

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th
JANUARY AT 7.30PM IN STOW TOWN HALL**

Those present: D. Muir (Chair), G. Saunders, J. Mushlin, I. Peacock, T. Miller, A. Riddell, J. MacKenzie, A. McNeilly, Cllr B. White, Cllr S. Aitchison.

There were no apologies.

The Chair wished all present a happy new year.

Minutes and Matters Arising

Helen Jeffrey is preparing the planters.

A. Riddell received quotations for the church. There is a danger of bits of the old church falling down. Robin McMillan is doing repairs, starting in the Spring. He also quoted for the bridge. Emergency repairs will be done to both the church and the bridge. This is being funded by microgrants. Lime water is needed for Old Kirk repairs which will come from Community Council funds. The chainsaw and lopper have also been fixed from funds. Volunteers lopped trees which went on the New Year bonfire. The church has now been stabilized. The Scottish Heritage architect cannot come to cost the old kirk until mid 2014.

The Community Council are getting their own costings for a Wind Farm bid for the Old Kirk in the Spring. The ivy needs cleared. The Bishop's Palace is also in a dangerous state. The Council might have an archaeological report on this. Cllr Aitchison will try to find the report. The Bishop's Palace is separate from the Old Kirk. There were previous moves to knock it down but this was vehemently opposed by the Community. Graeme Lofthouse is willing to have a railing round the Packhorse Bridge. The old church is now stabilized so there is something to repair. The costing for the Wind Farm needs to include scaffolding – one of the main gravestones is built into the wall and there is dense ivy on top. 3 members will put in an application to EDF in the Spring which will come under the auspices of the Community Council. The Community Council will look after the old church. The Community Trust will look after the old school and the Town Hall. The Parish Trust will take forward everything they have. There will be a public meeting to

discuss the Heritage Hub. In this round of applications, W. Ball and J. Mushlin applied to the Wind Farm Panel for funding for the newsletter.

The minutes were proposed by D. Muir, seconded by G. Saunders.

Councillors' Report

Cllr Aitchison has requested a meeting about Stow Park. Preventative flooding work will be going on at the Gala Water to try to make sure water drains away and stop the water from the Gala Water getting into the Haugh. It was pointed out that the pipe at the bridge on Station Road needs to be re-done. The water draining from Lauder Hill has become progressively worse. There is a down water problem. Any interference with the flood plain is frowned on and the Gala Water flood defences have never been maintained. They start beyond the 30mph sign. In resurrecting the park there is no wind farm application possible for improving the park as the park is the Council's responsibility. There is no alternative park in Stow. If a Trust takes on the park there is access to funds. However, we don't have the capacity for it – there are insurance, liability, affordability issues, and not enough interested people. It was felt that there is no point in dealing with the Mill Lade until the pipe at the bridge on Station Road is dealt with. Cllr Aitchison will report on this at the February meeting. An Agenda item on the park will be at the beginning of the agenda for the next meeting.

South of Stow church, the A7 has collapsed. An emergency job to fix this will take place in 5 days.

A7 Action Group

Gordon Edgar and the Chief Engineer of Roads Dept. were asked if there was anything needing looked at where the bit by the layby is cracking, since a bit down the road collapsed completely. Only 2 accidents were reported North of Galashiels. We need to log all accidents. BEAR provided a detailed report. The Council also needs to provide a report as to what is being done North of Galashiels. A list of questions as to what we need to know will be drawn up before the next meeting. A checklist is also needed. The next meeting is in Selkirk.

Cllr B White reported that SBC have rejected the application for the Gilston Wind Farm.

Planning

Installation of external combi boiler, Galabank.

Refurbish and straighten Bridge, Bowland.

Correspondence

Charlotte Hendry – Fountainhall Children's Christmas Party.

Clare Malster – Notice of changes to Town and Country Planning, Scotland.

Scottish Government – How you can help to make your community more resilient.

Scottish Health Campaign Network.

Ian Anderson – Letter of thanks.

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan Update.

Youth Chex Funding Pack Launch – Clare Malster.

Longpark Wind Farm extension.

AOCB

A. McNeilly is attending a resilience meeting.

Thanks to A. Riddell for putting together the hamper.

The AGM of Stow Community Council will take place before the March meeting.

There is no allocation for housing in the local plan.

There is a meeting with Network Rail on Thursday to look round the Station House. They are interested in the idea of a newsagent and coffee facility. Accessibility of North and South platforms is still a difficulty. The engineering problem has to be resolved. Network Rail would like to save the Station House. The old Station House should be on the agenda for the next Community Council meeting.

T. Miller reported about the Wind Farm Panel. There were 3 applicants at the last round of applications.

Stow Development Trust were awarded £1,740. Sound Out were awarded £1,900. Stow Sports Committee were awarded £476.

The Panel have agreed that ongoing awards of up to 3 years can be made, with no need to reapply every year. They are concerned that very few people have submitted end of year reports. It is proposed that where an organization has failed to submit an end of year report and reapplies, the application will go into the next tranche of applications. The deadline for the next round of applications is 14th April.

SSE are holding £27,000 which has been allocated to Stow and Fountainhall. Initially, this was for an energy efficiency project. However, they will now award it for a project of any kind which has full community backing. If the Community Council cannot come up with a project within six months it will go into general Wind Farm funds to be disbursed in the normal manner. The Community Council has to ask the Community if they have a project. This will be discussed at the AGM at 7pm on Monday 4th March in Stow Town Hall. All ideas from the public and local organizations are being actively sought at this meeting. This will be published within the newsletter. J. Mushlin will inform W. Ball.

Fountainhall Community Resilience

At the open meeting about Fountainhall community resilience in the Summer, the Flooding Officer promised a barrier would be erected in the woods to prevent debris causing flooding at Still Haugh. He promised this would be done within a few weeks. It has never been done.

£60 has been disbursed for Fountainhall Children's Christmas Party.

The payment for painting the planters has been given to Fiona Jeffreys.

The next meeting of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 4th February at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

