

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2011 AT 7.30PM

Those Present: D. Muir (Chair), I. Peacock, I. Anderson, J. Mushlin, Cllr. S. Aitchison, N. Muncaster, T. Millar, G. Saunders, A. McNeilly, Cllr. Mitchell, One member of the public.

There were no apologies.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed: I. Anderson. Seconded: I. Peacock.

Matters Arising

The bridge has been repaired on the supporting wall but more is going to go shortly. The matter is with flood prevention.

The culvert will be done.

The Community Buyout meeting was a success showing support for the project from the community. It will be going ahead to the next stage.

The pavement repair on Station Road has been completed but a car has crashed into it. This is being dealt with.

No-one was able to go to look at the community wind farm at Barrow-on-Furness.

Litter at litter bins is only being emptied fortnightly because this is a fortnightly run. Cllr. Aitchison is trying to get the bin at Burnhouse emptied more often.

Scottish Water are looking for a different size connector to connect the pipes they installed along the back road between Fountainhall and Stow last summer. The tobyas at the side of the road are an ongoing matter.

Tommy Millar has looked at 4 benches which need repair. He has costed it and will supply materials to volunteers. He will supply materials for £218. 2 red and 2 blue seats have been proposed. T. Millar is proposing that all seats are red and has measured them for the quantity of paint needed. It was agreed to give £218 from the microgrants fund for this.

Gavin Whittaker, Chair of Heriot Community Council has said Heriot Community Council will definitely support us at the Rowantree public enquiry.

There was no police report. Concern was expressed that, on Saturday 2nd April, there was an accident in the Southerly direction between a car and a cow on the road.

Councillors' Report

Work has started at Wedale View. Drainage, roads and pavements were not done satisfactorily so SBC has put together work to get this done, which has started. It is not from the Council's budget but from the developer's insurance fund.

The developers have advised the Council that they are demolishing the Royal Hotel. The Council were advised work would start today (it hasn't). The Scottish Reporter granted the developer's appeal for demolition, but with conditions attached. As predicted by us, the developers are able to demolish the building but without these conditions. However, the gable end of the post office will have to be replaced to a satisfactory standard.

The drain opposite Springbank Inn – Cllr. Aitchison has asked the Roads Department to look at the whole drainage system, along with the drain at the foot of Craigend Road which doesn't block.

Mains gas – Cllr. Aitchison will continue looking into this. Scotia Gas Networks do the network. The Council are obliged to collate names of the people who want a gas supply. If enough people want it, it has to be installed.

Cllr. Aitchison is meeting with Mrs. Erica Niven to see about access to the countryside.

Cllr. Mitchell commented that there were similar problems with Laidlaw & Fairgrieve buildings in Galashiels to the Royal Hotel. Cllr. Aitchison, Cllr. Mitchell and Cllr. Lackenby decided not to take the situation regarding yellow lines on the Earlston Road forward via a public meeting.

Cllr. Mitchell has the following surgeries for constituents: Old Gala House – Friday 15th April 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Stow Town Hall Friday 27th May 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

Correspondence

Chris Wemyss requested £82 for Stow Youth Club. It was agreed to give him a microgrant for this.

Review of Engagement with Borders Community – D. Muir will respond to the consultation. The summary will be forwarded with the minutes of this meeting for the attention of all community councillors and the community in general.

John Williams, Secretary of Heriot Community Council will be acting as our spokesperson at Rowantree public enquiry. At the initial meeting the Reporter requested that all interested community council members present should form a group to present evidence together. This group is being formed with John Williams as spokesperson. On Thursday 7th April, there will be a meeting at the Black Bull, Lauder, at 7pm. D. Muir, N. Muncaster and J. Mushlin will attend this.

Girthgate Community Wind Farm – materials regarding this were distributed to community councils. A reply to our questions was sent to us which will be distributed with the minutes to all community councillors.

Shaw Park Wind farm – Jim Shanks is the preferred developer. The community have the chance to invest. Our view is that we would not hinder him in approaching the community. Selmuir site will be the most affected visually. Multinational companies will want this site if he doesn't have it. The Community Council can't invest in it and we are not qualified to give financial advice regarding investments. At a small meeting between affected communities it was agreed that we agree the principle of the energy for all structure, but have strong views regarding the planning of the actual wind farm. Those present agreed this view.

Carcant/Toddleburn – meeting regarding green issues with Chris Bell. 14th April – McFie Hall, Heriot. N. Muncaster will attend.

Claire Malster – the Borders Husting Debate.

Cancer McMillan Walks.

SEPA View.

Local Development Plan – Focus Group meeting.

Claire Malster – Big Society.

Public Consultation: replacement windows.

Voluntary Action Fund: application forms.

SBC – Floral Gateway Competition.

Meet the Supplier – SBC Management Service – D. Muir will do.

David Hume 300th Anniversary in Chirnside.

AOCB

D. Muir raised at planning forum concerns as to what is the position if an amendment is made that deviates from the original plan. Does that have to go to the neighbours for comment? The response was that if an amendment deviates from the original plan, it would have to be a new application which would have to be consulted on.

There was a request from Heriot Community Council for £5,000 to fight the proposed Fala roundabouts. It would not be appropriate for Stow Community Council to apply for a wind farm grant for this. The request was refused.

Residents of Still Haugh are complaining about dog fouling on the path between Still Haugh and Old Stage Road. Cllr. Aitchison will put leaflets on dog fouling through Still Haugh letterboxes.

Members present wished to congratulate Cllr. Aitchison on the success of the community buy out meeting.

Draft Accounts – the accounts are now closed. £98.40 was paid for the newsletter. £108.37 is in unsecured funds. We are waiting for the grant for this year.

The reed bed at Ludgate is not working. Cllr. Aitchison will look into it.

The website is not functioning properly. Vicky accepts it is not working. We need a couple of people to search out information for it. Your community website also needs someone to run it. Please could anyone interested contact D. Muir, Chairman. Currently we are paying £18 a month and this is due for renewal in September. We are not getting information about hits and it is not easy to find. G. Saunders will contact Vicky.

It was noted that when the A7 was closed HGV's used the C11. The question was raised as to why there wasn't someone at Heriot turning back HGV's.

Now that the public toilets in Stow aren't being removed, it was suggested that the bus shelter could be moved back off the pavement.

Fountainhall footpath – there is a large hole in the tarmac by the bridge. The fence between the footpath and field has gone.

Jonathan Hepton is coming to the June meeting. Questions were raised as to whether the road will be lit when the railway crossing is under way. We can ask him in June.

Dates of meetings –

Monday 9th May – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 6th June – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 4th July – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 8th August – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 5th September – 7.30pm – Fountainhall Village Hall
Monday 3rd October – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 7th November – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall
Monday 5th December – 7.30pm – Stow Town Hall

All community council meetings are open to everyone. We will make you welcome and give you a chance to express your views.

Date of next meeting – Monday 9th May – Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.