**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 2nd JULY 2012 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: G. Saunders (Chair), A. Riddell, A. McNeilly, I. Peacock, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, Cllr Bill White, Cllr John Mitchell, 8 members of the public, Ken Whitson, Ted Radford, SE Scotland Cycle Association.

Apologies: I. Anderson, D. Muir, Cllr B. Herd, and Cllr S. Aitchison.

Ken Whitson and Ted Radford were present at the meeting to discuss the Scottish Hill Cycling Championships, which will take place on Sunday 21st October. They propose a course of 1 mile up the Earlston Road or Lauder Road. They propose starting at 11am. Apparently the hall is booked so they cannot use it as a base. There will be about 60 competitors leaving at 1-minute intervals, and the best time wins the championship. They will check with the route manager at St Boswells that there are no road works on the road on the day. Gala Cycling Club have used this route before and start at the steps at the foot of the hall, but Mr. Whitson and Mr. Radford are proposing to start the race on the sharp right hand bend at the Earlston Road, and send competitors up the Lauder Road for a warm up. They will speak to staff at the school about parking. Every resident along the route will receive a letter informing him or her about the race. The traffic police at Hawick and Fettes will also be contacted. There will be a prize presentation afterwards. People are likely to arrive from 9.30am. Members of Stow Community Council welcomed Stow being chosen for this event and suggested that we should see whether the Sports Committee would put up bunting for it.

Fountainhall

8 members of the public who were affected by the recent flooding at Fountainhall attended the meeting. Scottish Borders Council previously improved the culvert opposite Still Haugh, but not altogether successfully. The culvert was 2/3 covered by metal plates, which restricted water flow. The rain washed down tires and traffic cones and the culvert overflowed. The water was thigh high. Residents phoned the Council and the Fire Brigade. The school was flooded. Residents blocked off the main pathway with plywood. A local farmer with a JCB removed the tires and traffic cones. The residents wished a community resilience committee to be formed, and Charlotte Hendry is willing to be coordinator of this. The Community Council agreed to back a community resilience scheme. It was felt that the best time for a public meeting would be after the school summer holidays. The Secretary will organize a public meeting for Fountainhall and also one for Stow. There will be two distinct community resilience schemes owing to the different natures of the two communities. Meanwhile, action is needed regarding the plates on the culvert. Cllr John Mitchell will contact SBC engineers.

Minutes and Matters Arising

Amendment to the previous minutes – Galashiels Community Council should read Galashiels and Langlee Community Council.

The minutes were proposed by G. Saunders, and seconded by A. McNeilly.

General Matters

A. Riddell has discussed clearing out the Mill Lade, and has a quote of £400 plus VAT for clearing out the Mill Lade, but not the removal of spoil. Where the spoil will go has to be determined. He will look into this further. Jason Hedley is looking at the park and the Mill Lade.

The Pack Horse Bridge – Bert Lofthouse is quite happy for us to repair this. There might be an option to purchase it. A. Riddell will follow this up. There has been no report from Historic Scotland, but we have permission to strim the bridge.

Church Wynd – the weeds need to be removed and put on a bonfire. Costs are needed for this. A. Riddell will look into this and determine what is needed.

Stow Sports – Fiona Cameron organized wood chip for Stow Park, making Stow Sports possible. The Secretary is to write a letter to her thanking her for this.

Parking – the question of sites for parking in Stow was raised. People do come to look at the old church.

Wall – on left hand side of A7 opposite the church – Cllr Aitchison is talking to the engineer about this.

Cllr J. Mitchell has raised the matter of the footpath from Townfoot to the old police station. SB local are costing a small scheme for the footpath.

The roadway on both sides of the crossing on the A7 was raised. There are puddles showing that the drainage is not working.

The grass verges need cleared.

The number of heavy vehicles going through Stow is enormous. A survey of traffic for 24hrs through the village was requested, including the speed. Cllr White will attend to this.

The money has been approved to do the park. The Criminal Justice Team will do it. The path in the park is temporary. We need a permanent path. It would cost £8,000 for a new bus shelter and £12,000 to move it back off the road. It would cost £4,000-£4,500 to move the existing shelter back and keep the existing shelter. The Community Council was requested to prioritise projects as to what is the highest priority for us.

Cllr White informed the Community Council that he was very involved with Galashiels in bloom when Chairman of Galashiels and Langlee Community Council, and could advise us if we wish to set up a sub-committee with a view to entering Stow.

G. Saunders mentioned that the Horticultural Group are planning a community garden, and also to place planters around the village.

Planning

Springbank Inn – change of use from public house to form tearoom and hair salon. It was agreed to respond: “It was our understanding that there could be no change of use as it is the last licensed premises in the village.”

Correspondence

Claire Malster – tell me Scotland Knowledge hub group.

Claire Malster – Scottish Borders free insulation offer.

Consultation on the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill – Secretary to distribute extracts of particular relevance to all Community Council members.

Kelso Horticultural Society Summer Exhibition.

Safer Communities.

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre.

AOCB

The G20 school bus for the autumn term was raised. This affects all Fountainhall children going to Galashiels Academy and the older pupils in Stow. This bus will not go to Still Haugh, meaning that the Fountainhall children will have to cross the busy A7 and the bus pass will not be transferable to the X95, so that children staying for after school activities will need to pay fares to return home.

It was commented that, in the previous minutes, the consultation about the Royal Hotel was minuted in the correspondence, with no indication as to what the outcome was. The Secretary stated that the members of the Community Council found all planning regarding this satisfactory and saw no need to respond.

It was noted that solar panels have been refused in conservation areas in Stow, but houses just outside the conservation area have been given permission, and these are clearly visible from the conservation area. All new houses in Stow have an £1,800 developer’s contribution towards the railway.

The Stow Wind Farm Advisory Panel has approved grants to Stow Pipe Band, Stow Community Archive, Fountainhall Parent Council and Wooplaw Community Woodland. The advisory panel will take space on the Community Website, but cannot post draft minutes on it. All responses on the Stow Community Website need to be identifiable with the name of the person who has posted them. No anonymous responses will be allowed on the website.

**The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will be held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 6th August 2012 at 7.30pm. All welcome. Please come along.**