

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT STOW TOWN HALL ON 5th MAY
2014.

Present: D Muir, J Mushlin, I Peacock, J Mackenzie, A McNeilly, C Hendry, PC Anne Macnair, PC Vivien Bell, Margaret Bradley (member of the public)

Apologies: A Riddell, S Jeffries, T Miller, Cllrs Aitchison & White

PC Anne McNair introduced her colleague WPC Vivien Bell.

No comments on police report for the month.

Spoke about the fatal road accident between BAM lorry & BAM bowser tractor driver, on the A7 on 1st May; it was v difficult for the police to handle and she apologised for the closure of the road for a period of 9 hours while it was being sorted out.

Bus companies are informed by the police of accidents involving road closures; any failure of bus services in such circumstances is nothing to do with the police.

New Inspector at Gala: Tony Hodges.

A Public consultation on policing paper was left by PC McNair for us to complete.

We spoke about the warning sign north of the quarry entrance at Heriot; road users are so used to it now that it is no longer effective, particularly as it has been

flashing all the time, rather than only when the quarry is in use.

PC McNair will speak to the traffic sergeant about these concerns, as people are ignoring the sign – which in any case should be positioned slightly further north – and ONLY ILLUMINATED when trucks are really exiting, to stop traffic getting complacent about the possibility. PC McNair will report back to us - & Heriot.

John Williams, Chair of Heriot CC came to speak to us about what he is doing & saying on our behalf about the proposed Longpark windfarm extension, and the other proposed windfarm projects/developments:-

Rowantree is just about, he thinks, to reach a decision - finally. There is a question over the Eskdalemuir array – Eskdalemuir will no longer affect applications. JW has expressed disappointment to and with the ECU - apart from anything else, in the most recent documents there was a montage missing from papers (the one from top of Clint hill)

The Girthgate hearing will likely take place in Stow town hall

Allanshaws is to go to a local authority appeal; there will be no public sessions. John Williams thinks the decision on Allanshaws will be within the next 2-3 months. It is a flawed application that has been criticised roundly by all parties.

Longpark: there is a very comprehensive noise report from Dick Bowdler, acoustics expert. The 2km line from the nearest turbine to Stow runs slap thro the middle of

the village; 139 properties in Stow lie within the 35 decibel level, which is in contravention of the (convoluted) rules that govern turbine noise. Dick Bowdler thinks their - the developers' - assessment is inadequate or improper. John Campbell QC is acting pro bono for the joint community council group, and he has written saying that whole EIA is invalid owing to noise report being inaccurate. The developers may have to move 3 turbines.

John Williams says that on certain days when the turbines are working to capacity, the centre of Stow will be really very much affected by the noise. We should ask the developers to contact every one of these 139 properties.

It was decided that the CC will draft a letter and drop it to the 139 houses.....'ALERT: ARE YOU AWARE....etc' with a template letter for them to write ('My house is within the 35 decibel contour line...' etc etc)

We will also ask for an extension to the deadline to object (19th May)

It was agreed that the CC would make a contribution to the objection process as soon as our funds come through.

The Big Lunch-

Margaret Bradley had come to talk about a project/idea to get people together as a community and have a picnic-type lunch. Possibly have it on the Quoiting

Green with as many of peoples' tables and chairs brought along, supplemented by ones from the town hall. It's connected with the Eden Project, and the Whooplaw Woods committee suggested that children plant willow saplings along the river?

Margaret made a request for the sum of £250 from the micro grants fund for hire of tables & chairs from the town hall (they have got Bob Fleet's marquee, lent for free), hire of a disabled persons portaloos, & advertising. The proposed date is 8th June. The organisers are hoping that perhaps among others, people who don't access other community events will come. Jack will get clearance from the Parish Trust for this to take place on the Quoiting Green. Care should be taken as some of the stuff that's come out of the lade is full of sharp/dangerous debris/rubbish; the picnic/lunch/event should all be this side of the fence therefore.

We also suggested that Margaret contacted Jean Robertson the Grants officer at SBC, who has told us that there are funds available for community events to coincide with the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Matters Arising:

Jenny Mushlin had spoken to Keith Nairn of the Library Service at SBC, who affirmed that all 4 current stops for the library van in Stow will be maintained for the foreseeable. However, Jack Mackenzie mentioned that at the Eildon Area Committee meeting we were informed that SBC were intending to transfer some

community services including libraries,(also museums, archives, public halls, community centres etc etc) to a charitable trust – a ‘Culture Trust’ - in autumn 2015; to save money, of course. So this promise from the Library Service may be short-lived.

SBC ‘Small Schemes’: There is cash available at SBC for these; we should think about what needs to be done and contact the department sooner rather than later. –

No Councillors were present to present their reports.

General matters:

There is now a Rubbish bin in the north bound bus stop in Fountainhall.

The Bus stop heading south at Fountainhall road end is being temporarily closed and moved; the new location is too far away – close to the quarry bend; this is a dangerous spot, and also a place where there is no footpath. J Hepton & P Gilhooly at SBC are looking into this.

Our new contact at SBC (Eildon Area Community Council support) is Fiona Walling (01835 826504).

SBC are proposing to make Disabled Parking spaces Regulated Spaces, ie , once the regulations are in place, it will be an offence to park in them without

displaying a blue badge. There is a consultation period for this; We have 3 locations in Stow. If we wish to comment on this proposal we have until 21st May. Jane Webster is the officer at SBC.

Correspondence:

Jane Webster – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order
(Disabled spaces)

Community Council support arrangements

Charity Walk – Borders Holiday group

Longpark Windfarm – section 36 application

Streamlining Planning Assessments survey

Electronic publication of minutes & agendas

Performance opportunity within the Athletes' Village

Physical Activity and Active Ageing Conference

Scottish Rural Parliaments update

Borders Railway 'Connections'

Tweed Valley walking weekend

Countryside visits

SES plan – influencing the next S.E Scotland Strategic
Development plan

Local community paths – maintenance grants for CC's.

