**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 2ND APRIL AT 7.30PM**

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

Apologies: Cllr Mitchell, I. Peacock

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Minutes and Matters Arising

Amendment to previous minutes – Cllr Lackenby was present

Cllr Lackenby stated that the white lines on the A7 will be put back in the next financial year. The question was raised as to why the authority patches, but does not automatically paint the white lines at the same time. It is just common sense. Bear Scotland do this on the A68, so why can’t SBC do it?

The deadline for the new fence at the Royal Hotel expired on the 1st April. The question is whose job is it to enforce that this is done. Cllr Aitchison said he has spoken to Alan Gelder (SBC). Within the community there is a difference of opinion – some people want a wooden fence, others want a chain mail fence. SBC are offering to expedite this with two quotes for the work from local fencers. The developers haven’t tidied the site. They have been approached about turning it into a wild, seeded area but are not interested in this.

The minutes were proposed by J. MacKenzie, and seconded by T. Miller.

Police Report

The police would like to thank members of the public and the farming community. 3 people have been arrested but not yet prosecuted for quad bike thefts. It was commented that a serious motorbike accident on the Bow straight was not included in the police report. Accidents which happen on the A7, which might not be directly within the Parish of Stow do affect the Parish of Stow.

General Matters

There is nothing further about Stow Park. SEPA need to be involved. D. Muir will go into the SEPA office to invite a SEPA representative to the Community Council meeting. D. Muir will also write to David Green, who has responsibility for mill lades, to find out what the position is regarding the Mill Lade in Stow. Stow Parish Trust state they are not responsible for the mill lade adjacent to the Park. A copy of the letter will go to Fraser Dunlop, Neigbourhood Services, SBC.

It has been raised that the 20mph speed limit should be extended to cover Townfoot. Councillor Lackenby stated that part of the A7 had been considered for the 20mph limit, as well as Townfoot, but the decision had been made that drivers pick up speed if the area is too long. However, children are in Townfoot after school and Cllr Lackenby will put the request to the Council for a 20mph limit. It was agreed a map of Stow would be useful. Hamish Hunter is to be asked for one.

Stones at the front of Stow School

These are hopefully going to be removed during the Easter holidays.

Cllr Aitchison mentioned that there was a near miss of 2 RAF planes over Stow recently. They were at right angles and within 5 seconds of each other.

There has been a great deal of comment and disquiet regarding the deforestation and fencing for the Borders Railway locally. Hawthorns have been removed just as the birds are nesting. The fencers are not local. The way it is being done leaves a great deal to be desired.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Lackenby and Cllr Mitchell who have regularly attended our meetings and worked extremely hard to resolve local issues to our satisfaction.

Local Council elections will take place before our next meeting. There are 7 candidates for 4 seats.

Dog mess on the quoiting green was raised. It was suggested that the children at the school could do an eco project, with posters. Dog wardens know who is responsible, but have not caught any owners red handed. The quoiting green belongs to the village and dogs could be banned from there. The Community Council could ask Wendy to put something in the newsletter about dog fouling and ask the community for their opinion as to whether dogs should be banned from the quoiting green via yes, no response in the newsletter and on the website.

Stow Community Council applied for a grant for mugs for all children to commemorate the Jubilee, but were informed that organizers of an event have to apply and this is not an event. Stow Sports Committee will be doing something for the Jubilee, so our application will be passed to them.

Community Resilience

The Community Council decided not to sign up for the community resilience project. However, we will use the newsletter to ask for volunteers for the snow clearing project. We also need someone to organize this. We will have a drop box for suggestions in the Post Office.

The Community Council would like to see if we can find a list of volunteers to make our snowplough project do-able.

There was no planning.

Correspondence

Wendy Ball – AGM of Community Archive Project

On Wednesday 25th April, in Stow Town Hall, it was agreed to have a joint venture and feature the community website at this event. It needs to be made obvious to the community that the Community Council are sponsors of the Stow website. J. Mushlin to liaise with W. Ball.

Clare Malster – re Community Council Annual Support Grant 2012/13.

All members of the Community Council, as a whole, agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

Re-shaping Community Care – Guests of Honour – Ian Anderson agreed to be proposed for this. J. Mushlin is to contact Clare Malster to let her know.

Clare Malster – Big Roadshow, Olympic Torch celebrations.

Briefing for Community Councils & planning system.

Commonwealth Games involvement.

Public Consultation on Main Issues Report – Local Plan.

On Track.

Safer Borders.

Grant Application to the Parish of Stow Community Funds Advisory Panel.

AOCB

Concern was expressed that Stow Pipe Band did not turn up at Stow Sports last year. It was explained that this was because last year Stow Sports clashed with the day of the British Championships. It does not clash this year and there will be 2 bands.

Pack Horse Bridge – bits are falling off this. There has been no appraisal of the stone wall which holds up the A7. Cllr Aitchison will contact Historic Scotland about the bridge. The cauld which holds back the water also needs to be looked at. This is where the sewage comes out and it is up to Scottish Water to maintain that.

The Old Church – a lot is falling off this. Cllr Aitchison will do research into who is responsible for this and who the church belongs to.

John Williams – costs incurred for all the work done preparing the case for Community Councils at the Rowantree Public Enquiry. It was agreed to donate £100 towards these costs.

Fencing Round Quoiting Green – it was agreed that A. Riddell will give a list of materials which are needed for a satisfactory fence around the quoiting green and the Community Council will ask for these materials to be provided, and members of the community will do the work voluntarily to erect the fence. However, if the Council disagrees with the materials requested, they will be requested to renew the fence, which they own.

Wooplaw Community Woodland is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. There will be a weekend of events, demonstrations and talks to coincide with the overarching body for Scottish Community Woodlands holding their annual conference in Galashiels. On 31st August, there is a “once in a blue moon night.” Stow Community Council agreed to support Wooplaw Community Woodland in principle.

The new Stow website is up and working. The website could generate an income through advertising. It will be free to all for 6 months and then donations will be requested. It is costing £50 a year for Marcus to run it.

**The next meeting of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 7th May in Stown Town Hall at 7.30pm.**