

Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council meeting held on Monday 6th June 2016 at 7.30 pm

Those present: I. Peacock, A. Riddell, Cllr. S. Aitchison, C. Hendry, Cllr. B. White, S. Jeffrey, T. Miller, R. Munro, Cllr. Mitchell, D. Muir, (Chair) B. Jamieson, J. Mushlin.

Apologies - A. McNeilly, J. Mackenzie, N. Hodgson

Matters Arising – Cllr. Mitchell is continuing to look into the possibility of a bottle bank at Fountainhall.

Those present decided that the position of the horse trough should be at the railings on the kerb at the A7 in Stow.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by C. Hendry and seconded by A. Jeffrey.

The motion to co-opt J. MacKenzie as a member of Parish of Stow Community Council, proposed by J. Mushlin, seconded by I. Peacock, was approved by all members.

R. Murphy reported back to the Community Council the recent meeting of the A7 Action Group. At the Langholm meeting it was reported that there had been no accidents on the northern stretch of the A7. In fact there were 31 accidents between September and February north of Galashiels.

PC Anne McNair does a fantastic job listing accidents in her monthly report which the Community Council really appreciates.

R. Murphy also reported that there have been surveys of the residents of Stow and parents at the school in February and March regarding road safety in Stow. There has also been a meeting with Safer Routes to School. Cllrs. Aitchison and White were at the meeting. Stow has been offered a 20 mph speed limit during school times. This would flash during school opening and closing times and be enforceable as a road traffic offence if going above 20 mph at these times. Also those present requested a speed camera at both ends of the village. When the 20 mph sign is not flashing the 20 mph is visible but the speed limit is actually 30 mph. This cannot be in combination with the current speed indicators which also cannot be placed in another part of the village. The Community Council agreed to back the proposal for 20 mph flashing signs.

Another point that was raised was the children's crossing at the bridge. A speed bump component is needed. Some are painted. Parents need to be persuaded not to drive cars to the school. Currently it is very dangerous for children crossing and people using the back road with cars coming both from the school and from the station. There are not enough children crossing for a zebra crossing to be possible.

R. Murphy is meeting with the Safety Camera Partnership. It costs £100,000 per camera to implement them.

School signs were also mentioned. Children at Walkerburn school have designed a sign. It would be possible for Stow children to do this.

There is the lack of a safe crossing north of the village and lack of a pavement at Mill Road. It has been suggested to make a one way system at Mill Road and a pavement would be possible then. Another possibility is no parking at the mouth of the junction.

The people who are developing proposals for the park have suggested a footpath from the north end to the south end of the park.

These are all just ideas. The Council's Engineers and Road Department are to be asked to come up with how to ameliorate the situation. It was also pointed out that if there is a one way system, a contraflow lane for cyclists needs to be installed on a one way system. R. Murphy is to investigate this further but the Community Council is not committed to any solution.

Residents from the top of the village had meetings with officials about streetlights. It was suggested that someone from the Roads Department should be invited to the next Community Council meeting.

Work is to be done on Station Road bridge. It is proposed for July, August and September but there is likely to be a month slippage. Roadworks will be slowing traffic down on Station Bridge during this period.

Stow Road Safety Campaign are having a meeting on 20th June with Calum Kerr, Christine Graham, Brian Young (SBC), Mike Bennett (police). Also with Andy Jones – Scottish Safety Cameras. The aim is to improve the A7 on either side of Stow. The action points for our stretch of the A7 are:

- 1) Retrunk
- 2) Widen and straighten accident blackspots.
- 3) Verges.

There is to be a meeting with the Minister of Transport. He will be given the Action Plan and an attempt will be made to get funding.

The proposed reduction of the X95 bus service was mentioned. There is an online petition regarding this. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to First Bus expressing the concerns of the Community Council regarding this. It was also suggested that the secretary should write to First Scotrail regarding a half-hourly train service to Stow. However this has already been done. She will look at the correspondence to see if this is an appropriate time to raise this again.

Cllr. Mitchell congratulated the children at Stow school on their excellent performance at the Chess Tournament, as runners up.

There is a promise of Broadband improvement by both the Scottish Government and the UK Government.

Cycle tourism will be promoted.

The dangerous corner at Torsonce was raised again. This has also been brought up at the A7 Action Group.

There was a complaint that the plastic safety provision to protect rabbits by the school could cause injury to schoolchildren.

Diane Munro has stated she will trim the ivy and take it out by the churchyard. She is a member of Craig Blackie's team. There are health and safety rules regarding council properties preventing members of the public tackling jobs themselves. Only approved contractors are allowed to take on work for the Council.

The lay-by has moved 10 mm in the worst place. There is nothing in plans for 2016/2017 to undertake work on it.

The ownership problem of the lay-by has been resolved.

Historic Scotland have taken responsibility for the bridge and SBC Legal Department have accepted responsibility for the wall. The community needs to try to work in partnership with the Council. It would be helpful if someone would come and talk to us and put a programme in place. David Richardson does 3 monthly checks on the lay-by. It would be useful if he came to a meeting with us.

The SBC Small Scheme of grants of up to £5-10,000 for work needing done was mentioned. The Community Council was asked for a plan of what we want to do. Cuddy Brae path was mentioned. If impossible a route off Cuddy Brae through the field by the A7 to the new road might be possible. However it would need the farmer's permission.

Cllr. Aitchison reported that work will be undertaken on the bends on the A7 at Heriot in September and at Crookston in August, September, October.

Street lighting is also in the work plan for Galashiels Rd, Stow.

The current Local Plan has just been agreed. It is now time to start thinking about what we want in the next Local Plan.

New planters are now in place in Stow and are agreed by the council. They now need to be planted. There has been 70 hours of people digging at the station which is now ready to be planted.

A booklet of walks around Stow is proposed. Mary Craig is starting out with a simple pamphlet of walks around the village until a booklet can be produced.

SBC are aware of the problem of rubbish at the station in Fountainhall and action will be taken.

Both EDF and SSE have approximately £56,000 in funds. The papers for the endowment funds have been drawn up and are ready for signing.

There have been 6 applications to SSE in the last round and none to EDF.

The deadline for the next round of applications is 11th July for determination in September.

Sound Out have applied for a microgrant of £194.76 for commercial Quality Storage containers. This was agreed. A McNeilly will be asked to send them a cheque.

J. Mushlin put in her apologies for the next meeting.

D. Muir will act as secretary.

The next meeting is on Monday 4th July at 7.30 pm in Stow Town Hall.

Parish of Stow Community Council Meeting to be held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 4th July at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Apologies

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

3 Police Report

4 General Matters

5 Councillors Reports

6 Planning

7 Correspondence

8 AOCB