

Draft Minutes of Meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council held on Monday September 6th 2021 in Fountainhall Village Hall

Those present: A. McNeilly, S. Jeffrey,(chair), C. Hendry, J.Mushlin, T. Millar, G. Stewart, Cllr Aitchison

Apologies : Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott, A. Riddell

Prior to the meeting Cllr Anderson informed the Secretary that he has received guidance from SBC not to attend in person meetings

S. Jeffrey stated that he had taken up the matter of signage at St Mary's Well with both E. Niven, SBC and Cllr Aitchison. Some of the hawthorn has been cut down. The farmer is moving the cows out of the St Mary's Well field. The path is very narrow by the Gala Water.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed : A. McNeilly.
Seconded: C. Hendry

The motion to co-opt Gordon Stewart as a member of Parish of Stow Community Council was unanimously passed.

Police Report

The police report mentioned children trespassing at Hazelbank Quarry. This is a subject of great concern in the Fountainhall community. The pool of water at the Quarry is contaminated and children go and swim there. The owners of the Quarry should be forced to take action regarding the pool. Cllr Aitchison will look into it and also request the police for help in this matter. The Secretary should email the police that the Community Council are concerned about the pool at the Quarry.

The A7 needs marking North of Stow to Fountainhall. White lines are needed at the centre of the road.

Members of the Community Council also wondered why police cameras are not being enforced. It is a big issue that the 20mph speed limit in Stow is not being enforced. The Secretary will email Brian Young and Philippa Gilhooley regarding this. It was also noted that cyclists should be observing the 20mph limit and that large lorries are not reducing their speed. The village is currently more dangerous because cars that are observing the speed limit are being overtaken. The North end of the village is dangerous. A lot of children go across the road at the park. The community council are hoping for evidence regarding the success of the 20mph limit.

It was noted that 2 of the 3 speed signs belong to the Community Council. The money has been allocated to move them. However SBC are treating them as their property. Cllr Aitchison will take this up.

There is currently a consultation by Scotrail regarding changing the Borders Rail service to an hourly service. For years Scotrail have said there will be a half hourly service to Stow but this has never happened.. The main effect that Stow will see is that the trains will be busier. The link to the Gyle is to come to an end. It would be good to see a straight through link to other cities and the possibility to buy straight through tickets. There are no stops at Fountainhall and Heriot, who are reliant on the X95 bus service which is 2 hourly with no evening service and does not serve the needs of the community.

The Tour of Britain which is passing through Stow will be featured in the newsletter ,which is coming out this week. It was agreed to give two microgrants to Stow Community Trust for the events which they are planning in Stow Park to coincide with it.

Insurance - £166

Hire of pump track from Hawick High School - £100

Donations are being requested for use of the pump track. The Community Council would like to receive these towards the microgrant they are giving.

It needs to be stressed that microgrants are agreed by the whole community council at each community council meeting. It is important to receive requests for microgrants in writing before each meeting. Microgrants cannot be awarded retrospectively and up to £300 can be paid.

Planters in Stow – The community council would like to ask people in Stow to adopt a planter. There are altogether 12 planters, so ideally 12 people/groups are needed. There is £20 per planter from the community council for the cost of plants . G. Stewart will ask Green Stow about the possibility of members being interested in doing this. J. Mushlin will ask Stow Community Trust. Milestone should also be asked about planting the planters.

The toilets in Stow are a disgrace and the verges and edges of roads are a mess. Cllr Aitchison will see when the verges can get done. A great deal of expenditure is needed to bring the toilets up to standard.

General Matters

The pedestrian crossing sign at Galabank was knocked down 6 months ago and has never been replaced. The Secretary will email Councillors regarding this.

Village Signs – The sign at the Station is rusted and bent. All the village signs need to be replaced. There need to be signs saying ‘Welcome to Stow of Wedale’. The street names have disappeared. There should be new signs in the Stow colours – yellow and black.

There is no Fountainhall sign at the entrance to Fountainhall from the A7. There is also no sign for Fleming Place in Fountainhall.

In the 1990s a local artist was commissioned to design a coat of arms for Stow. There is no trace anywhere of this. G. Stewart will check with the Lyon Court whether it was ever registered with them.

There will be a booklaunch of the Wedale book at 7.30pm in Fountainhall Village Hall on Saturday 25th September and a booklaunch in McFie Hall, Heriot on Sunday 26th September at 7.30pm. The booklaunch in Stow will be on Saturday 2nd October at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall. A microgrant of £300 was given for the costs of these.

Treasurers Report

The amount of the grant from SBC for the Community Council is unknown, as is when we will receive it.

There are now £27 remaining in unrestricted funds.

It was agreed to give a microgrant of £93 to Fountainhall New Age Kurling for 3 new sticks. This is so that no one present has to share a stick.

A microgrant of £300 was given to Fountainhall Womens Institute.

A microgrant of £300 was given to Stow School for a trophy to celebrate winning a national competition.

Planning – Erection of two dwelling houses . Land North of Braedale Lauder Road Stow.

It was agreed that the next three meetings will be in Stow Town Hall on :

Monday October 4th at 7pm

Monday November 1st at 7pm

Monday December 6th at 7pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING ON OCTOBER 4TH IN STOW TOWN HALL

1. APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3. POLICE REPORT
4. PLANTERS
5. GENERAL MATTERS
6. TREASURERS REPORT
7. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
8. PLANNING
9. CORRESPONDENCE
10. AOCB

ALL WELCOME