

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2014.

Present: D Muir, J Mushlin, A McNeilly, J MacKenzie, S Jeffries, Cllr Aitchison, A Riddell, C Hendry, 2 members of the public

Apologies: T Miller, I Peacock, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr White, PC Anne McNair

Minutes of the previous meeting were amended & approved

No police report

Before the meeting commenced the 2 members of the public were invited to tell us their reason for coming along in case it was a specific issue that could be dealt with, thereby sparing them from sitting through the whole meeting til the end! Their issue is: Lights for Fountainhall; they raised the question of why there are not going to be street lights all the way along from the village to the A7. We told them it was an old issue that we have raised on countless occasions in the past & are constantly told that it is outwith the budget and will not be happening. It was suggested that they contact Philip Barr at SBC whose department includes replacing/installing street lighting. We asked them to report back to us as to what response they got from their letter/email/call to him.

Matters arising:

There is a Lip on the A7 at Heriot, which is still bad despite SA extracting promise of improvement to this from Stuart McKay. DM will write to him....

SA said how appalling the road works at Heriot road end were and the design of the layout; he thinks the way it is configured will mean cars will come south far too fast straight onto the bad bend by the 'phone exchange.

Chris Hardie from SBC Roads Dept has walked the length of the A7 with some representatives from BAM in order to inspect the state of it. We are expecting his report imminently, which will make interesting reading. Jack asked specifically for a copy of this report before the A7 Action Group meeting (in Hawick, 19th Sept)

Re the side roads: Fernihurst is terrible, as are most of the others.

Tracey Logan wrote to Jenny Insert relevant info

Old bridge 'Layby': if the 2 planters were moved closer together and swivelled round, cars & minibuses would be able to stop there but buses & trucks would be prevented (Rabbies, the tour company, were approached and came up with this suggestion). AR said this was not good enough - it should not be a 'layby' at all, no one should be stopping there. SJ said that the survey that had been carried out to check how many vehicles had stopped there, had discovered that none did; AR refuted this. Sandy will ask Rob Dixon if the DLO could come and give a

price for removing the wall & rebuilding; AR suggested it was done with breeze blocks initially with a view to facing it with stone at a later date. SA will find out if Small Schemes might be able to fund it.

We need a proper car park in the village. Could this be on the Quoiting Green..!! JM will bring it up at the next Parish Trust meeting.... The Parish Trust approached BAM about doing something about making the QG into a carpark, and BAM will look into it and will get back to them. We agreed that the existing proposed station car park will not be big enough to take the railway parking.

Play park; some mothers are going to meet with SA to discuss equipment for the older children.

Football Club: they have applied for a grant from the CC to defray the cost of temporary using Gala Hotspur football ground & facilities until the park is ready. The CC agreed.

Councillor's Report: BAM have complained that on their new road by the Bowshank on Bowland Estate has locked gates; SBC will be putting in wych gates to let pedestrians/cyclists to pass, & Bowland Estates have acknowledged that they have to allow this to happen

The old water trough on the A7 is the only complete old water trough along the route; SA suggested it was moved from its existing position just beyond Torquhan south drive end, to the centre of the village and made a feature of.

Advanced driving tests: SBC are going to subsidise under 25's to sign up for this, the cost of which will be refunded by the council. Spread the word, it has not been taken up.

Pavement at Townfoot, Stow: will be repaired shortly. (from the PO down to the crossroads)

Broken drain in Craigend Rd also down to be fixed imminently. But these in due course, in order to avoid further traffic lights on the main road.

SJ mentioned possibly installing a 20 mph limit on Craigend Rd? Especially round the blind corner; also the hedges need attention. Sandy will ask the relevant persons..

Bottle bank - needs emptying; its fullness is NOT as a result of Stowed Out despite some peoples' comments!

There is a bad smell (of sewage) by council houses in Craigend Rd...Sandy will look into

JM: members of Fountainhall have complained about having to go to Stow to vote. CH said that bec the Fountainhall village hall is under renovation. No one had contacted the CC to ask if an alternative location be organised (eg the school) despite a complaint from a member of Fountainhall that the CC had ignored their question on the subject!

There is a large pot hole at Pirntaiton road end, which will be dangerous when it's dark. SA noted this.

The CC received a report from Chris Wemyss summarising the good feedback from Stowed Out; over 700 people came. It seems the prevailing mood was very good - Chris Wemyss said there had been lots of volunteers; he is proposing posting out another questionnaire to gauge peoples' thoughts, and suggested it might go out with the newsletter. Alistair Wright, MD of Green Energy, is going to come and speak to the CC to discuss possibilities of becoming involved in projects to benefit the wider community and not just Stowed Out, of which it is currently a sponsor.

Network Rail are NOT going to install maintenance staff in the Station building in Stow, which means that they won't be sharing/contributing to the costs of same. But this would mean more room for museum.

JM has applied to windfarm for money for the pensioners. He had found it difficult to find the application form online, however, and once found, it is not very user friendly as it requires documents to be attached etc. which is hard, especially for the non-computer-literate. DM will bring it up with the Windfarm Advisory panel.

SA has asked about cost of flashing speed signs in the village.

CH updated us on the Resilience Scheme; there is an email network - 'Alertline' - where households are directly emailed about weather warnings/thefts in the area etc etc. To sign up to this, visit the website - www.sbalert.co.uk

First Aid training: Charlotte said she has had an email enquiring as to whether people in our area would be interested in doing a course of F.A training for the community - & then in turn delivering training to others; she is meeting with someone from the Red Cross & will report back.

Planning:

Change of design to previously granted holiday chalet at Muirhouse; no objection

Correspondence:

£250 request from Galawater Camera Club from Microgrants;

Query as to why Stow aren't getting superfast broadband despite disruption while cables for it installed; we were surprised to hear this as had thought it was imminent. SA is going to speak to the relevant person at SBC and find out who to contact /broadband provider and set up a meeting where anyone can come & ask questions.

SA said he had taken on Police Scotland to ask why there are no armed police in the Borders & was told that officers from elsewhere who might be drafted for an incident, would *probably* be armed. SA protested at this but was rebuffed, as was he with the:-

Fire Station in Galasashiels - where he has recently learned that 13 men are being re-deployed to Edinburgh & elsewhere (further afield). SA argued vehemently that this was unacceptable - and was informed that it was not even open to consultation.

The next meeting is on October 6th in Stow Town Hall at 7.30 pm