

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2ND AUGUST 2021 AT 7PM ON ZOOM

Those present: C. Hendry, A. McNeilly, S. Jeffrey, J.Mushlin, G. Stewart, G. Murray, F. Allen

Frustration was raised at the general state of the centre of the village. The key questions were:

1. Who owns the land?
2. Why has it not been developed?
3. Can the site be made more presentable?

G. Murray explained that the whole village feels very frustrated. The whole episode of the Royal Hotel shows bad business and community practice. The Community Trust has funding for a community development worker to find out what the community wants for a community action plan. This should make it clear what the land could be used for. At that point the community can take forward a community land purchase. At the moment there is no solution to the problem. When there is agreement to a community buyout, the Government will put a stop on any development by the owners. G. Murray is shortly meeting with the Scottish Land Commission.

It was suggested that the agent's board could be taken down and the temporary fencing improved. The local Councillors have supported all of the Community Council's efforts to improve the situation.

The toilets in Stow are currently closed. They have a preservation order because they are a unique 1960's building. Scottish Borders Council do not have the manpower to open them.

Stow Town Hall also poses a problem. It would be ideal if it complemented the Royal Hotel buyout.

Apologies: T. Millar, A. Riddell, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott

Robin Smith, Glennan Brothers was unable to attend the meeting but sent an update which had been circulated to community council members. This year they were only able to harvest half of their year plan due to changes in the market. The brash needs to be cleared so lorries will be transporting this through Fountainhall.

G. Murray raised that the Tour of Britain will be coming through Stow on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The A7 will be closed for this. A working group has met to plan an event to celebrate this. There will be cycling events for children in the park. The Tour of Britain will go over the hill to Lauder. The best vantage point will be

on Lauder Hill. There will be food in the park and a couple of marquees which local organisations can use. The working group are proposing the decoration of the village with bunting and that houses along the route should be decorated with bike memorabilia. The Community Council were asked to support this and offered a microgrant for a portaloo. The Community Council were asked to promote the decoration of houses and will fund a leaflet, which G.Murray and G. Stewart will draw up. C. Hendry will do a poster. The Community Council will also ask the people who distribute the newsletter to distribute the leaflet. S. Jeffrey is a community council representative on the Windfarm Panel and will request an immediate grant, as happened when Stow School won an award in London. On that occasion there was an immediate grant to take all the children to the zoo, who were not going to London for the Award Ceremony. Parking on the Quoiting Green was suggested. This will be raised at the Parish Trust meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

The Walking Festival will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. It is proposed to do the walk to St Mary's Well. However there is hawthorn making the walk impassable. Cllr Aitchison is dealing with putting up signs at St Mary's Well. Erica Niven is helping with the path. S.Jeffrey is going to contact Cllr Aitchison and E. Niven. It is important to speak to all farmers involved before any path is used as part of the walking festival. Next year Stow will be hosting the Walking Festival.

Jack MacKenzie has resigned from the Community Council. He will be greatly missed and members of the Community Council would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best.

Stuart Jeffrey agreed to be co-chair with Charlotte Hendry.

Proposed C.Hendry

Seconded J.Mushlin

J. MacKenzie will continue to maintain the planters in the village for the rest of the summer. J.Mushlin will speak to A. Carlino as to whether the volunteers at the Community Garden might maintain the planters in the village as well as the garden.

S.Jeffrey and A. McNeilly will coordinate responsibility for the key to Stow Town Hall. This is only to be used as a backup to gain access to the Hall for meetings. Not as an alternative to having the Caretaker present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved - proposed S. Jeffrey  
seconded A.

McNeilly

Police Report - Members were interested to note that there is a free app What3words which can be used when members of the public are at lochs, beaches or in rural areas and an emergency arises. The app works by gridding the Earth into 3x3 metre squares: the coordinates of each are used to pinpoint an exact location. This can now be used in 999 and 101 calls and is critical when a person

is in a rural area or cannot state exactly where they are. A postal address is still requested when a person calls but What3words is used in addition to share location and has not replaced any existing system  
More information about what3words can be found on the what3words website.

Speeding in Stow – There is still a great deal of speeding going North. It is important that Stow residents set an example by adhering to the 20mph limit.

Code of Conduct – Members of Parish of Stow Community Council agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

### General Matters

Gordon Stewart indicated that he is happy to be co-opted as a member of Parish of Stow Community Council.

This was proposed by S.Jeffrey, seconded by A. McNeilly.

There will be a Notice of Motion to that effect on the agenda of the next Community Council meeting, as per the constitution.

The proof of the Stow Book has been received from the printer. A book launch is proposed for Stow and Fountainhall during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

A.Riddell has informed the Community Council that Deirdre Cameron, Historic Scotland has approved the proposed work on the Subscription Bridge.

The next walks leaflet (to Ludgate) has just been printed. Currently S. Jeffrey is waiting for the gates to be put in. Roundels and arrows are also needed for the walks around Stow. Erica Niven is supplying stiles for Watherston Hill Fort. There is going to be a walk along the river by Craigend.

N. Miller has agreed to the chopping of gorse and bracken on his land,

Stow Station – Fiona and Stuart Jeffrey have been maintaining the planters at the station, with help from a Stow resident. There are herbaceous plants in the border. The main problem is getting water, especially on the far platform.

A. McNeilly has written 25 cheques this year. He has contacted C. Malster, SBC. There has been no notification of the annual grant this year. He has submitted the annual audited accounts.

Gordon Stewart is trying to add news items on to the website. He has contacted Chris McVie to see if there are training possibilities. He will set up a Stow and

Fountainhall twitter account. C. Hendry will add him as admin for the Stow Community Council Facebook site.

The suggestion was made that the Community Council could ask for 'Welcome to Stow of Wedale' signs.

Treasurers Report – The accounts have been audited. £600 has been paid in microgrants for the work on the tree trunks in Stow Park.

The next meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. It will hopefully be in Fountainhall Village Hall if it is available. Otherwise it will be on zoom. The Secretary will notify all members and councillors when she has established if Fountainhall Village Hall will be open.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Notice of Motion  
The cooption as a member of Parish Of Stow Community Council is proposed of Gordon Stewart, The Old Manse, 209 Galashiels Rd, Stow TD1 2RE Electoral Roll no :425  
Proposed S.Jeffrey. Seconded A. McNeilly
4. Police Report
5. ScotRail Consultation
6. Tour of Britain
7. Planters in Stow
8. General Matters
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Councillors Reports
11. Planning
12. Correspondence
13. Date and venue of next meeting
14. AOCB