

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 2nd JUNE at STOW TOWN
HALL 7.30 pm

Present: D Muir, J Mushlin, C Hendry, Cllr Sandy Aithchison, Cllr Bill White, Cllr Bill Herd, T Miller, A McNeilly, A Riddell, I Peacock, 1 member of the public (B Jamieson); Jonathan Hepton, SBC

Apologies: J Mackenzie, Cllr J Mitchell

Councillors' Reports

Cllr Aitchison:

Sandy had had an email from Jason Headley (in charge of relevant dept at SBC) re Stow Park; the company who are carrying out the works will re seed where the spoil has been laid after Stow Sports – so this area will be out of action for Sports. Apologies have been made for unsightliness in meantime. The padlock to the park has been superglued by vandals over the weekend, Apparently this isn't the first time this has been done. This necessitates wasted time breaking open lock, plus purchasing new lock.

Prognosis for upcoming season – football pitch will be usable .

2 planned aftercare visits from Sportsmasters (the company doing the job). The Council will cut grass every week to ensure smooth germination of new grass.

Wed a.m 8.45 a.m Sandy meeting at Park with Malcolm Clapperton (consultant from Edin)+ Hamish or someone from Sports Committee to check everyone is

happy; the constant sponginess on bit nearest road is due to broken drains. This remedial work will be carried out but not til after Sports. The holes will be filled. The Childrens' playpark climbing frame in the middle will be replaced.

Community Garden area is to be drained (the bit between the bowling green & the Mill Lade) in due course.

Craigend Rd drains – these are being looked at.

Cllr White

Disabled parking spaces: ANYONE who has a disabled badge can park in a designated disabled parking space. SBC will monitor residences where the disabled person no longer lives there, very closely, so that unused disabled spaces are not needlessly left.

Rowantree windfarm has been refused.

Charlotte Hendry brought up the matter of signs in Fountainhall; Following a child being hit by a car while playing in the road, the Council put up signs saying 'Beware Children playing' etc – but they are obscured by the trees: please could the trees be cut back.

Still Haugh grass has not been cut: Cllr Herd said the Council were delayed in their grass cutting schedule.

Wigwag sign outside school? (solar powered flashing 20 signs outside school) – can these be installed?

Also – possibly something to break childrens' headlong rush up the pathway from Still Haugh before they get to

the road. Though it cannot be a barrier as this will impede pushchairs & bicycles.

The footpath from Fountainhall to Pirntaton road end is very overgrown with stinging nettles etc.

Someone has complained about rats.

Cllr Herd will take up the ongoing matter of the Layby in Stow. Alistair Riddell took a photo of a heavy lorry parked there and had reported it to the police. We have been asking for it to be closed for years. It is now a matter of urgency. It turns out that the police had directed the lorry to be parked there as it had shed part of its load at Torsonce (probably because of the road surface????)

2 fewer Councillors in the Scottish Borders has been mooted (32 down from 34);

Proposed Local Development Plan: Summary of representations

All summaries of responses to the Proposed Plan can be viewed on the following link:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/LDPresponses.

Jonathan Hepton then gave a presentation with an update on the railway project (and SBC's direct involvement therein)

Conditions of roads - JH is very aware than enforcement should be made on BAM & Network Rail. The Police are in regular liaison with BAM over this. SBC make

regular road condition surveys. There is obviously No point in re-surfacing just at moment as further damage will be caused , but something needs to be done urgently in terms of patching up, interim repairs. For example, Fountainhall road is in shocking state - potholes etc. - and is causing much concern in village. JH thought some temporary fixing had been done but nothing has been. The new road alignment will not necessarily replace this bit of road ..JH will see if some temporary pothole filling can be provided here as a matter of urgency.

Stow Station: NR have agreed to build a specific entrance to specific carpark rather than sharing the entrance with the Primary School. The new access will be off station road, roughly where current works access is.

A Draft Timetable for the Borders Railway: Trains will leave Stow at every half hour from just after 7 am to Gala/Tweedbank (9 min journey) then after 9.00 am, hourly; then after 17.00 pm, half hourly again until 20.00. Then hourly 21.30 until 00.09 (the last train)

To Edinburgh, (45 mins): the first train will leave Stow just after 05.30 am; Then half hourly from 06.40-08.40. Then hourly til 15.40pm, after which it'll be half hourly til 17.40, then hourly again until the last one at 23.40 pm.

Obviously this is subject to fine tuning and changes.

A conductor on the train will deploy the disabled ramp if needed. Trains will be 2 carriages; 150 seats approx.

Fares Stow - Edin return: £13 peak, £11 off peak
APPROXIMATELY.

There will be a Railway Project Network Rail 'drop in '
on June 11th at Stow Primary 15.30-19.00 pm

Lighting in Fountainhall: there will be lighting over the
new bridge at the road end; but there will be a gap
between these lights and the village lights;

Other Matters

The Royal Bank of Scotland are closing various
branches but after 18th June they will be operating a
mobile bank/van, which will be visiting Stow on a
Monday, mid morning (12-12.30).

Belinda Glennon thanked the CC for funding the visit to
Stow School by Nixiwaka, from the Amazon rainforest -
by all accounts it was a fascinating talk he gave.

Correspondence:

1. The Nature of Scotland (magazine)
2. Fifth review of local government Electoral
Arrangements: Public Consultation of our proposals
for councillor numbers (Local Govt. Boundary
Commission)
3. Martin Wanless, SBC: - Proposed Local
Development Plan: summary of representations
4. Clare Malster, SBC - Police Stn opening hours

Next CC meeting will be on Monday 7th July at 7.30 pm
in Stow Town Hall

