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

Those present: J. MacKenzie, G. Saunders, D. Muir, A. McNeilly, J. Mushlin, Cllr. J Mitchell, I. Anderson, A. Riddell, T. Miller, Cllr. Aitchison

In Attendance: Jim Fraser, Emergency Planning Officer, David Richardson

Apologies: I. Peacock

Community Resilience

Jim Fraser outlined the Community Resilience policy. Scottish Borders are at the forefront of this nationally. Communities which sign up for this will draw up a resilient communities plan. Jim Fraser brought a copy of the Oxton and Channelkirk and Yetholm plans. Community resilience relies completely on volunteers who will help with flooding, snow clearance, etc, when there are severe conditions. There needs to be a public meeting before this can be taken further. As Stow and Fountainhall are two communities, we would need to have sufficient volunteers from both Fountainhall and Stow for this to happen. The equipment that we are considering for clearing pavements will get no supply of grit under this scheme, as the Council clears pavements. Jim Fraser is going to look into why we don’t get pavements cleared, and also why Fountainhall did not get snow cleared recently when it was the only area affected by snow so the snowploughs, etc, could not have been busy elsewhere. It was agreed to put community resilience on the agenda for the next meeting for a full discussion as to whether to get involved or not.

Minutes and Matters Arising

There were the following amendments to the minutes of the last meeting:

Cllr. Aitchison stated that proposals have been made to detrunk the A7 and A68. No decision has been made.

Page 2 – A. Riddell accompanied Cllr. Aitchison.

Page 3.8 – We are hoping that the stones are being resolved.

Matters arising – A. McNeilly has not yet contacted the Baker family regarding a memorial for Ba.

It was pointed out that the last minutes did not state a venue for the next meeting. This should have been Stow Town Hall.

The minutes were proposed by T. Miller and seconded by D. Muir.

Police Report

There was no report of the fatal accident south of Stow. It was questioned whether or not it was in the Parish of Stow. When the new Inspector is in post, we will invite him to come to address us.

General Matters

Badminton in Stown Town Hall was discussed. There need to be lines painted for a badminton court. The lines are no longer there so the court needs to be measured out. It will cost hundreds of pounds to do it. For SBC to do it, there would need to be a Stow Badminton Club with a list of members. Use of the hall would be charged at the hourly rate. However, if hall users paid a subscription of £15 per year for the use of the hall, there would be a 25 per cent discount. This has not yet been implemented. It was agreed in December, backdated to 1st December, but the system is not yet up and running. Health and Safety means we cannot get a key in the community for the Town Hall.

Cllr. Mitchell stated that the budget was agreed on the 9th February. He is having a constituency surgery at Langlee Community Centre on the 30th March from 5.30-6.30pm.

He has taken up the matter of fencing at the Royal Hotel.

There is progress with the Borders Railway.

The Community Council should write to Cllr. Parker in support of Cllr. Aitchison’s comments on roundabouts. A bridge is a perfectly good alternative to roundabouts at Fala Hill. The Bill has Royal Charter so the roundabouts have Royal assent. The residents at Fala Hill did not want to be sandwiched between road and railway – the reason for the roundabouts. The road and railway could be moved to the East. The proposed site for the roundabouts is at the highest, windiest, snowiest part of the A7 between Edinburgh and Galashiels. It was commented that the new roundabout South of Newtongrange has resulted in traffic coming down in large convoys. Network Rail might take on an alternative if sufficiently pressurized. D. Muir will write to Cllr. Parker and Network Rail.

It was commented that notices in the Southern Reporter regarding road closures in the Stow area locate Stow in Midlothian, instead of the Scottish Borders.

Cllr. Aitchison informed the members of Stow Community Council that Jack Muncaster, Nan’s husband, has just passed away.

Stow Park – People have been down to assess Stow Park. Permission is needed from SEPA. Fraser Dunlop is looking at ways of progressing matters. SSE will not accept Stow Park as a suitable recipient for the environmental payment which is being given to the Parish of Stow.

The Townsfoot resurfacing has been efficient. There have been other suggestions from the community regarding fencing at the Royal Hotel. Something permanent will be in place by the 1st April.

There has been a letter from Susan Graham to parents at Stow Primary saying the stones at the school are within acceptable risk. The parents wish the stones removed.

Cllr. Aitchison has asked about the portacabin at the school. There is a grit bin at Hill Terrace. A community garden may be possible in the redundant area of Stow Park.

Marcus Naylor came to the meeting to speak about the website which he is redeveloping. He is making it accessible and easy to manage and add news. G. Saunders and Marcus will proof read all new messages and if the content is ok, they will put it on the site. There is Opensource software which Marcus is happy to maintain. The website will be fresh and up-to-date. The site has been emailed to eight Community Council members, with positive feedback. The website is still under construction. The next step is approval for it. There will be a Community Council section on the website and a links section with the facility to suggest a link. There is a link to the SBC website and a link to Michael Moore, MSP. There shouldn’t be a delay in content going up. Everything of a calendar nature will go straight up. Anything else will be approved by 2-3 Community Councillors. There will be no major advertising, but some local businesses will be able to advertise. The cost will be £400 for set up and £50 + VAT for hosting. It was agreed that M. Naylor should give us a price for annual maintenance. The website name is going live at www.stow-borders.co.uk. The community needs to know. Logs can analyse how many hits it gets.

Wind Farms

Rowantree public enquiry. More information has been received about noise.

Planning

G. Lofthouse – erection of wind turbine, 22.5m high to tip.

Correspondence

Fountainhall Carpet Bowling Club – application for funding - £150 towards costs awarded.

Galawater Horticultural Club – application for funding - £150 towards costs awarded.

It was agreed that there will be a ceiling of £150 for applications for running costs.

Consultation on the introduction of a tenant information pack in the private rented sector.

Sitar Ramsay – newsletter.

Community Engagement.

Security Report.

Association of Community Councils online bulletin.

Rural Direct Roadshow.

Community Involvement in Town Plantings.

Scottish Borders Walking Festival 2013.

Social Enterprise Chamber newsletter.

Views on local prices and choices – OFT.

AOCB

The broken tread on Cotland Steps has been graveled off.

There has been progress on the corner of Townfoot and Lauder Hill. Chris Hardie has been up with a machine which did not manage the work. He is now looking for another machine.

Townfoot – grit from last year’s gritting is still on the pavement – no one has cleaned the pavement since then. Cllr. Mitchell has taken this up. Next time the sweeper comes, there will be a man with a brush.

The position of the bus shelter was raised again on health and safety grounds. The Council is taking on board the position, but Stow is a long way down the list.

Nothing is happening regarding the yellow lines on Earlston Road. It is not being maintained and cars are being parked as the owners please.

There have been patching repairs on Earlston Road and Townfoot. The question was raised about white lines. Are they going to be replaced? White lines are also needed on the A7 where there has been patching. Are the non-skid corners of the A7 being replaced?

The fencing around the quoiting green was raised. If people could take the fencing down, it could get new wire. Would the Trust put up new fencing? J. MacKenzie is going to speak to H. Hunter about this.

**The next meeting of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 2nd April 2012 in Fountainhall Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

All are welcome to attend.