter to find out what people want. There are a lot of issues if it is decided to make it a much larger event, attracting people from all over. There will definitely be at least a repeat of the festival which was so successful last year. Chris will come to the April meeting in Fountainhall to give feedback.

It was decided to postpone the AGM from March 2013 to June 2013. However, the March meeting will still start at 7pm to discuss the £27,000 which SSE are making available to the community for a project which has full community backing.

**The next meeting of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 4th March at 7pm in Stown Town Hall.**