

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 4th MARCH AT 7.30PM

Those present: J. MacKenzie, G. Saunders, A. Riddell, I. Peacock, J. Mushlin, Cllr White, T. Miller, D. Muir, A. McNeilly, Cllr Mitchell, 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr B. Herd, Cllr S. Aitchison

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by J. MacKenzie, seconded by A. McNeilly.

The issues surrounding the G20 school bus have been resolved. A new single decker bus with 70 seats and seatbelts will be provided for the route.

The Park – There is going to be a meeting between David Green, Scottish Water and SEPA regarding this. At the recent Eildon Area Forum there was a lack of awareness that there are serious problems with Stow Park. Cllr White, as Chair of Eildon Area Forum, was requested to put Stow Park on the agenda at the next meeting. Councillors present agreed that all 4 SBC Councillors for the area could meet D. Green and Craig Blackie to get progress. SEPA need to come to Stow to see the situation. There was discussion regarding getting a licence and permission to clear out the problem area. This would only be from the Quoiting Green to Mill Road.

There was no police report.

The Old Station House – Network Rail is hoping to use this as a workstation. Plans will be drawn up with the idea of opening this up as a community facility at the same time as the railway opens. The project has joined the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, and B. Jamieson has been to a cycle shop to arrange cycle hire as another facility to offer. The Archive group will have a presence there, and it is likely that Transport Police will be based there. Cllr White stated that there will be 41 access points to the railway.

General Matters

Craig Blackie stated in a letter that the road will be surfaced at Fountainhall. Now, apparently, that will no longer be done. The back

road between Fountainhall and Stow is currently being destroyed by lorries and tractors. D. Muir will raise this. Network Rail have said they will put passing places in.

The Community Foundation have given Stow Community Council a cheque for £2,552.05 which is the EDF contribution for microgrants for the following year.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr John Mitchell informed those present that the Area Forum is far more useful than the previous Area Committee.

Cllr Bill White stated that there were no planning issues affecting Stow and Fountainhall.

Cllr Aitchison submitted a report as follows:

Lauder Hill has been patched. I have reported the fact that they missed one of the most dangerous ones on the knuckly about 100 yards Stow side of the Waterin' Stane. Hope this will be done asap.

Old Stage Road patched.

Symington Farm entrance completed.

Although the budget was allocated some months ago to resurface the road at the corner at the Old Station House at Fountainhall, the Council has decided that because of impending works to change the road access for the railway, it would be daft to spend a big sum of scarce money on this road. I have asked Jonathan Hepton (SBC Railway) to ask BAM to surface it because of their use of the old railway sidings as their works yard. He has already done this and I can report that BAM are saying that the new road at Fountainhall is a priority and should be done early in their schedule. They also say that they will monitor wear because of their increased use of this road and, if necessary, will patch as they see fit.

G20/X95 School Buses

I attended a meeting at Gala Academy on Friday. This has brought to a conclusion a rather long concern about the state of the bus being used for the journey. First Bus have now sourced a 70 seater single deck vehicle with seat belts to replace this and it should be around in a week or so.

Stow Park

There is a meeting with “Sports Scotland” at the park on Wednesday to see about funding. I suspect they will say that we need to transfer ownership away from the Council but we will see.

Craig Blackie has held meetings with SEPA and Scottish Water and is pursuing what can be done with the waste pipe across the Lade at the bowling green. SEPA have confirmed that, if the Mill Lade is to be cleaned out, they will require some form of trap at the outlet. I am hoping that Craig’s investigations will progress this work.

Not happy with the general state of our pavements. I think a man with a brush is more appropriate than the blower thing!

The upkeep of the Hill Terrace Roadway is again in focus. This is a long running problem ever since these houses were built by Midlothian Council. It would not do any harm for the Community Council to send a letter asking for clarity. I have files on this matter and would be happy with your support. I do, however, feel we are going to be unsuccessful yet again.

A quote is needed for the Hill Terrace Roadway. A. Riddell will get the quote.

Planning – Airvolution Energy Ltd – Muircleugh Farm, Berwickshire.

John Williams has put in an objection to this wind farm proposal on behalf of Stow and Fountainhall Community Council. It was agreed that we are at saturation point with wind farm proposals and that it is appropriate for John Williams to do this on our behalf. The plans will be placed in the Reading Room for any interested members of the public to peruse.

Correspondence

1. EDF Longpark Community Fund – grant cheque.
2. Bob F at Wooplaw – Grass Cutting Grant. It was agreed that the Community Council will apply for this on their behalf. Further details are needed.
3. Fountainhall SWRI – Community Council small grant award.

4. Clare Malster – www.tellmesotland.gov.uk.
5. Community Energy Scotland.
6. SNH Informal Evening Reception.
7. Community Council Scheme Review – it was felt appropriate to discuss this at our AGM as it has constitutional implications.
8. Girthgate Wind Farm Update.
9. Clare Malster – Scots Together.
10. Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights.
11. South of Scotland Next Generation Broadband.
12. Scottish Borders Low Carbon Strategy.
13. Safer Borders.

AOCB

The pathways into the park are rough steps. This is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. More suitable pathways need to be provided.

The wall at the Old Bridge. It is important to see what can be done. Craig Blackie will be asked about this. The weight and speed of traffic is damaging the wall. Some form of traffic calming is needed. Emergency Services oppose speed bumps.

The A7 Action Group is at Selkirk on 28th March.

Burnhouse layby – someone crashed into the wall. Cllr White will deal with this.

A street light was demolished in an accident at the north end of the village.

The next Eildon Area Forum is on Wednesday 1st May.

Newsletter – more time is needed for the Community Council to look at the newsletter before it goes to press. T. Miller stated that it would be helpful if the schedule of the newsletter could be changed to tie in with the Advisory Panel.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will be on Monday 1st April at 7.30pm in Fountainhall Village Hall