

**DRAFT MINUTES OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2012
AT 7.30PM IN STOW TOWN HALL**

Those present: D. Muir (Chair), A. Riddell, J. MacKenzie, A. McNeilly, G. Saunders, J. Mushlin, Cllr. J. Mitchell, Cllr. S. Aitchison, 1 member of the public.

In attendance: Jonathan Hepton

Apologies: I. Peacock, T. Miller, Cllr B. White, Cllr B. Herd.

Jonathan Hepton attended the meeting to give an update on the Borders Railway. Network Rail has been appointed as the authorized undertaker and has agreed an outline, cost and timescale, which will be launched on the 6th November. Transport Scotland is the sponsor. There will be community events to show the plans in November and Stow will be included. The local authority will assist with the land for the railway. There will be double track at Stow. Building works will start after Christmas and there will be construction traffic associated with the railway.

The members of the Community Council were assured that the new road linking Fountainhall village and the A7 will have street lighting. Pedestrian access will also be maintained between Fountainhall and the A7 at all times during the construction process. The design contractors are BAM – Nuttall. Stow Community Trust is meeting with Mr. Hepton and the planning department with the idea of maintaining the old station building as a coffee and newspaper facility. Otherwise the building will be demolished and the site used for car parking. Alternative car parking has been suggested. The planning department wants to make sure this idea has community support and the facility will be used. It will be in the middle of a Network Rail car park. However, this is the original station building and it is important to preserve Stow buildings. Craig Bowman will be PR manager. Mr. Hepton will take this up and make sure all relevant people are aware of the Community's wish to retain the old station.

The sewage pipe under the railway by Wedale View has never been fixed, as far as the Community Council is aware. It was meant to be fixed by the contractor building the houses. Concern was expressed about building a track over the pipe if it has not been fixed. The reed bed has to be done by Scottish Water – the developer went bust. SBC haven't

yet decided whether Network Rail soil can be used for raising the level of the park and for flood defences. Network Rail would help with construction and there would have to be works to retain soil and prevent it from being washed away. Flood defences are needed from behind the Springbank to Stagehall. Also opposite the new houses North of the Springbank. There is a massive job looking at drainage in the park. Flood prevention officers would need to have a serious look. Jonathan Hepton will discuss this further with Network Rail and assist in any way possible. If the appeal to the lottery regarding the park were successful then an application to get the whole job done would be the first option. The members of the Community Council thanked Mr. Hepton for attending the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed by J. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Muir.

Councillors' Report – Cllr Aitchison put in an appeal regarding the park on the grounds that people in postcode areas that are listed as eligible for funding use the park. The Lottery wanted more information. If the appeal is successful there will be a public meeting and the next stage is a layout plan.

Cllr Aitchison reported that SBC are proposing that wind farms should have to justify why they should be allowed to develop in a specific location rather than SBC having to justify why it should not be allowed. Currently this is only a proposal. It has not been fully discussed. The Secretary is to write to Brian Frater, stating the Community Council's approval of this proposed policy.

Digital displays are not going to be at Fountainhall and Heriot showing when buses are due to come. It was felt these areas need them more. Cllr Aitchison is going to ask Craig Douglas about this.

Cllr Aitchison received a letter from the Scottish Executive saying basically that nothing will be done about the A7.

The white lines on the A7 need replacing. Cllr Aitchison will continue trying to get this done.

J. MacKenzie and A. McNeilly will go to the A7 Action Group in January.

Cllr Mitchell said that he would raise the subject of trees in Kirk Wynd again.

Finances will be tight for the next 4-5 years.

Planning – change of use to form 2 dwelling houses – Little Cathpair.

Correspondence

Helen Jeffrey – proposal to rejuvenate 5 containers and raised bed beneath the welcome to Stow sign. Further correspondence requested for the Stow community fund.

Neil McKay – Local Community Paths – Maintenance Grants for Community Councils.

Clare Malster – Land Reform Group.

Jenny Wilkinson – Scottish Borders Council Decision Making Structure – Eildon Area Forum.

SBCCN Network AGM – Clare Malster.

Community Council Shortlife working group recommendations – will be distributed to all members with the minutes.

Affordable Rented Housing Advisory Group – Clare Malster.

Linda Cornwall – Climate Challenge Fund.

Scottish Natural Heritage – the Nature of Scotland.

AOCB

It was stated that more community councillors are needed.

It was agreed to invite Wendy Ball to the December Community Council meeting to discuss the newsletter. Wendy Ball has put together a starting point and a plan to take forward for a concept of Stow Heritage, with a Heritage Trail. At the centre is the Old Kirk. The question was raised whether the Community Council can adopt the Old Kirk. The concept would probably include the Old Kirk, bridge, old school, Town Hall and station and involve several groups.

Diana Muir is happy to go on the new Eildon Area Committee, with Jack MacKenzie as the alternative member. Both are unable to attend on the 14th November and put in their apologies for that meeting.

A. Riddell knows someone with a climbing licence for felling trees. This needs to be discussed further.

The Secretary was asked to write to SSE to find out the date when we will receive the next tranche of money for the community microgrants.

Resilience Group – Wendy has chased up the questionnaire to encourage people to volunteer, which will be included with the next newsletter. Volunteers are needed to distribute the newsletter on the Earlston Road and Galashiels Road. J. MacKenzie and A. McNeilly volunteered to do this.

The wreath has been purchased for Remembrance Sunday. Ian Anderson will be asked to lay this.

Money has been allocated to improve the flooding situation at Symington and Still Haugh but no works have been done.

A. McNeilly has emailed Deidre at Historic Scotland for a report on the Old Kirk.

The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 3rd December 2012 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.