

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1ST JULY 2013 IN
STOW TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM**

Those present: G. Saunders, A. McNeilly, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr White, Cllr Aitchison, W. Ball, J. Williams, Heriot Community Council, Chris Walker, Laura Petrie – Muirhall Energy

Apologies: D. Muir

Chris Walker and Laura Petrie were explaining the current application to the Scottish Government for Girthgate Wind Farm. They are asking for 25 wind turbines which will produce 85 mgw. Their original plans were for 35 wind turbines. They cut down the number following public exhibitions held on 17th May. They have advertised the application in the local and national press. Chapter 5 was missed out in the electronic format and the photomontages are not good. They are doing an addendum and the new consultation period will be for 28 days after the addendum is submitted. They will be re-advertising in the local and national press. Community benefit will be £5,000 per mgw. They are discussing how this will be split up. Lauder, Oxton and Stow are involved. The photomontages will be digitally enhanced to make the turbines clearer. Noise assessment was raised. There are now 2 developers involved. There is also the question of how noise will affect the properties where there is no financial involvement. The position regarding Eskdalemuir was raised. This scheme is in a zone which affects MOD.

The position of the Community Council is that the cumulative impact of wind farms in the area is such that saturation point has been reached. The representatives from Girthgate said that there has been positive feedback from members of the public. Members present believe that our hills are being turned into an industrial zone. Scottish National Heritage have stated that Landscape Capacity Assessments are necessary. The Girthgate wind turbines are larger than any current wind turbines proposed for the area at 132m with the diameter of the rotor 10m, with 5m on the blade length. Copies of the documents currently available have been placed in the reading room in Stow Town Hall and are there for any member of the public to read.

Chris Walker and Laura Petrie left the meeting.

Allenshaws Wind Farm - A planning proposal has been received for this wind farm from SBC. It was felt to be appropriate to discuss this next. All 4 applications around Stow will be waiting for the MOD decision. These should not indefinitely hang over the community. John Williams has written very detailed observations regarding Allenshaws on behalf of Heriot and Parish of Stow Community Council. These observations were approved and are to be submitted by the Secretary.

Haltree Farm – 2 full size 74m turbines are proposed. It was agreed to object to this proposal on the grounds that full size 74m turbines are more appropriate for an industrial scheme. There will be extensive visibility. They lie in the MOD zone. The paperwork is inadequate and the cumulative effect of all turbines is unacceptable to the community.

There will be a quarry meeting on 31st July. G. Saunders will attend. J. Mushlin is not free then but would like to attend subsequent meetings. There was a meeting on Monday 24th July. The Council is duty bound to look at proposals to improve the road but BAM had not produced information to substantiate their case. A quarry at Fala Hill is proposed. Community benefit was discussed – there should be liaison between Stow and Heriot. J. Mushlin stated that Fountainhall Village Hall Committee have already approached the Quarry for help with funding for their proposed refurbishment.

The footpath at Fountainhall needs improved before the road is being constantly used by lorries with materials for constructing the new road. Councillors present were also asked to do improvements to the Lauder-Stow road before the railway starts, preferably now.

Wendy Ball discussed the newsletter. This can be done as a pdf for councillors. There is a problem with distribution. Help is needed with Craighend Road, Earlston Road and Galashiels Road. A letter was received from Holmlea that the newsletter was only received after everything advertised in it was over. An apology is to be sent stating that this was because the volunteer who normally does this was away. It was suggested that a dozen newsletters should be put in the Post Office and a dozen in Cloud House. Also that the newsletter should be scheduled just after the results of the wind farm applications have been announced. This is March, June, September and December. The Community Council thanked W. Ball for all her hard work and time in producing the newsletter. Ms Ball also mentioned that she has a heritage interpretation business and would like to do a prototype development for Stow. She would also like to place geocaches in Stow and asked for Community

Council approval for this. This was fully endorsed by the Community Council.

Minutes and matters arising – Amendment – The Scottish Executive is now called the Scottish Government. Please read Scottish Government where Scottish Executive is written. The minutes were proposed by A. McNeilly, seconded by T. Miller.

The sandbank shed has been fixed. G. Saunders stated BT are getting back to him regarding wi-fi. Hazelbank Quarry are supplying wood for planters in Fountainhall.

Quoiting Green – the Parish Trust discussed this. J. MacKenzie and A. McNeilly have talked to Network Rail and they are worried about the junction with Galashiels Road and Station Road. They suggested they would put hardcore on the Quoiting Green free of charge. A. Riddell will take the matter of the Quoiting Green forward with the Parish Trust.

Old Station House – J. MacKenzie and A. McNeilly handed over updated plans to Network Rail. Architect drawings have been done. There are 2 offices which can be used by Transport Police and maintenance. Under the ramp there is a storage area. The options for adopting the building need to be known. A. McNeilly and J. MacKenzie are going to Appleby to see how they run the station.

General Matters – The manhole opposite 4 Still Haugh is dangerous and the responsibility of Scottish Water. Craig Blackie has referred it to them but nothing has been done. Cllr Mitchell will take this up.

Councillors' Report –

There is speeding at Galabank. Some bus drivers will not stop at Galabank, although it is a request stop. Drivers are allowed to use their discretion and not stop if they feel stopping is dangerous.

There is vandalism in Stow.

Stow Park – there is believed to be money in the budget to shore up the Gala Water, dig out Mill Lade and do the drains.

There is concern about the stonework on Station Bridge.

There has been a reduction in grass cutting.

There is a temporary new head teacher at Stow.

Cllr John Mitchell is holding a surgery in Stow in August.

A Petitions Committee has been set up with 7 members. This can take up any grievance, with 10 signatures.

Planning – Alterations and extensions to reinstate into one redundant cottages 3, 4 & 5 Burnhouse Mains, Stow.

Correspondence

Clare Malster – Tell Me Scotland

Report on Proposed Bylaws to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in designated places – The Secretary is to respond that the Parish of Stow has no problems with alcohol and does not wish prohibition in this area.

CC Scheme Review – seats – Clare Malster

SBCCN Annual Conference – Clare Malster

Clare Malster – Home Energy Scotland

Tracey Logan – Community Councils Insurance Cover and Insurance Certificate

Safer Borders

Scottish Borders Elder Voice

AOCB –

G. Saunders can no longer do the website. A. McNeilly will contact Marcus and offer to pay him a fee to do this. T. Miller announced that the Parish of Stow Community Council were successful in receiving a grant of £8912 for repairs to the Old Kirk. These have been approved by Historic Scotland.

Closed Circuit TV for Stow was suggested. This will be hosted by the school. Education are providing the set up but no money. A grant for

£4000 will be requested by the Community Council from the wind farm.
This will protect community areas from vandalism.

It was noticeable that the Stow Pipe Band were not present at Stow Sports.

**The next meeting will be held at Stow Town Hall on Monday 5th
August 2013 at 7.30pm.**

All Welcome.

