

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2016 IN STOW TOWN HALL

Those present: C. Hendry (chair), A.McNeilly, T. Millar, J.MacKenzie, R.Murphy, N.Hodgson, J.Mushlin, A.Riddell, Cllr White, pc. A.McNair, M.Craigie, 3 members of the public,

J. Adams, Gilston Hill Windfarm

Apologies: D.Muir, I.Peacock, S.Jeffrey, Cllr. S.Aitchison Cllr. J.Mitchell

The meeting commenced with a discussion with Ms Adams regarding the proposed Gilston Hill Windfarm. It was commented that there has been a previous application where it was assessed that there was no scope for a windfarm on this site. There is the possibility of a corridor of windfarms down the A7 which would be a solid band of windfarms, which is felt to be extremely detrimental to this area. Ms Adams replied that this windfarm would not be visible from the A7. It was remarked that the turbines are higher than previously. Ms Adams replied that the market are now producing higher turbines and they can now be 3mgw so that there can be fewer higher turbines. The noise level will be 35 decibels at the nearest property so they are less noisy. The Scottish Government are promoting shared ownership and this is being considered. The community benefit is to be £5000 per mgw and it is a 20 mgw project. How it is designed is open to discussion. There will be £100,000 per year altogether. It was agreed that discussions about finance are irrelevant at this point. It was noted that comments on the Scoping Report have not yet been submitted by the Community Council.

Ms Adams left the meeting at this point. It was agreed that the Parish of Stow Community Council object to this proposal and have normally jointly formally objected with Heriot Community Council. The Secretary will contact Heriot Community Council regarding continuing with this arrangement.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed J.MacKenzie, seconded A. Mc Neilly

Police Report – pc A. McNair stated that 5 males have been traced and charged with crimes. On Friday 30th September there was an injury traffic collision North of Stow. A resilient community would benefit Stow. Recently there was a very successful community resilience exercise in Fountainhall . R. Murphy thanked her for her attendance at this meeting and noted that the police report at the A7 Action Group states that there have been no accidents north of Galashiels.

A.McNair cannot attend this meeting and information frequently gets lost but will in future send it to Inspector Latto.

Pc McNair left the meeting.

Cllr Aitchison and SBC Roads Department are trying to find the best places for road signs.

Stow Park – 2 members of the Park Committee came to clarify the position regarding plans for Stow Park. Planning permission has been granted so long as there are sufficient funds. The community council put in objections to the equipment for adults. Surveys of the community showed that 75% of the community wanted 14+ equipment. The playpark should offer something for everyone and not just children. There would be nothing for older teenagers to encourage them to get together. OAPs, who would never go to a gym, have said they would also like to use the equipment . This will be the first multigenerational park in the Borders and this is a condition for the funding. The adult equipment has been designed for use outdoors unsupervised and can be used by people of all

abilities. The community council congratulated the Park Committee on all that has been achieved and stated that the development of the Park has the Community Council's full support.

The plans for the Park have had to have reductions. The initial application had 200m of footpaths. Now there will be a small pathway. There will be benches and picnic tables but SBC will need to be paid to put them in. The existence of the SBC small schemes grant was raised. It was agreed that Stow Park will be an amazing asset for the community.

Mary Craigie talked about her plans for Stow as a Heritage Village. There is a plan of what will be done but this is not set in stone. There needs to be discussion with all people. The Heritage Lottery can give up to £250,000 and she has spoken to them. There is a great deal of history in Stow, which is the last place of Holy Sanctuary in Scotland. 2 new boards are needed for the Church and Bishops Palace.

There is the possibility that there is a Viking Burial Site in the Fountainhall area.

Cllr White stated that £2.4m has been found to improve the roads in the Borders and work is planned for the A7 at Torsonce.

There are still hopes for money from the Railway to compensate for damage due to its construction.

Some of the carriageway has come away between Bowland and Halkburn.

It was raised that the white lines on the new Fountainhall Road are deteriorating.

It was felt that the signs at the Springbank Hotel are misleading and out of date and need to be removed.

Thanks were given to Cllr White and Scottish Borders Council that the horse trough is now in position in Stow.

A microgrant for compost and gravel for the horse trough was agreed.

A microgrant for £250 was given to Fountainhall Womens Institute.

A microgrant of £140 was given towards the first showing of a film at the new Community Cinema in Fountainhall Village Hall.

A microgrant of £183 was given to Fountainhall Village Hall Committee towards the purchase of equipment for New Age Kurling in the Hall.

A microgrant of £240 was given to Fountainhall Parents Council for the purchase of tickets for all children to go to Aladdin.

A microgrant of £250 was given to Stow Kids Club

A microgrant of £170 to Stow Archive was agreed in principle.

It was agreed to purchase the wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

The poppy and forgetmenot installation at the War Memorial was due to come down in 2018 but some people would like it to remain. There are replacement ceramic poppies and forgetmenots for broken ones.

Both windfarm funds – EDF & SSE will accept applications over £250.

Road Safety Campaign. An email was circulated round community council members giving an update. Members were happy with the contents which were as follows:

.The flat top speed bump has been put in place on Station Road with pencil bollards either side.

.The part time 20mph speed zone has been reinstated in the middle of Stow with flashing school signs instead of 30 mph signs

There has been a site visit with Christine Grahame, Calum Kerr and members of SBC and Police Scotland. Potential solutions were discussed and they visited all points of concern.

There has been a meeting with Andy Jones, Safety Camera Programme Manager for SE Scotland and new 30mph speed cameras will be placed at intervals through the Village subject to SBC agreement and there will be an increased presence of mobile speed cameras at various points within Stow at all times of the day.

Dalkeith police will monitor HGV activity and a new speed survey will be performed at 2 -3 points chosen by residents.

There has also been a detailed walk around by SBC engineers to look at pavements and points of concern. A report is being drawn up to outline what can be done and is being costed.

Community Councillors discussed speeding and the lack of any measures at the North end of the Village.

The level of attention that Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland are giving to Stow is much appreciated and the Road Safety Campaign wish to work closely in partnership with them.

There are proposals for logging lorries from Watherstone to go through Fountainhall. A public meeting regarding this will be held in Fountainhall.

At the recent Community Resilience exercise in Fountainhall, 50 people turned up. The Mountain Rescue Team came, as did the police. It was a most successful training exercise. Stow would benefit from a resilience scheme.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will take place on Monday November 7th at 7.30pm in FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL.

