

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30PM IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2017

Those present: D.Muir (chair), S. Jeffrey, A.Riddell, T.Millar, I. Peacock, A McNeilly, J.Mushlin,

Cllr J. Mitchell, Cllr White, Cllr Aitchison ,pc. A. McNair, M. Craig, community
archivist, 2 members of the public.

Apologies : N. Hodgson, C. Hendry, J. MacKenzie, R.Murphy.

The amendment was proposed to the previous minutes. On the final page: The
Community Council has received a grant should read as The Community Council
are waiting to receive a grant.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by I. Peacock, seconded by S.Jeffrey.

Cllr Aitchison referred to the talk by Erica Niven,Countryside Ranger, at the
previous meeting. One or two matters still need to be dealt with. There is a need
to clarify pathways in the Stow area. Erica Niven will keep in touch with S.Jeffreys
regarding the pathways booklet. Everything is in abeyance as an election is
happening but the countryside rangers are working as usual.

Cllr White stated that the track from Galashiels for cycle access should not have
problems.

The grant from the windfarm for signage will not be issued until Foundation
Scotland have received permissions from all landowners who will have signs on
their land. D.Muir is undertaking this at present.

Police Report – The wheelie bin stickers initiative went down well. Volunteers
stuck 30mph stickers on bins on Galashiels Road. This is a pilot scheme in Stow.
The Police are waiting to see how it works in Stow before rolling it out to other
places. There is also a suggestion that if dog walkers and people walking around
Stow wore HI VIZ vests or waistcoats, this would give an impression of
emergency service workers present and encourage drivers to slow down and dog
owners to pick up after their dogs. However it was stressed that no one should
attempt to intervene.

The 2 members of the public present wished to add 4 small units for planting to
cover the area in the centre of the village which would enhance the 3 planters
already present. If the planters are present it will help to prevent people slipping
when the weather is icy. People have already had falls. It would make the area
more interesting for people going through the village. Those present approved
the idea. It was suggested the planters could be done through the Horticultural
Society, with an application for £250 to get started and a further £250 later . The
current noticeboard should also be refurbished and placed in a new position.

The state of the Royal Hotel was deplored yet again. The owners of the site are
waiting for prices to go up. It is a desirable site for housing. Compulsory
purchase is a difficult process. The Royal Hotel is an eyesore. It is difficult to force
people to do things on sites they own but possibly there will be legislation in
future which might help. The Royal Hotel is not a dead issue.

K. Mitchell, SBHA is doing an estate walkabout on 6th April, commencing Station Road, to which community councillors are invited.

Mary Craig stated that Gudbrandur Jonsson is coming from Iceland for a dig at Fountainhall, where he suspects that there is an important Viking Burial Site.

Heritage of Stow- Currently efforts are being concentrated on the graveyard. Both Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery are supportive of this. There will be a meeting with the Council. The aim is to have a grant to get the stones, which have been laid back, reerected. Permissions and plans are needed. If funding is available, it could be done in the summer. The graveyard is first and then the walls and monuments will be restored.

Mary Craig requested a microgrant of £250 for research into the medieval history of Right of Sanctuary in Stow. There is information in archives in Edinburgh, Durham, St Andrews. Ideally it might be possible to find the original charter. Members of the community also want to learn how to go into archives. All material found will go to the archive. If the original charter were to be found, it would be excellent to display it in Stow as part of the Heritage Project. The Community Council fully supported this.

Pc McNair warned the Community Council that people now test door handles and if a door is unlocked they just walk into a house and help themselves, even when the householder is in. This can happen during the day. The days of leaving the doors unlocked whilst in the house are over. Everyone should always keep their doors locked.

The Secretary has received notification from Alan Scott, Venues Manager, Live Borders of an increase in charges for rentals in all Halls in the Borders, as from 1st April 2017. Community Groups can still pay a £50 affiliation fee and receive a 20% discount.

All 3 councillors present are standing again for reelection in the forthcoming elections.

Cllr Mitchell has reported that the door of the cubicle in the gents public toilet is tight and he will arrange for a joiner to fix it.

Stuart MacKay, BAM is organising landscaping at Wedale View. The factor will maintain it. The old Station House and surrounding ground at Fountainhall are also being looked at.

Stow Park – The council have given some money for this and the playpark committee are awaiting results of grant applications. Hopefully it will soon get started.

The A7 repairs at Fala Hill and Crookston have been done. The corners at Torsonce will be done in May. There has been rapid deterioration.

There is no knowledge as to when the machine will come to clear out drains.

The scheme for the A7 Mill Road junction at Sheriffs has been approved and will be done. It is being undertaken through the safer Routes to School Scheme.

It is still unknown how far work has to go at the Mill Lade. The Council has all the paperwork and it cannot be done until June for environmental reasons.

Treasurers Report – This should in future be an item on the agenda.

Microgrants Report

£2196.76 was disbursed by EDF.

£1932.91 of this amount remains

£238 is remaining for the rest of the year in SSE funds. This money is allocated to Fountainhall.

The Community Council has £328.14 in unrestricted funds.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the Clerk to the Board, Stow St Mary of Wedale and Heriot Church, requesting a microgrant of £250 towards the cost of handrails at the Manse and vestry of Stow Church to facilitate accessibility for all users. The members of the community council decided that, as this is one of many improvements needed, it would be more appropriate for the Church to apply for a large grant from the Windfarm Panel than to use the microgrant scheme in this instance. The secretary is to write to inform the Clerk of the decision.

A letter was received from Mary Craig, Archivist, thanking the community council for the microgrant which was used to print and erect two interpretation boards: one in the old graveyard and one at the Bishops Palace.

It was felt that there are many different groups in Stow and it would be excellent to get communication between groups. There is a template for Stow. The Archive has a copy of the Stow Village Enhancement Plan.

There has been an email from Paths for All about possible funding, up to £1500. It was felt that the millennium path from the layby to St Marys Well should get priority.

AOCB

Station Building Regeneration Plan. Applications for grants to revisit plans and costings are being made. The total cost of the station building is likely to be £600,000. Things are moving forward and there should be a reply in 2 - 3 months regarding the grants for plans and costings. There is a tripartite agreement for the lease. A 25 year lease is needed and it is uncertain whether the Albellio franchise will be renewed.

The West Coast Bus Company have taken over all First Bus routes in the Borders. All future communications regarding services should be directed to West Coast Bus Company.

The drain on the pavement at Sheriff's cottages is uncovered. The cover is missing. Cllr Aitchison will bring it up with Craig Blackie.

Timetabling of the X95 bus service was discussed. It would be more useful if the bus went through the village after the train.

D.Muir stated that she was tendering her resignation as chair of the Community Council.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st May 2017 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- 3 POLICE REPORT
- 4 GENERAL MATTERS
- 5 TREASURERS REPORT
- 6 COUNCILLORS REPORT
- 7 PLANNING
- 8 CORRESPONDENCE
- 9 AOCB