Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council Meeting held on March 7th 2022 at 7.30pm on zoom.

Those present: G. Stewart, A. McNeilly, S.Jeffrey (Chair), J.Mushlin, Cllr Scott, Cllr Anderson

Guest Speaker : Rose Hogg – Dog Education Officer, SBC

Apologies: C. Hendry, A. Riddell, Cllr Aitchison

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed A.McNeilly, Seconded S.Jeffrey

The Police Report was noted.

Signage – G.Stewart presented a paper to the Community Council regarding signage. There is missing signage. Rather than replacing it, there should be completely new signage in Stow. A stone archway, indicating people are entering a village, would improve road safety.

If there is to be a competition to design an emblem for the Parish of Stow, parameters have to be set.

It must not look like a coat of arms. An alternative would be for the Community Council to set the design and get it done professionally. The emblem should reflect the history of Stow. There was the suggestion that Stow and Fountainhall could have separate emblems, although Fountainhall is part of the Parish of Stow and can use the same emblem.

Signs need to be put at the beginning at the village. Signage would be helpful at Galabank.

G.Stewart designed an emblem featuring the Votadini, which featured a Votadini warrior, and he was requested to do further work on this .

Scottish Borders Council promotes empowerment. However, regulations do exist as to what is permissible. The Secretary should write to Brian Young, SBC to inform him of the proposal and ascertain his views regarding this.

Ms Hogg entered the meeting. Members of the Community Council turned their attention to dog fouling.

Ms Hogg said that dog fouling is a very difficult matter. It is a matter of education. She does the education work and the Police and CAT team attend to enforcement. Whilst she does the legwork, she does not have the final say regarding the outcome. If an area is having a struggle with dog fouling, she can go early in the day or late in the evening to assess the situation.

It was mentioned that just a few people are at fault. It is particularly bad at the east of the village. Farmers are finding dog poo in fields and people are also dropping the bags in the fields or leaving them hanging on barbed wire.

When people see Ms Hogg, they tend to pick up after their dogs. She is hoping to be able to get schools involved again and would be happy to come to Stow and Fountainhall schools. She will get in touch with them to see if she is yet allowed to go in. She could do a zoom call. If she teaches the children, they can get to the adults. She is looking at developing an app for schools, especially as P3 upwards have I pads. She would be willing to sit in the shop and have a chat with the people coming in if the shop wants to host her. Alternatively, the Community Council could set up and advertise a special meeting. The Station House would be a possible venue.

 Ms Hogg uses sticks with flags to highlight dog waste. Also chalk paint to paint on it. There have been issues with dog fouling for years.

As well as dog fouling, Ms Hogg addresses dog control issues such as dogs barking.

She informed the Community Council of the evidence for getting a person reprimanded. The Dog Fouling Act 2003 is the legislation concerning this. There needs to be one witness who can state where the person lives. Photographic evidence is not necessary but can be useful. Doorbell cameras can be used to take photos of dog fouling. It must be reported within 7 days from the time that the dog fouls. Every dog also must have a tag under the Dog Control Act.

There is a link in the SBC website which can be scanned with a QR code to the dog fouling page

Ms Hogg agreed to write a short article regarding the law, in an easily understood way, for the next newsletter.

It was pointed out that the Community Council is promoting walks in Stow and landowners are very concerned about dogs off leads. However, if a dog is kept under control, it is not necessary for it to be on a lead.

The state of the footpath at Fountainhall to the A7 was raised. The unlit section of the path frequently has dog poo which you cannot see after dark and step on. Ms Hogg will ask about street lighting along this section. A football game in Stow Park had to be abandoned because of dog poo.

The Neighbourhood Team pick up dog poo but will pick up litter as well.

It must be realised that dog fouling is not just unpleasant and a social nuisance. If a child gets poo in their eye, they can lose their sight. It is a public health hazard. It is worth reporting instances of dog fouling, even if you don’t want action taken. Ms Hogg can do a walkaround. Dog fouling comes and goes. There can be a lull and then it starts up again. It is not necessarily people who live in the area who are to blame. People come into Stow to walk their dogs because of the grassy areas.

Ms Hogg could do an outdoor session in the park. She is looking at compostable poo bags.

There is a network of green dog walkers who pick up poo and speak to people. So far 100 people have signed up for this.

Ms Hogg gave permission for her email address to be circulated around Community Council members. The Secretary will do this.

The Chair thanked Ms Hogg for coming and she left the meeting.

The discussion about signage continued. It was decided that there will be a community competition. The colours will be the Stow colours -yellow and black. The Community Council will put in an article in the next newsletter, using the logos which G. Stewart has drawn up and ask for any further ideas to be handed in.

General Matters

Book sales of the Stow history book have totalled £1070. A. McNeilly has dropped some off to

Mr Whittie, Peebles to sell and will take copies to Main Street Trading.

Some people are put off buying the book by the title, not realising that it is a history of Stow of Wedale. It was agreed to get stickers printed at Borderprint saying ‘History of Stow of Wedale’ , paid for by the book sales.

A £40 book token has been given to Cllr Aitchison as a retiring present to thank him for everything he has done as a SBC Councillor for Stow Community Council over the years.

The zoom licence for the year cost £143.88. It was agreed to use a microgrant for this. The zoom licence can be used for community meetings as well as Community Council meetings.

The Secretary attended a Scawd Law Community Liaison Group on behalf of Stow Community Council. The wind farm has not yet reached the planning stage. Access is now proposed via the B709 and this was discussed by the liaison group.

The Secretary of the A7 Action Group phoned to inform the Secretary of the Community Council regarding the changes which have happened and to invite a representative to come to the AGM. No members felt able to do this.

The need for a dog bin at Still Haugh, Fountainhall and more dog bins in Stow Park was raised again. Ms Hogg should be contacted regarding this.

S. Jeffrey sent a note with pictures of the North end of Stow to Colin Smyth and Christine Grahame.

Christine Grahame is going to come up to Stow regarding this. If possible, she should also go to Galabank to see the position there.

An application has been put into the Wind Farm Panel for funding for a drystone bench on the back road to honour the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. There was no application to the SBC fund because one of the conditions was that the entire project should be achievable for £2500. This is not the case for the Community Council project. An application has also been put to the Windfarm Panel for a further 2 years funding for the newsletter.

The Secretary is to ask Ash Denholm, MSP in charge of Community Safety to come to a Community Council meeting to discuss road safety.

A. Riddell is putting together an application for a grant to the Wind Farm for the collection bridge, with the backing of Historic Scotland.

Cllr Scott has received a letter from Sharon Morrison, Borders Buses regarding the X95 bus, which states that they are still having problems with recruitment.

Cllr Anderson has been dealing with flooding at Stagehall pouring into gardens at Wedale View. The Roads Team came out and the drain cleaner was used. The Roads Officer came and looked at the gully.

There is not much in the way of Capital and Revenue grants for the C11. Cllr Anderson will try to get the defects done.

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th April at 7.30pm on zoom. All welcome. Please could anyone wishing to come contact the Secretary on jjmushlin@gmail.com for a zoom link.

 AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

3. POLICE REPORT

4. GENERAL MATTERS

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

6. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

7. PLANNING

8. CORRESPONDENCE

9. AOCB