

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 6th AUGUST 2012 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: D. Muir (Chair), I. Anderson, I. Peacock, A. Riddell, J. MacKenzie, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, G. Saunders, Cllr B. White, Cllr S. Aitchison, H. Hunter (Parish of Stow Trust), J. Williams (Heriot).

Apologies: A. McNeilly

H. Hunter explained the purpose of Stow Parish Trust. It was set up in 1997 and uses any proceeds to give back into the community. It was involved in the set up of the multi-court and pays the rent for it. The Trust has £10,000 in the bank and gives out £700-£800 annually. Most of the land which the Community Council has transferred has been sold. There is only the Quoiting green and a bit of the Mill Lade left. The Trust has no intention of ever selling the Quoiting green. The Trust is open to ideas about the fence at the Quoiting green. A. Riddell is to get quotes and costings for the next meeting. H. Hunter will write a piece for the website about Stow Parish Trust. OSCR has details about it.

John Williams attended the meeting regarding Girthgate wind farm. He commented on the scoping report which we have been asked to give feedback about to the Scottish Executive. It just mentions upland common and doesn't mention that it will be on Lauder Common, which is a major recreational site for the area. There is no specification as to which turbine will be used. There are turbines in plantations but nothing is included about forestry. Previously an application has been rejected for Lauder Common. John Williams has written a very detailed response to the scoping report. D. Muir will forward this to the Scottish Executive.

Minutes and Matters Arising

It was noted that apologies from J. Mackenzie should have been recorded in the previous minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with this amendment, proposed by D. Muir and seconded by G. Saunders.

Mill Lade

Cllr Aitchison gave a report on the Stow park area. The National Lottery is allowing capital projects on a postcode basis. Unfortunately, the park is not included, but there are grounds for appeal in that the park is used by people in areas whose postcodes are included so the first stage is to appeal. The community needs to take over the transfer of the management of the park from SBC. This will be a community transfer asset preferably to an existing trust and has to be done by October. There will be a complete drainage proposal for the park; landscaping, upgrading of play equipment, including equipment for older kids. If the appeal is successful the application will go to stage 1 of the Lottery application process. In February we will know if the application is successful, and the final application will be done with all the costings. We have to go out to procurement with a competitive tendering project. For this to be successful there has to be support and involvement from the local community – you cannot get beyond the first stage unless you can prove community involvement. The Community Council endorsed the proposed project with their full support.

Police Report

A motorcycle was clocked travelling at 124mph on the Fountainhall straight. The driver has been charged. Thefts of quad bikes are continuing, though not directly from the Stow area in the most recent thefts. The public is being asked to continue being vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

General Matters

The Community Council has to write to the police to put tape on the road and relocate the speed cameras to the centre of the village. D. Muir will do this. It was agreed to use the newsletter to ask people to be careful going through the village – to keep to the speed limit. Fountainhall straight is a designated site for mobile speed cameras.

The Cemetery

This is in a poor state with the gate rusted and the grass uncut.

Dog Fouling in the Park

There are no bins on Mill Road. Cllr Aitchison has asked for dog wardens to be present in Stow at the beginning of the school year. More signs are required which need to be laminated. Cllr Aitchison will attend to this.

Traffic Statistics

Cllr White quoted traffic statistics. 5,500 vehicles through Stow – 14 per cent are HGVs.

Repairs List

The drain on Lauder Road has been put out to tender. Cllr Aitchison will speak to Safer Scotland regarding the lack of a school sign for Stow school.

Planning

Replacement window, 1 Station Road, Stow.

Correspondence

Jacki Cooper re Stow Community Garden. It was agreed to give £150 from Stow Community Fund for general costs. We have a policy whereby we give £150 for running costs when requested and the need is there.

NHS Borders meeting in Melrose.

Clare Malster – Sitar Ramsay.

Clare Malster – Extension of consultation date of Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill to September 27th.

Clare Malster – Update on Tell Me Scotland.gov.uk.

Scottish Executive – Scoping information request.

SBC - Advert external member (Audit Committee).

Emma Rafaluk – Girthgate wind farm scoping report.

Girthgate wind farm update.
Girthgate wind farm – joint Community Council group.

Scottish Voluntary Sector Community Resilience Seminar.

Re-shaping Care for Older People bulletin.

Scottish Borders Community Councils Network Annual Seminar 29th
October 2012.

AOCB

It was raised that the children using the G20 bus service are being discriminated against, as they have to pay fares if they use the X95 to travel home after attending after school activities. However, it was pointed out that children in many rural areas do not have an alternative bus and cannot stay longer at school. The budget was set last October, but the public was not informed of any change. The next point for setting the budget is this October.

There is a small toby North of the garage opposite Sheriff's which is half in and half out. Water is coming out of it. It is the responsibility of Scottish Water.

The bridge on Station Road has a really large crack down both sides.

The Old Bridge

Community Justice are unlikely to repair this. A. Riddell will organize a minor repair.

The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will be held in Fountainhall Village Hall on Monday 3rd September 2012 at 7.30pm. All welcome. Please come along.

