

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2014 AT STOW TOWN HALL

Present: D Muir (Chair), J Mushlin (Sec), A McNeilly (Treasurer), C Hendry, A Riddell, S Jeffrey Cllr S Aitchison, Cllr B Herd, PC Anne McNair, Jean Robertson, (Grants Officer, SBC),

Visiting: Ms L Allen, Ms S Samson from Banks Renewables

Apologies: J MacKenzie, T Miller, Cllr White, Cllr Mitchell

Police Report:

PC McNair informed the CC of new police station counters opening hours (a list will be put up in the post office). Galashiels will be open 8am-6pm 7 days a week (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). Non emergency matters: call 101.

ALL road accidents on the roads in this area are now being reported back to the CC by the police, as requested.

Banks Renewables:

They are a smallish family business proposing a windfarm at Huntlaw, adjacent to the existing Carcant one- 7 turbines measuring 125m to tip, an amendment to their original proposal of 10. Heriot will be the main beneficiaries of the community benefit if permission is granted to the application. Heriot are in discussion with Banks Renewables over the possibility of upgrading their broadband (as has been done after a development by Banks nr Kendall). The developers are resubmitting an application at the end of March for their anemometer (the first one was too close to hen harrier nesting site); the main application for the turbines is probably to be made some time in September; we will be kept informed. The other community benefit that was described was a payment (the figure of £5k was mentioned) to local firms to encourage/help them take on apprentices from the local area. In other areas, local firms have been encouraged to group together as consortiums. Ms Samson & Ms Allen then left the meeting.

Jean Robertson, Grants Officer, SBC, had come along to outline and clarify grants and funds that are available to communities, with a view to making it easier for groups and communities to understand how to access these, and the procurement thereof. The Council's objective is to maximise external funding for schemes where it would be suitable to go elsewhere, and to encourage match funding; Jean gave examples of funds available:-

- Big Lottery/Awards For All; open to applicants to fund development projects, projects at quality-of-life-improvement, facilitating change etc. up to £10k. Match-funding with windfarm grants is encouraged. Suitable for all types of community groups.. (eg playgroups, schools, community hub centres, youth clubs etc).
- 'Communities 2014': £2k grants, open to groups wanting to promote sport/physical activities
- 'Celebrate': grants of up to £10k, in celebration of the Commonwealth Games: only available during 2014, and can be used for projects inspired by/to commemorate the games. Not exclusively sports orientated, projects can be arts/education based too.
- A Community grants scheme to try and keep organisations in financial difficulties going, eg a shortfall to provide support for upkeep of premises, between fundraising events, other overheads etc
- The Landfill Communities fund is still available
- Local Festivals can apply for grants

The matter of who would administer the monies if a fund/grant was applied to/for and received. This would have to be looked into. The funding of new Christmas Lights from Awards For All (the replacing of old ones with new LED ones) was discussed, and the question of what else could be upgraded at the same time. Jean confirmed that Awards For All can work in conjunction with Windfarm Benefit payments/other community benefits in terms of match-funding.

She confirmed that these grant schemes were for projects/requirements outwith the Council's remit and normal responsibility. She encouraged us to ask her about anything we, the community, felt may be eligible, and she could and would guide any applicant to the right scheme/grant. Jean Robertson then left the meeting.

Minutes

Proposed A McNeilly, seconded S. Jeffrey

Old Station House: Network Rail need to get back to the group behind this before it can be taken on to the next stage.

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Herd has spoken to Alan Scott at SBC about the town hall kitchen and its upgrade/equipment replacement and has been informed definitively that in the current climate where cuts in vital services are unavoidable, there is no budget for any expenditure on the town hall kitchen; the existing cooker is adequate for the few events for which the kitchen is hired; if a large water-heater urn is require, a request can be made in advance and one can be obtained from elsewhere; the Council does not provide (and never has) pots & pans; if the community acquired a cooker the Council will instal it.

Re the request to look into the locked door in the storage area off the main hall, Cllr Herd had heard directly back from the Fire Officer who said that it had to be kept locked unless the area was clear (ie tables and chairs out in main hall, for a function). D Muir will further look into this.

Stow Park: Works relating to this going out to tender this week. A meeting will take place which Craig Blackie will attend. It will be agreed to do the first stages of the work, and the final shoring up will be done after the heavy water has abated. Hopefully the Galawater and the Mill Lade will be shored up by Stow Sports, after which the improvements can continue.

The playground is being upgraded; but equipment for older children needs to be thought about. This is up to the community to carry through - but SBC will maintain approved equipment that is installed.

Lauder Hill drainage: ongoing. Heavy lorries still using road. Resurfacing lasted pitifully short time. BAM have suggested August as being an appropriate time to resurface again. During Aug-Sept the railway ballast will be coming to/from Falkirk. The state of Station Rd was raised. No worse than ALL the roads currently. Although most damage/potholes caused/worsened by haulage trucks working on railway, it is SBC who are responsible for reimbursing for damage caused by these, and for repairing them.

The new white lines on the A7 will be painted when weather improves later in the spring.

Work at Falahill will commence late March. There will be no traffic lights.

Quarry between Hangingshaw and Heriot station will be closed off.

Question of fencing of railway was raised? What kind will it be? Stow station is under discussion re this and other matters and an visit will be made in the near future to discuss adjustments to this.

Wall at Burnhouse layby: this is the responsibility of the landowner.

Signs with smiling/cross faces: these are supplied via the Police Partnership. We should contact them re coming to a CC meeting.

Still no sign at Galabank: this will be installed soon.

Mark Douglas (SBC Planning Dept) will be invited to look at A Riddell's designs for railings.

Community Resilience Fountainhall: J Mushlin will put in an application to the Windfarm Fund on behalf of the CC for a defibrillator.

Correspondence:

Microgrant applications: Alison Kerr, request for £75 to childrens' Easter Egg hunt Fountainhall: granted

Wendy Ball, annual request for running costs for newsletter: granted

Margaret White: request on behalf of WRI for £180 for demonstrations: granted

Marcus Naylor: request for £133.27 for 2 years' hosting of website: granted

Other correspondence: Consultation on Scottish Borders CC Schemes; Scottish Borders Walking Festival; Clare Malster, Draft Minutes of SBCCN; AES Europe, Works to Lakes, Streams & Ponds; Forestry Commission: Initiatives in using wood; Airvolution Energy: information on Muircleugh Windfarm Proposal; Draft Scottish Policing Plan; Letter of thanks for microgrant from Church Board; Fifth Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements; Natural Energy - Local Renewable Energy Generation; The Bridge - publication; Zurich Insurance; Longpark Windfarm Extension Proposal

AOCB

A McNeilly had had a letter from Lynne Crawford, customer services at Scottish Power which explained that the frequent power cuts currently being experienced are as a result of faulty equipment/transformers in the network. This is being dealt with.

Dog fouling in Mill Rd: sensible member of public had sprayed this purple to show it up.

Fountainhall litter: BAM need to address

Sewage on Craigend Rd: Cllr Aitchison looking into

Local plan: Section 20, adjacent to Wedale View should be included in plan for development but is not; J Mushlin will object to SBC: Local Plan on behalf of the CC, stating this

Cotland Road steps - in dangerous state. Cllr Aitchison will see to.

Next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm in Fountainhall Village Hall. All welcome.

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL, TO TAKE PLACE ON 7<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL 2014 AT 7.30 pm IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

1. Apologies
2. Minutes & Matters Arising
3. Police Report
4. Windfarm Panel
5. Old Station House
6. General Matters
7. Coucillors' Reports
8. Planning
9. Correspondence
10. AOCB