

MINUTES OF PARISH OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 IN STOW TOWN HALL.

Present: C Hendry, I Peacock, A McNeilly, S Jeffrey, J MacKenzie, D Muir (Chair) T Miller, J Mushlin, Cllr Bill White, Cllr S Aitchison, W Ball, PC McNair. Apologies: A Riddell

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved; proposed A McNeilly, seconded D Muir

Matters Arising:

Brunta Hill windfarm is going to a Hearing; the joint appeal by Heriot & Stow CC's regarding Allanshaws windfarm will be submitted next week.

Police Report:

Police launched Operation RAC in our area to tackle housebreaking (working to identify culprits and bringing them to justice; high value goods being recovered and returned to their owners). Local police can provide advice on safeguarding property/possessions. PC McNair introduced herself to the CC as the new Community Police Officer for the area, who can be contacted by any member of the public at [anne.mcneilly@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anne.mcneilly@scotland.pnn.police.uk). She is based at Galashiels police station. She said there is a dedicated sergeant in the Roads Division who meets SBC, BAM and Network Rail on a regular basis. If people report anything dangerous on the roads, the police will turn up. The CC requested details of all accidents on the A7, not just those resulting in serious damage/injury. The A7 Action Group meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> April, in Stow Town Hall; a list of all accidents is needed for this. Accidents at Heriot as well as Stow are of interest. PC McNair pointed out that the police only have details of accidents that are reported to them - however, every call made by a member of the public is recorded, so anyone witnessing an accident/incident is encouraged to call. She will do her best to provide a fully comprehensive list for the Action Group. Speeding was discussed. It is possible that putting up a sign saying what speed each individual vehicle is doing, would be more effective than a 30mph sign. The 20mph signs have caused confusion. When the railway is finished and functioning, all the signs will be reviewed. Not all signs are controlled by SBC, eg Earlston Rd signs are Police Partnership. The Parent Council are talking about safer routes to school, and asking for a crossing at Craigend Rd, but this is problematic for various reasons. The school doesn't have adequate parking spaces (there are only 6), and there is a need for safe parking as cars parked outside in road lead to safety issues. However, the Community Police Officer can come if requested with a hand-held speed gun to deter speeding around the school. The price of a sign that flashes the speed of the vehicle passing it is £3-4,000. Cllr Aitchison will report back having consulted with other council officers.

There will be separate access for the school and the railway, the cost of which will be shared between BAM and SBC.

Old Station House: No change to situation.

Windfarm Panel: the closing date for the last round of applications was 20<sup>th</sup> January. The next panel meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

#### General Matters:

The Treasurer submitted a full accounting of Microgrants awarded by the CC.

Jean Robertson, Grants Officer at SBC, has been invited to the March CC meeting and will talk about available council small grants.

The CC are aware that of the 4 quarry houses at Cortleferry, 3 are empty. Local residents have for a very long time been trying to obtain tenancies of these with no success. The Secretary will write to SBHA to see if there is any possibility of them purchasing these houses (whose ownership remained with Edinburgh/Midlothian Council when the rest of the housing stock was transferred to SBC).

The pavement opposite the Springbank doesn't have wheelchair access and a 'dropped kerb' was requested by an individual. The Eildon Area Forum will be approached by Cllr White about this.

#### Councillors' Reports:

The work in the Park needs to be done soon. This has been arranged with Craig Blackie. Cllr Aitchison will involve the Football Club Committee & the Sports Committee once the contract is fixed. Cllr Aitchison will speak to Tommy McCall. Contractors will go in as soon as possible. The area proposed for the Community Garden is not being drained - there is not enough funding for this too. The Council have taken advice from consultants. The playing surface will hopefully be a higher level when completed. Flood prevention work was ready to go ahead in December, including seeding - but this had to be delayed as the seeding would have been washed away in December.

Drainage on the Lauder hill has to be delayed until the railway works lorries are not coming over the hill, as the road needs to be closed for the drainage works.

School week: the implications of changing to an asymmetric week was discussed. This will happen at the same time as the increase of nursery school hours.

#### Planning:

Alterations & extension to dwelling house at 2 Lauder Rd, Stow.

## Correspondence:

Application for Microgrant for Church Newsletter from Shona Owen, Clerk to the Church Board. £250 granted; Poster for Nursery Enrolment Week; CC Access Maintenance Grant; Clare Malster – Plunkett Foundation; Trudy Anderson – Community Awards; Clare Malster – Scottish Rural Parliament; Clare Malster – Climate Challenge Fund; Clare Malster – Survey of CC's; Clare Malster – Open Day, Victim Support; Clare Malster – Borders Chamber Referendum Date; Clare Malster – Proposed National Planning Framework 3 & Scottish Planning Policy; Safer Borders; Proposal of Application Notice – Muircleugh Windfarm; Connections – Borders Railway.

## AOCB

It was agreed that this year the Parish of Stow & F'hall CC will apply again to SBC for an access grant for Wooplaw Woods.

D Muir will respond to the Fire & Rescue Consultation

Wendy Ball discussed the newsletter: it was felt that it needs to tie up with the grants given by the Windfarm Panel. The next newsletter will come out the first week in April. Further dates will be the first week July, October & January.

Members were asked for a name for the newsletter.

All present thanked Wendy for all her hard work and dedication in producing the newsletter.

Wendy Ball also talked about the Archive Project. There are now sessions in the café and the Archive Group has been awarded grant to digitalise photographs. More people need to get involved in the project for it to continue to run successfully. There are a lot of small tasks that need to be done – eg putting information onto computer – and there is a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 in Stow Town Hall to try and recruit more members/volunteers involved with the Group.

The website was discussed. It no longer appears to be being updated. Polly Isherwood has offered to help with it.

Stow Parish Trust will meet on 14<sup>th</sup> February. CC members had no issues that they wished Jack to bring up at this meeting.

A7 Action Group Meeting in Stow in April: the CC members told the Councillors present that they are going to be charged £9.50 per hour to hire the upper hall for this as the only meetings free of charge are the monthly CC meetings. The response was that this has always been the case, though sometimes not implemented.

Historic Scotland have approved most of the proposed work at the Old Kirk and a grant will be forthcoming for the next phase of work.

The layby: SBC say they don't own it, but are happy for it to be closed while work is done to the wall; the CC will have to clear any work that they carry out with the landlord, and make sure the works are fully insured. Dave Richardson will come along and give advice. It was stated that it would be helpful if SBC would mark out where the road ends, and the layby starts. SBC say they will section it out with cones.

Microgrant accounts: it was agreed that these will be distributed with the newsletter.

Mobile Libraries: their visits will be reduced from 3 weekly to 4 weekly.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Stow Town Hall. All welcome.

MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE  
HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH AT 7.30 pm IN STOW TOWN HALL

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. BANKS RENEWABLES RE PROPOSED HUNTLAW WINDFARM
3. JEAN ROBERTSON, SBC GRANTS DEPT
4. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
5. POLICE REPORT
6. WINDFARM PANEL
7. OLD STATION HOUSE
8. GENERAL MATTERS
9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
10. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
11. PLANNING
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. AOCB

PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Diana Muir, Chairperson      Torquhan, Stow, TD1 2RX  
[diana.muir2@gmail.com](mailto:diana.muir2@gmail.com)

Jack MacKenzie, Vice Chair      5 Burnside Way, Stow, TD1 2RS

Jenny Mushlin, Secretary      18 Fleming Pl, Fountainhall TD1 2TA  
01578 760297

Alan McNeilly, Treasurer      Burnbrae, 28 Craigend Rd, Stow

Charlotte Hendry      Symington Mains Farm, Stow TD1 2SU

Stuart Jeffrey      139 Galashiels Rd, Stow

Tommy Miller      25 Galashiels Rd, Stow

Ina Peacock      107 Galashiels Rd, Stow

Alistair Riddell      244 Galashiels Rd, Stow