

Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Those present: C. Hendry (Chair), S.Jeffrey, I.Peacock, A.McNeilly, J. Mushlin, T.Millar, A.Riddell, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Aitchison, 3 members of the public.

Apologies: J. MacKenzie, Cllr Scott

Two members of the Park Committee were present. Congratulations were given for their achievement. The Park is being used by adults as well as children. The Park Committee thanked the community council for their support over the last 4 years. The community council has always supported this project. An invitation was given to the community council to the opening on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> which will be at 7pm. Ross Ford will cut the ribbon. The ramp will be complete and benches will be placed. The existing swings will be painted forest green to match the new equipment. There will be 4 benches, including the memorial bench to Ian Anderson. The Park has to be inspected once a week for the next 10 years by the Park Committee, who are looking for new volunteers to help with this. The Community voted for all the equipment in the Park.

The 2 members of the Park Committee left the meeting.

Minutes & Matters Arising

Eildon Housing Association have agreed to give their donation of £1000 towards the Mill Court project to the community council to administer. They asked for a request for this in writing and the Secretary has sent them a letter.

The Secretary has started to put short pieces regarding the community council meeting in the local press, as suggested.

The minutes were proposed by S. Jeffrey, seconded by A. McNeilly.

Police Report – The police report was noted. There were doubts regarding the usefulness of signs about unmarked cars in the area. The Secretary is to ask the police for statistics in the Stow and Fountainhall area to see whether there has been an increase in cars caught speeding during this initiative.

General Matters

The white stones on the grass verge at Plen Plath could damage cars. Cllr Aitchison will look into this.

The sides of Lauder Road are in a bad state. Heavy lorries are using the road. Lauder Road is an ongoing issue which has never been resolved.

The question of when the road will be marked at Sheriffs was raised. The central lines need to be realigned and a sign put up to say the road narrows. Cllr Anderson will chase this up.

It was felt that Stow needs to have speed signs reinstated.

The double white lines at Bow Straight are hardly noticeable.

Grasscutting is a total mess. Apparently this is a contentious issue throughout the Borders. There are 20 days between cuts instead of 10 days. The area that needs particular attention is the A7 between Stow and Heriot.

The purchase of a grasscutting machine for the Cemetery was suggested. Insurance is needed before the Council will give permission for this to be done. Cllr Aitchison will find out if it is possible for a volunteer to come in and do this between cuts.

The bus stop at the toilets in Stow is a mess and is too close to the A7. It needs to be set back. There are currently discussions about the future of the toilets at Stow. Apparently footfall is low compared to other toilets.

There has been no response to our letter about changes to the X95 due on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The suggested new timetable will not necessarily go ahead.

Network Rail have stated that they are not going to do any more station skipping.

Windfarm – Currently SSE have a 6 week turnaround of applications and Foundation Scotland have an 8 week turnaround. Next year the dates for deadlines for both funds will be the same and the turnaround will be 7 weeks for both funds.

Foundation Scotland is agreeable to the ceiling for microgrants to be raised from £250 to £300. However the agreement for microgrants is between SSE and the Community Council. The Secretary needs to write to SSE to request this change. It was agreed that, even if this change goes through, applications will be up to £300. People need not expect to automatically apply for £300 and get it granted.

The Community Council applied for a windfarm grant for roadside signage but there has been no progress regarding this. Since the roadworks, the signage at Crookston has improved. It was agreed that the community council will return these monies to the windfarms to go back into the general pot.

It was agreed that there will be 2 Christmas trees in Stow this year. One will be on the banking at the Church and one in the centre of Stow.

The Station planting is complete with 1200 plants and 3 new volunteers.

Walks around Stow – It is proposed to get one walk agreed and mapped and produce a leaflet. After about 10 walks have been done, a book can be produced.

Scotrail Community Grants – Art grants are being given to local artists who produce weather proof paintings at stations. These are for £500 - £2000. A local artist could be asked for a proposal and quote for Platform 1 at Stow Station. The Scotrail grant could be topped up with a Windfarm grant if necessary.

Mr Millar was thanked for all the signs which he has put up in the village. He is doing this as a volunteer and the community council will pay the cost of materials.

The Bridges Department are doing major work in Stow in July and have not communicated anything about it with the Community Council. A local farmer was present at the meeting. Her farm is going to be completely disrupted. Again no communication. This is going to affect other people as well.

The cemetery gates are not manageable and need a coat of paint. The railings at the Subscription Bridge are in a poor state.

There is a large gap in the width of the wall at the Layby.

Concern was raised over the number of people with large dogs who can't control them. There is a Dog Control Officer at the Council who can act if anything is reported. However it does mean that people have to be prepared to report this.

#### Treasurers Report

A grant of £2853 has been received from EDF for microgrants. There is a total of £5157.53 which can be disbursed.

The Community Council grant this year is £630. The Community Council is also reimbursed £30 per night for the rental of Fountainhall Village Hall. The unrestricted community council funds are £839.78.

A.Riddell was thanked for his help in cutting down the tree by the public toilets. The onus is on the Council to clear the path. The slabs are not level and there is a huge crack in the wall

Cllr Anderson stated that patching work has been done to the roads.

The next meeting will be on Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7. 30pm In FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

#### AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

3 POLICE REPORT

4 GENERAL MATTERS

5 TREASURERS REPORT

6 COUNCILLORS REPORT

7 PLANNING

8 CORRESPONDENCE

9 AOCB