

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 11th JUNE 2012 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: I. Anderson, G. Saunders, Cllr B. White, Cllr B. Herd, A. McNeilly, J. Mushlin, I. Peacock, A. Riddell, D. Muir (Chair), 1 member of the public.

Apologies: J. MacKenzie, Cllr S. Aitchison, Cllr J. Mitchell.

C. Wemyss attended the meeting to inform the Community Council that Sound Out proposes to hold a music event on 11th August. There will be local bands. Cloud House will be catering and there will be a beer tent. It is hoped that local businesses and crafts people will have stalls. The Council has approved this and the police and fire brigade are involved. There is no intention to use this for fund raising. It is a community event; an opportunity for people to get together and Sound Out hope to do this once a year. The venue has yet to be decided – either the Quoiting Green or Stow Park. The Community Council agreed to give Sound Out £197.81 from the community fund. Anyone wishing to know more about this or to take part in any way, please contact:

Chris Wemyss – tel: 01578 730749.

Email: soundout@gmx.co.uk

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by D. Muir, and seconded by I. Anderson.

Police Report

SB Wardens' Service cover the area that deals with dog fouling issues. Fuel and scrap metal theft continues. Please report any suspicious vehicles or activity. Please report anything suspicious, no matter how insignificant.

General Matters

A. Riddell will contact B. McQuat about the Mill Lade. We are still waiting to hear the results of the survey of Stow Park. A. Riddell and A. McNeilly will fill out the SEPA forms for a licence. Mill Lade urgently

needs done. Craig Blackie is aware of the situation. Cllr B. White will follow this up in conjunction with Cllr S. Aitchison.

The Old Bridge

Deidre Cameron from Historic Scotland looked at the bridge and the wall on the left, which is sagging into the Gala Water. We can repair the steps. A local farm owns the bridge. There is the potential of buying it out. The farmer will send the paperwork regarding liability and A. McNeilly will discuss this with her. Historic Scotland definitely has an interest in the bridge.

Old Kirk

Deidre Cameron also looked at this. It is an important building, owned by the Church. The repair costs involved are likely to be high.

Councillors' Report

Cllr Herd has enquired about the disposal of tires. The Council doesn't accept them. The Council is not empowered to uplift tires from land belonging to farms. It was suggested that the Council could look into companies that will uplift tires and shred them for a profit. Fridges and freezers can be taken to Langlee free of charge.

Cllr Bill White introduced himself to those present. He was Chair of Galashiels Community Council for 8 years and is keen to make sure community councils are kept alive. He is a financial advisor.

He will ask for the area between the kids' playpark and the bridge to be done. It is Stow Sports Day soon and the park needs to be in a fit state for this.

The 4 Councillors are going to work together for the area in a team effort.

There is a dangerous pothole on the A7, 1.3 miles North of Fountainhall junction, just before the Gilston turn off. It is about 8" deep and could cause an accident. The Councillors will report this.

Planning

There was no planning.

Correspondence

Stow Kids Club – application for a small grant. It was agreed to donate £200 from the community fund.

Tracey Logan – Community Councils Insurance Cover.

Public Consultation – Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. Royal Hotel Site.

Local Community Paths: Maintenance Grants for Community Councils.

Clare Malster – NHS Borders Board.

Main Issues Report.

Draft Community Resilience Guidance.

Village SOS Live in Scotland.

Scottish Borders Community Councils Network.

AOCB

There is a pothole in the middle of Earlston Road, halfway up to the corner.

Drainage on Lauder Hill – Chris Hardie has stated this is now a capital scheme. A major project.

Bus Stop – The Southbound bus stop is not suitable for people waiting at it. This has been raised before with the Council who has said that they do not view it as a health and safety matter, and that it is low on the list of priorities. There is space behind the bus stop, so it could be moved back.

Station Road – There are markings to signify there is a school there and a 20mph limit, but no sign to say “school.”

It was noted that the flag for the Diamond Jubilee was not erected on the Town Hall until the Tuesday. It was reported that the Stow Parish Trust has given commemorative Jubilee medallions to all children at Stow Primary School. Concern was raised that children at Fountainhall Primary School were left out. A request was made for a report and minutes regarding Stow Parish Trust to be available at the August meeting. Members of the Community Council would also like to discuss the fencing at the Quoiting Green with Stow Parish Trust. It was agreed that J. Mushlin should write to H. Hunter to attend the August Community Council meeting.

The Cotland Steps need the weeds cut back.

The footpath at Fountainhall needs to have the nettles cut back.

There is a hole in the footpath at the Station House bridge, which has been previously reported and at one point had warning cones (which disappeared). This could cause an accident in the dark.

The white lines on the A7 North of Galashiels have still not been replaced. This should be done as a matter of urgency. Many accidents are not reported and near misses are not reported. There are white lines, at random. The A7 Action Group raised this but it has never been rectified.

There should be a list of Community Councillors, both on the website and the notice boards.

The next meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council will be held in Stow Town Hall on Monday 2nd July 2012 at 7.30pm. Please come along.