

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON
MONDAY May 11th 2015 AT 7.30pm AT STOW TOWN HALL

Present: D Muir, J Mushlin, A McNeilly, T Miller, J McKenzie, A Riddell, S Jeffrey, C Hendry, Cllrs J Mitchell, B White, B Herd, PC Anne McNair

Wendy Ball, Mary Craig (Stow Archive), Heather Johnston, Karen Nelson, Marianne Finlayson

Apologies: Sandy Aitchison

Wendy Ball opened the meeting with an update of the project she has been working hard at for the last few months, which is a book on the railway; it is a comprehensive view of the Waverley line incorporating history, photos, anecdotes, maps, stories, cycle routes walks etc, beautifully put together and published by the business she has set up, Locus Focus. She is also developing an app, instantly downloadable to phone/tablet, giving the same information. She is hoping to have these book completed in time for the railway opening in September, when the barcode will be available to download & the book will be on sale at the post office & café (& station building??) – but Karen suggested that the map might be sold in the post office before that, as they (in the PO) are often asked for maps by visitors to the area.

The Stow community Newsletter dates will be slightly altered to incorporate railway opening.

Tapestry: WB has contacted Sam Smith & Kate Pearson & has been assured that the Tapestry in its new home will be open in 2017. Cllr Mitchell will check on proposed opening date., (Rob Dickson at SBC has said 2nd quarter of 2017 for opening of tapestry in new building)

Mary Craig, Community Archivist then presented the Archive's plans for WW1 memorial: she has already purchased from the Tower of London exhibition, a poppy for the archive; this led to discussion in the Archive Group about further commemoration in Stow for the fallen in WW1 & II; the names on our war memorial could form the basis of a project, starting with finding out about the people whose names are on the memorial, and contacting their families: Marianne Finlayson has made a poppy similar to those at the tower and the idea is to put a temporary art installation at our war memorial made up of poppies made by Marianne, each one 'commissioned' by a descendant of one of the fallen, with their name on it. Possibly there will also be forget me nots for those who fought & survived or were wounded. Mary circulated some designs/ideas of how it would be displayed by the war memorial. The Group are really seeking the CC's 'blessing' for the initial idea, so that they can develop it further, choose which design etc, & decided where exactly installation would be located. They will set up a Meeting Craig Blackie & Frank Dunlop from SBC to get official permission, pending our go ahead. The idea is to have installation ready for 11/11 this year; at the May 23rd Plant Sale in the town hall the idea will be launched & they will collect peoples' comments & ideas. They had thought they

would have some poppies ready-made in case a family had been unaware of the project/hadn't been able to find out in time; there will inevitably be some names without families & they too could be put on a poppy. The schools could get involved (Gala Academy have just been out to visit their war graves, for instance). We reminded Mary that money via Microgrants could be available if funding were needed.

The previous minutes were amended, approved (AM) & seconded (JM).

Police Report

Anne wanted to just update us with what had been done re the Parent Council survey at the school. A meeting to discuss traffic/speeding through the village will take place at 2pm on Weds 27th May. The police report had no major incidents to report; it contained a reminder from Police Scotland to the public to keep dogs on leads at all times, and that, in fields containing livestock, farmers are legally entitled to destroy dogs worrying sheep.

Heather Johnston came to inform us that there is an enthusiastic & thriving group of artists in Stow who could and would make use of the old school building as a Artists' Hub/craft centre....The Chair had emailed her to warn her that previous attempts to convert the building into anything had stalled owing to historic statutes which dictated that the building was actually owned by an individual whose was asking extortionate rent for the use of it. Alan then explained in greater detail, including reminding us all that the Village Trust had spent a great deal of time (and money) on a feasibility study to convert the old school into an educational centre with units to let, to intense frustration.

However - TM informed the meeting that there is an SBC sign saying the building is for sale! Bill White is looking into this...the asking price is £125,000; but there will be huge amount of repair & refurbishment, aswell as the fact that it is C listed.... Heather said that she will make enquiries also.

Yes it is for sale: however, the situation is far from straight forward.

Councillors' Reports:

Bill White: The Eildon Area Forum meeting is on Thursday night in Lauder school.

The Defibrillator: Re the queries as to whether or not planning permission would be required - BW has been asked for 2 more pictures of the site before a final decision can be made - he has taken them; the electric supply is straightforward to connect up from the Town Hall. Hopefully a decision will be made by next meeting. **No planning required, we need to buy box & get electrician to put it up**

Bill Herd: A Fountainhall resident had approached him about the dangers of people overtaking at the end of the Fountainhall road...we said that we knew only too well about that

Jenny Mushlin asked if there could be a dropped kerb at the road end This has been done!

TM asked if there could be pedestrian'/bike access to the footbridge at the Watherstone corner, where the new crash barrier is; Cllr Mitchell will report back

Craig Blackie says crash barrier erected for specific reason & should not be breached;

Boards missing on Cotland Steps:

Bill Herd is going to take forward our ongoing problem with the taken-down gravestones

CH mentioned passing place on back road between Fountainhall & Stow: Cllr Mitchell will look into it **SA has already asked for these**

Flood prevention in Park - what is happening? TM reiterated his concern that after the work that has been carried out (& monies spent) things must not be let slide; the third archway under the bridge needs clearing again... we were told this should be done bi-annually and it is due again. John Mitchell will look into this...

22nd May John Mitchell's surgery 4.30-5.30 Stow town hall. He can update people about the railway then; This date has been put on the website.

Cuddybrae path needs to be reinstated. Cllr Mitchell will look into it.

Sandy Aitchison had sent his report, which contained the following important points pertaining to last month's meeting not already covered above:-

1. Townfoot pavement: he has met Donald Scott of SBC who has conceded that the job can be carried out. Mr Scott has contacted SBC Legal & Enforcement Dept to get legal judgement on placing of fence & potential trip danger on the part of area not owned by SBC..... pending hearing from them about this, the work will be carried out (hopefully during the summer).
2. Drain up Lauder Rd: it looks as if a totally new drain will be required as point where this drain blocks is inaccessible; the exact route of new drain will depend on various things. This is under discussion so will not be carried out immediately. **SA has extracted from the relevant dept that this will be done in July**
3. Spoil dump from railway at Ferniehirst will be trucked to Falahill to complete the groundworks around and over the rail tunnel which will involve huge lorry use of road over 5-6 weeks; SA has asked that this be done outwith school time, for speed restrictions to be in place, for use of convoys to be tried - and for him to be kept informed of all plans

surrounding this operation. Almost certainly the C11 will be closed except for access. Work is likely to start within next couple of weeks; further details will follow as and when SA receives them.

4. An audit of the state of the road prior to the transport beginning will be carried out with SBC, and afterwards. SA HAS INSISTED THAT THE AUDIT SHOULD INCLUDE THE DAMAGE ALREADY CAUSED, OTHERWISE THIS WILL BE IRRELEVANT.
5. Layby at Gilston rd end; fence around this can be replaced, during which operation all rubbish that's been fly-tipped will be removed. Heriot community are being supplied with rubbish-collecting bags by SBC, who will take away the filled bags for landfill.
6. SA has spoken to Amanda Findlay at Stow school to get updated on celebrations for railway opening, and the exhibition; plans are well under way. He will make enquiries into applying for a share of the £50k fund available for these celebrations.
7. After a meeting with BAM, Network Rail, Transport Scotland & Heriot CC, alterations to the Heriot underpass lighting have been agreed.
8. During this meeting he again pressed for decision on old station building in Stow. However, the alteration of the gable end by 40 cm is being insisted on. This will mean final decision will be even slower in coming.
9. BAM/Network Rail will contribute to the landscaping that SBC are carrying out at Stow school; landscapers will liaise with Amanda Findlay. Works will be finished by beginning of autumn term 2015.
10. SA has spoken to Craig Blackie about the Park; cutting within the fenced area has started; area of small pitch has been moved slightly to ensure that it doesn't interfere with running track; there has been good cooperation between all Park users; New bridge to accommodate wheelchairs is being priced. This is part of a wider scheme to increase & improve accessibility to the park.

Planning:

Advance notification of intended application for 1 x 500 kw turbine above Kittyflat

Any other Business

Stow CC support grant for the year 2015/16 is £630

Fri 5th Sep: Rumour has it that there will be royalty on board the special train??? Can they stop in Stow station? SA is looking into it

Will BAM fund the rental of the hall (total of 29 hrs) for the jamboree to celebrate the opening ? This will be confirmed

Applications for 'golden tickets' are open; Jane Warcop, Events Officer at SBC & Brian Young, Transport dept SBC, are co ordinating the celebrations, with BAM

The Community Council as a whole agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

The meeting closed at 10 pm

Next meeting on 1st June is AGM (7pm) followed by normal CC meeting at 7.30

Resilience Committee: please come forward if you are interested in helping/being part of this group

The meeting closed at 9pm