

Draft Minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2018 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those Present : I. Peacock, C. Hendry (chair), A. McNeilly, J. MacKenzie, S. Jeffrey, J. Mushlin, T. Millar, M. Craig, N. Sim.

Guest Speaker: Ben Lamb, Live Borders

The meeting commenced with Ben Lamb taking on board the points community councillors wished to raise with Live Borders regarding Stow Town Hall. The heating upstairs in the Main Hall is not fit for purpose. When the Pensioners held their Christmas dinner for 60 people, one oven was not working. It would be helpful if someone could check that everything is working before a let involving the kitchen. Ben Lamb stated that Live Borders are undertaking a kitchen equipment audit of all Halls. There is not enough kitchen equipment in Stow Town Hall for a coffee morning. S. Jeffrey was asked to provide a list of all equipment needed. Ben Lamb explained that everything inside the Town Hall is the responsibility of Live Borders but the exterior is still the responsibility of the Council. He is in talks with the Council regarding all the work needed outside. J. Mackenzie raised that invoices were not being raised in time. He has not yet received one for the Pensioners Christmas dinner. The timing of this invoice is crucial as he is reaching the end of the financial year. Invoicing needs to be kept up to date.

Ben Lamb wishes to work in partnership with the community to get a better utilisation of the Hall. He wonders if a gym facility in Stow Town Hall is something that people would use. The Secretary will put a piece in the local newsletter asking for ideas and specifically mentioning gym equipment. The cost of the Hall was raised. Smaller groups have been put off using the Hall by its cost. Ben Lamb said prices have been reviewed and reduced. The Secretary will obtain current pricings and include that in the newsletter. There are now shorter booking times so it is possible to book for one and a half hours. There is keyholding for regular groups which is a very positive development, making access definite. It was commented that when trying to contact Live Borders out of hours, Bordercare Alarm does not work very well. Each area is unique and Ben Lamb would like to keep in contact with the community council in order to be in partnership with the community, either through attending our meetings at our invitation or one of the team attending our meetings quarterly.

The Chair thanked Ben Lamb for coming to discuss matters with us and he left the meeting.

Mary Craig, Stow Archivist, updated the community council regarding developments concerning the repair of gravestones in the Old Kirk. Permission has been given by Historic Scotland for repairs to go ahead. This permission has no end date, meaning that we can take as long as is needed to get the work done. We might not be able to go to a large funder. The work can only be done by a mason approved by Historic Scotland and there is only one in Scotland. The Lottery insists on three quotes and will not let any special circumstances change this rule. So only a small number of stones can be done at a time whenever funds come in from small funders. There are 131 stones. Half are lying flat and half are upright but need work done on them. There are definite conditions that work can only take place from 9am - 5pm from Monday to Friday and all mess

has to be cleared up at the end of each day. Advice will be taken from the stonemasons as to which stones to do first. The Council will not contribute in any way and will not give materials. An official letter is needed stating this for potential funders.

Mary Craig also pointed out that this is the last year of First World War commemorations and the Archive would like to do something large involving the whole community on Sunday 11th November. The launch of a booklet with every name on the War Memorial is proposed as well as a singalong and teas in Stow Town Hall. Mary Craig left the meeting

Apologies were given by A.Riddell, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Anderson and Cllr Jardine.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed: I.Peacock. Seconded: S.Jeffrey

Kathleen Lofthouse and Sharon-Anne Young came into the meeting to give an update on progress with the Stow Park project.

A contract has been awarded to Wicksteeds Playgrounds. Weather permitting, the work on the park will be started in March. The equipment is being made at the moment. A Security fence will be going up. The Council will be doing a tar path. Once the equipment is in, the path will be done and then benches will be put in. It will all be open plan and is for older children. The current provision for younger children will be retained. The metalwork will be dark green and the woodwork will be natural. Once started, work will take 2 or 3 weeks. However a lot depends on when the Council can fit in doing the path. Craig Blackie has said that he will try to get it done as soon as possible. The play area will be safety grass which consists of grass and matting. There will be 4 benches, including a bench in memory of Ian Anderson. Fliers will be put through the doors of residents who live near the park.

The Community Council congratulated Kathleen and Sharon-Anne on their achievement ,who left the meeting at this point.

Police Report – A police report was received prior to the meeting and noted by community councillors. There were no significant incidents in the area. Warnings were given about internet scams. Especially that if someone phones saying there are problems with your computer, that is unlikely to be the case. There were also 2 reports of a male purporting to be a Gas/Electric worker in the Galashiels area. He has an English accent and is of Asian/Arabic appearance

Members of the public are encouraged to sign up to Scottish Borders Alert which is a FREE network designed to share up to date emergency and crime prevention advice etc. To join go to www.sbalert.co.uk. Leaflets regarding SBAlert are also available from your local community officer.

PS Duncan Marker hopes to be able to come to the community council meeting in Stow in March

General Matters

The defibrillator signs which the Secretary received do not state any location . J.MacKenzie will design signs that can be displayed showing the location of the defibrillator at the Town Hall.

There has been no further interest by Stow residents in using the wooden planters, so J. MacKenzie will place the wooden planter at the corner where the Christmas tree was last year.

The new Eildon Area Partnership is very positive. Transport to Stow, Fountainhall and Heriot was flagged up as not all trains stop and the buses have been cut. The bus and train come at the same time, so there is not the option for people in Stow to catch a bus half an hour later if they do not catch the train. The state of the A7 north of Galashiels has also been raised.

Gillian Donaldson is willing to do a presentation on the use of the defibrillator in Stow Town Hall. She gave S. Jeffrey 4 possible dates and 21st February or 27th February were selected. S. Jeffrey will contact her to see which date she prefers and J. Mushlin will book the Main Hall in the Town Hall for that date. The training will be for up to 20 people.

Voting has now started for community projects. The Community Council would like to encourage all residents to vote for all 3 Stow projects. There is a ballot box in Stow Post Office. Fountainhall Village Hall will be open for voting on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am - 11.30am and on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm - 4pm. Voting can take place during the whole of February and can also be done online or by post.

It was noted that no SBC Councillors were present at the meeting.

A microgrant was agreed for publication of the booklet which commemorates all people named on the War Memorial.

It was also agreed to give Stow Archive a microgrant of £250 for the Tuesday morning meetings.

The hole in the road at Galabank is getting worse.

The public toilets in Stow have been closed. The Community Council has not been notified of this and would like to know the reason.

C. Hendry will make a list of all the matters which would have been taken up with SBC Councillors if any had been present.

The drainage has been blocked on Townfoot.

The back road between Fountainhall and Stow has had no gritter or snowplough at all during the bad weather. No one expects it to get much attention but even a gritter or snowplough returning to Galashiels once via the back road would have been appreciated. There are enough residents who live along there to justify this.

The salt bins are empty.

Earlston Rd was not cleared or gritted by the Council for a week.

The treasurer has given Jessica Troughton a cheque for £84 for the insurance for the transport scheme at Stow Health Centre.

There are 120 members of the project for the Old Station House with 5 trustees. There has been discussion with people volunteering to help with this. An application has been submitted for matching funding to Blueprint. The outcome of this should be known during the week and the appointment of the architect finalised. There is also a possibility of £150,000 Leader funding but applications have to be in by the end of this month.

It was commented that all trains do not stop in Stow. The Secretary has already written to ask that this should be looked at when the service is reviewed. If a train is running late it also sometimes does not stop at Stow even though it is a scheduled stop.

Councillor's Report - Cllr Aitchison submitted a written report as follows:

1. The state of the road at Stagehall has been raised yet again.
2. There has been good feedback from the Eildon Area Partnership and it has been good to see a Stow representative there.
3. The Community Bid Fund is going well. People can vote for up to 5 projects.
4. There are plans being discussed for a new development area for the South of Scotland which will have budget and similar powers to the Highland and Islands Development Board. There is also the Borderlands project announced in the Chancellor's Autumn budget in Westminster. This involves Northumbria, Cumbria, Scottish Borders, Dumfries & Galloway and the City of Carlisle cooperating together to look at some major projects.
5. Cllr Aitchison is working on policies regarding Public Conveniences, dog fouling and Antisocial activity.
6. The master plans for Galashiels and Tweedbank have been adopted by the Council.
7. The bumps on the Lauderhill drainage works have been reported

Correspondence

Planning Permission Appeal: Land North West of Gilston Farm, Heriot

SBC Budget Briefings - Shona Haslam

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will take place on Monday 5th March 2018 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall. All are welcome.

AGENDA

1. Judith Cleghorn, Galashiels Community Council and Bill White - Proposed bike trails around Galashiels.
2. A. Carlino and A. MacLaren - Developments on land on Mill Road
3. Apologies
4. Minutes & Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. General Matters
7. Treasurers Report
8. Councillors Report
9. Planning
10. Correspondence

11.AOCB