

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council Held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30pm

Those present : C. Hendry, A. McNeilly, S.Jeffrey, J. MacKenzie, A. Riddell, J.Mushlin, T. Millar, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott, Cllr Aitchison, pc Jamie Entwistle, community police officer

Apologies: I. Peacock

Amendment to previous minutes: The Christmas tree will be sourced locally and paid for by the Community Council.

The minutes were approved: Proposed J.MacKenzie, seconded S. Jeffrey

The park were going to get 3 benches. One bench is to be put at the Crossroads from money collected at Ian Anderson's funeral, in his memory. It should be positioned with its back to the gable end of the house.

The benches in the park should be the same colour as the equipment.

There are three benches in the park. The fourth bench at the crossroads has not been placed.

Cllr Aitchison will look into this.

Police Report

Currently a very popular scam is that BT will cut off the phone unless £100 is paid. BT would never make such a call. This is a scam.

At this time of year, heating oil theft is common. There has been one attempt in the Stow Area. The Community Police Officer can give crime prevention advice. There is a poster 'Protect your fuel tanks against theft' which he will forward to the Secretary and this will be displayed.

There need to be two witnesses when a car is reported to the police for speeding, dangerous driving etc. No action can be taken if there is only one witness. However it is important to report instances to the police. If two people are together in one car, they count as two witnesses

'Mr Bob' was at the north end of Stow for 2 hours on Saturday 5th January. There is no point in using it for more than one and a half or two hours at a time, as drivers come to expect it.

It was mentioned that the quarry sign north of Fountainhall comes on at night. The police have no powers to deal with this.

The flashing lights in Stow were mentioned. Cllr Scott will deal with this.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers can clean up the village. They can be contacted via pc Entwistle.

Pc Entwistle left the meeting.

General Matters

It was stated that it is possible that the Parish Trust could contribute to the gravestones.

It was agreed to back the application by Ms Craig to write a History of Stow. The Secretary will email Ms Craig that ,in principle, this has been approved. The Community Council propose to submit the application.

Applications for the next round of grants from the windfarm should be received by 18th January.

A new noticeboard is needed in Stow. It was noted that Fountainhall have a new noticeboard but it does not open outwards. It has a magnetic board and notices are attached by magnets. C.Hendry will get the invoice for the Fountainhall notice board and C.Hendry will collaborate with J.Mushlin to apply to the Windfarm by 18th January for a Stow notice board. Parish of Stow Community Council will be engraved above the doors.

Cooption of a new member was discussed. It was felt that the proposed member should attend a couple of meetings.

The Community Website needs to be working properly. N.Hodgson is investigating an option.

S. Jeffrey will see him as to how he is progressing.

It was suggested that Mr Lamb , Live Borders should be invited to meet with the Community Council again regarding an update on Stow Town Hall. The Secretary will email him.

A site visit is proposed regarding the exterior of Stow Town Hall, which remains the responsibility of SBC. A.Riddell and T.Millar volunteered to be present for this. The Secretary is to organise this.

Councillors Reports

Cllr Anderson stated that tree felling will possibly be later this month. There is a proposal for a small grant. A woodworker will carve out part of the tree trunks. The grant proposal will be submitted next month.

Borders Rail Community Partnership. The LNER board wish to increase the use of the railway for leisure and are investigating footpaths

It was commented that the railway needs to become much more reliable. The trains are crowded with frequently only 2 carriages. There have been many cancellations in December. The train is meant to stop at Stow if the previous stopping train was cancelled. There have been many posts on the Parish of Stow Community Council page regarding the train. The Secretary will write to Scotrail and enclose the facebook posts.

Cllr Scott

Bus shelters are proposed for Nettlingflat and Gilston.

Cllr Aitchison

Debbie Matthewson and Craig Blackie are organising planting trees . The question was raised as to what trees can be planted that will not affect drainage. Access to the Mill Lade is needed.

Cllr Aitchison stated that this is all being discussed and a tree specialist will be involved.

Cllr Aitchison will find out if a new application has to go into the Community Bid Fund for the paths project in Stow. S. Jeffrey is meeting Bill White and Gemma Reid.

Treasurers Reports

SSE microgrants - £957

EDF spend - £2949.82

EDF microgrants - £2007 remaining

Cost of Christmas Tree - £65

It was agreed that a microgrant can be given for Galawater Singers Junior Choir of £300. They have to pay for a license for all music that they use and this can be used towards the cost of the license.

The Treasurer brought the Community council's attention to the costs which the children's Highland Country Dancing classes in Stow Town Hall are facing. When they started in 2009, the rental of the upper Hall was £9.50 an hour. Now the rental is £25 an hour. Each session lasts for two hours and costs £ 50 per week. This is for 35 weeks of the year. The children pay £3 each per session. £5 if there are two children in the family. Amanda Runciman wants to keep this affordable and does not want to raise the fee. It was suggested that she could apply to the windfarm for 3 years funding. 3 years of rental would be £5000. The community council would be happy to approve a microgrant of £300 to cover the period before windfarm funding comes through.

It was stated that people should be encouraged to apply for the larger pot of money from the Windfarm.

T. Millar left the meeting.

Planning - 44 Earlston Road, Stow -Installation of 2 No rooflights and LPG gas tank.

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will take place on Monday, 4th February at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
- 3 POLICE REPORT
- 4 GENERAL MATTERS
- 5 COUNCILLORS REPORT
- 6 TREASURERS REPORT
- 7 PLANNING
- 8 CORRESPONDENCE
- 9 AOCB

ALL WELCOME