

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2013 AT
7.30PM IN STOW TOWN HALL**

Those present: G. Saunders, I. Peacock, A. Riddell, J. MacKenzie, A. McNeilly, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, Cllr B. White, 3 members of the public

Apologies: D. Muir, Cllr S. Aitchison

Also present: Bob Fleet, Graham Telfer – Hazelbank Quarry, John Williams – Heriot Community Council

Bob wished to thank Stow Community Council on behalf of Wooplaw Woods for the microgrant we made towards the removal of asbestos that had been dumped. This had to be done by a contractor. The Council has a grant available of £450.00 to community councils for path maintenance and clearing. Bob Fleet requested the community apply for that grant for paths at Wooplaw Woods. This would be of benefit to people in Stow. The Community Council approved this and the Secretary will apply for the grant.

Graham Telfer from Aggregate Industries spoke about Hazelbank Quarry. It is not operational yet. There has been blasting to clear up surfaces. The contact number for the quarry site is: 01578 760266. The quarry has to maintain visibility 160m to the south and to the north. There are temporary signs in. There will be another blast on 6th June. In August the permanent traffic signs will be erected. The quarry will produce 200,000 tons a year. The majority will go into Midlothian but some will come south. There will be 36 trucks a day and the quarry will be at full capacity in September. Borders Rail will also be using heavy plant in 2014. It was felt that the entrance is dangerous and very clear signage is needed. Trees will be cleared.

Mr. Telfer was asked if timber could be put to community use. The Estate Manager, Geoff Stovie, will liaise with the community as well. Liaison with Community Councillors is proposed. There will be a warning hooter at the time of the blasts. Trucks will belong to both Aggregate Industries and other firms. All trucks will be warned about speeding and action will be taken if any speeding is reported. The A7 is not a trunk road. There is a major concern that the road surface will deteriorate from the impact of so much heavy traffic.

John Williams, Heriot Community Council, showed a view of Girthgate Wind Farm on Lauder Common. The views produced by Community Wind Power do not show the full size of the turbines. This is going to the Scottish Executive for approval. Stow Community Council is a consultee. All comments go to the Energy Consents Unit at EconsentsAdmin@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. Anyone who has any comments should send them electronically to the above address. Scottish Borders Council should also be made aware of local views. If SBC recommend refusal then it goes to a public enquiry. Another wind farm, Allenshaws, is coming to the planning committee soon. If all are approved; Allenshaws, Girthgate, Longpark and Rowantree will circle Stow. Heriot, Stow, Fountainhall and Lauderdale could all co-operate together to produce a robust objection. This was agreed in principle.

The next stage is lobbying SBC councillors, encouraging all residents to express their views. John Williams will help in any way he can and was requested to give us guidance. Girthgate are breaking the rules on noise levels. There are not enough montages and the Community Council can object to the cumulative effect of so many wind farms. John Williams is willing to act on our behalf. The Community Council unanimously object to Girthgate Wind Farm. The members of the public present also unanimously object. Girthgate Wind Farm should be reported in the next newsletter. Finances should be discussed later. John Williams will liaise with G. Saunders who will circulate to the rest of the Community Council.

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by J. MacKenzie and seconded by A. Riddell. It was raised that they no longer have a calendar year on them. This will be rectified.

Police Report

This was emailed at 4pm for the May meeting when G. Saunders was on holiday. The current report stated that diesel had been stolen from 2 HGV lorries parked in Stow and that precautions should be taken when leaving property unattended. No tools or equipment should be left lying outside. There was an incident of a dog killing a lamb in a field, and dog owners were warned to keep their dogs on leads at all times when near sheep. Vehicle and speed checks will continue to be carried out in the Stow area. The community Sergeant would like to come to the next Community Council meeting. Members felt that not all accidents are being recorded and were asked to mark every accident on a map. BAM are raising concerns about the A7.

Quoiting Green

A. Riddell is going to a meeting with Stow Parish Trust. The Community Council wish to invite a member of the trust to become a Community Council member. Proposed by T. Miller, seconded by J. MacKenzie.

Old Station House

Old Station House are currently trying to set up a meeting with Appleby, Yorkshire, where there is a similar project. Costings are needed and feedback from Network Rail.

Stow Park

SEPA have agreed that the Mill Lade can be cleared out, with conditions attached.

Hill Terrace

The Council are refusing to cut the grass on the right of way behind Hill Terrace. Cllr White will look into this.

The Eildon Area Forum were not quorate at the last meeting. There is likely to be a meeting on 19th June to discuss 2 proposals that were not approved by the Council.

Consultation on drinking in public places

It was felt that Stow does not have a problem and it would create a problem at outdoor events if drinking was not allowed.

The door is hanging off the sandbag shed in Stow. David Green said he would fix it on 2nd May. Cllr White will look into it.

Correspondence

Scottish Executive – Section 36 application for Girthgate Wind Farm – Gordon Brow.

Scottish Executive – Gemma Gallacher – Section 36 application for Girthgate Wind Farm.

Scottish Government – Community Resilience Seminar.

Scottish Borders Walking Festival.

Older People's Joint Commissioning Strategy.

Border Rail Safety Community Fund.

David Richardson – Winter Service Review.

Community Wind Power – Girthgate Wind Farm Application.

SBC – Supernature.

Wendy Ball – request to speak at July meeting.

Clare Malster – SRDP 2014-2020 Consultation.

Clare Malster – PINS Update – Tell Me Scotland.

Jackie Cooper – Stow Parish Archive – it was agreed that G. Saunders would look into costings and the possibility for wind farm funding for wifi.

AOCB

Galawater Horticultural were given a £150.00 microgrant which they ring fenced. They would like to use this for permanent banners for the Flower Show. This was agreed.

G. Saunders would like to put planters at the foot of Fleming Place. Craig Blackie, SBC, has approved this. It was suggested he should speak to Charles Field about this.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st July 2013 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

