

Draft minutes of Parish of Stow Community Council Meeting held on Monday 6th August at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

Those present: J.MacKenzie, C.Hendry, S.Jeffrey, A.Riddell, A.McNeilly, J. Mushlin, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott, Cllr Aitchison

Apologies: I.Peacock, Cllr Jardine

Amendments to Previous Minutes

Changleng is the correct spelling for PC Roger Changleng

'The Hunter Foundation would like to'.... should read 'Stow Primary School on behalf of the Hunter Foundation would like to'.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed: J.MacKenzie. Seconded: A.McNeilly

Police Report : It was noted that there was no mention of the accident on the A7 on Friday July 13th when the A7 was closed and the police, fire service and ambulance were in attendance. The Secretary is to email PC Changleng to enquire why this was omitted from the report.

There is a problem with Fraudsters cold-calling victims, purporting to be from a Television Provider, offering a discount on their monthly subscription. Victims have been told the following: their subscription needs to be renewed: part or all of the TV equipment has expired and they are due an upgrade of equipment or subscription. Victims are asked to confirm their bank details or identification documents such as scanned copies of passports .Later victims make enquiries and discover their TV provider did not call them and the fraudster has made transactions using their bank account details. Be aware that this is a scam. This is nationwide. Since the beginning of the year there have been 300 victims and people over 66 years of age seem most targeted.

Visit Take Five (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/) and Cyber Aware (cyberaware.gov.uk) for more information on how to protect yourself online.

What you need to do

. Don't assume a phone call is authentic just because someone knows your very personal details. Criminals can pretend to be from well known companies to make their scam appear genuine.

.Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision : a genuine company will not force you to make a financial decision on the spot. Always be wary and question uninvited approaches in case they are a scam.

.Stay in control. Refuse unusual requests for personal or financial details. Always contact the company yourself using a known phone or email number, such as the one on a bank statement or Bill.

General Matters

Mr Beattie should soon start stone erection in the Old Cemetery.

The tree in the park could have been cut down at a height as a table top. However it was cut down in an emergency. Any further trees that need to come down should be cut down in such a way that they can be used as features in the Park.

A different type of machine is needed to cut the grass in the park. A lot of the grass is left uncut.

At the consultation stage for the new road design in Stow it was emphasized that signage, no parking signs and yellow lines were essential. There needs to be warning of the road narrowing at Mill Road. The northbound carriageway is reasonable but the southbound carriageway always has parked cars. 4 parking spaces have been taken away. This needs to be finished. It was done through 'Safer Routes to School'. It was an error that there was no leaflet drop about the changes.

It was agreed to give T.Millar a microgrant of £133.58 for the cost of materials for the work on planters.

It was noted that the 20mph signage, which is meant for the school, has been flashing day and night for weeks. The vegetation at the crossroads makes it impossible to see 30mph signs. The position of signage at each side of the crossroads is at different points.

The streetlights are on 24 hours a day in Craigend Road.

There is a sign flashing at the quarry at Fountainhall, although there is no longer a quarry.

The footpaths in the village are extremely narrow at points and extremely difficult for people with mobility scooters, pushchairs and walkers.

The Church have not yet been asked if a second Christmas Tree in Stow could be put up.

Whitelining is currently a shambles. BT are able to white line where it appears the Council cannot.

Pirntaton will clear the wood in Fountainhall in due course.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Anderson

The council have organised for a teacher from their permanent supply team to be placed in Fountainhall School for an interim period. One of the members of Staff has a notice period to work in the new term. The Headteacher will make sure all parents are reassured that arrangements are in hand for the beginning of term. The recruitment process for new staff has been initiated. The Officer link to the school, Kevin McCall will monitor the situation next term. Any parents with any concerns about the transition for their child should contact the Headteacher to discuss them

Issues with the tree at Fleming Place and the footpath to the A7 have been reported to Neighbourhood Services and these will be looked at.

Station Road Bridge, Stow

This will not affect the Stowed Out festival.

The main refurbishment works will commence on August 13th, which will be carried out under traffic lights. There will be no anticipated restriction to vehicles during this phase and temporary access will be created for pedestrians to segregate them from vehicular traffic.

Towards the end of the refurbishment, it will be necessary to remove the road construction. This will require a full road closure from 5th November until 21st November (including weekends)

A signposted diversionary route is likely to be via Fountainhall but light vehicles (no more than 7.5 tonne MGW) will also be able to use the Ferniehurst/Stagehall Road. These dates are weather dependent.

There are concerns regarding the timing of the C11 in September for other works and hopes there will be no overlaps

A7 Build Out, Galashiels Road, Stow.

The road is regarded as wide enough for two vehicles but that is not the practical situation. Vehicles are still travelling far too fast towards the constructions from both north and south. The bollard has been replaced and the lining will take place within 2 weeks.

Stow Park

The tree trunk has been left and branches removed. The Playpark Committee seem to be in favour of using the tree trunk creatively. Two potential artists have been identified.

Some of the remaining trees will have to be removed after inspection by a tree surgeon. This will possibly happen in October. Consideration needs to be given to what type of tree should be replanted. Also whether the stumps should be left as features in the park.

There has been a complaint about the lack of a gate at the park. If this proves to be an issue, a gate can be installed. However the previous gate was almost never closed and the one at the other end of the park never seems to be closed.

Stow Public Toilet

Martin Joyce has been made aware of their poor state. The prostrate fence panel has been removed and the shrubs have been trimmed. People are asking to use the toilets at Cloud House, though there is toilet paper in the WC at the public toilets. SBC seem unwilling to take remedial action at present.

Cllr Aitchison:

The toilets are undergoing a second toilet review. The Council are looking at different ways of providing this facility. There will be discussions regarding the way forward. No decision has been taken.

Grasscutting and bedding. A lot of conversations are going on. Biodiversity has to be considered. Consideration is also being given to an experiment providing schools with wild flower seeds

The second Locality Bid scheme is under way with proposals being sought. If the Community wished to put in a proposal to cut down trees and make sculptures, that may be successful.

Cllr Scott :

The new contact for the Hall is Olly Robertson who is managing caretakers.

Jack MacKenzie stated that he has been issued with a key for the use of the Community Council
AOCB

There is graffiti at Fountainhall Station House. Also on a bridge North of Fountainhall

The next meeting will be in FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL on Monday September 3rd at 7.30pm

AGENDA

MEETING ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

1 GUEST SPEAKER: EVELYN McCUE, STOW COMMUNITY TRUST – THE OLD STATION HOUSE

2 APOLOGIES

3 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

4 POLICE REPORT

5 GENERAL MATTERS

6 TREASURERS REPORT

7 COUNCILLORS REPORT

8 PLANNING

9 CORRESPONDENCE

10 AOCB