

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 7TH MAY 2012 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: D. Muir (Chair), J. MacKenzie, I. Anderson, J. Mushlin, T. Miller, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Herd.

Apologies: A. McNeilly, I. Peacock, G. Saunders, A. Riddell, Cllr Aitchison.

Minutes

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

Matters Arising

The Parish Trust cannot close the Quoiting Green to dogs, as previously suggested, with consultation on the subject currently ongoing in Stow. They cannot police this. However, dog fouling is a matter of great concern to the community.

SEPA have said we can clear the Mill Lade. The application for a licence for this for a year costs £77. We need to find costs. T. Miller will organize a meeting with J. MacKenzie and Billy McQuat. The access point needs to be determined. The other question is how to dispose of the debris, which is mainly sludge-sediment. Part of the Mill Lade has been sold to neighbouring properties. Mill Road South will benefit most from the Mill Lade being cleared. Cllr Herd set up the Galashiels Waterways Group and will raise the question of whether they can help in any way. The SEPA application form should go on file until we have found funding for the work. The lottery or SBC community fund might help with this.

Members of the Community Council were very pleased to hear that PC John Lennon, our local policeman, has won an excellence award from the police.

34 % of the electorate voted in the recent Council elections. Sandy Aitchison, Bill Herd, John Mitchell and Bill White were elected to represent our Ward. Unfolded ballot papers proved not to be a problem – previous ballot papers have always been folded.

Ongoing maintenance issues – Work on the drain on the Lauder Road will be checked. The street cleansing team will be reminded to include a man with a brush to sweep up grit from Townfoot next time Townfoot is due to be swept.

The Secretary was requested to put the date repairs were reported on the repairs and general issues sheet, which is circulated to members and Councillors. This will give Community Councillors an idea of how long repairs have been requested for (and not done).

Cllr Bill Herd introduced himself to members of the Community Council. He was born and bred in Galashiels and has previously been elected as a Councillor for Eyemouth, Kilnknowe, Clovenfords and Tweeddale East. He was an electrician in the Borders in the late 60's. He then became a teacher at Galashiels Academy and other schools, before retiring to Ayton. John Mitchell and Bill Herd work together as a team. There are now 9 SNP Councillors.

Bill Herd regards Community Councils as an important layer of local Government. Whilst standing for election he became aware of fly tipping as an issue, with a lorry load of tyres dumped at a layby North of Heriot. Fly tipping needs to be reported straightaway. The question was raised of whether the recycling centre accepts tyres. The fact that we don't get garden waste collections was also raised. Green bins would make sense, or even an occasional collection of garden waste. Cllr Mitchell will look into this.

Planning

Installation of satellite dish, South Wing flat, Manorhead, 168 Galashiels Road, Stow.

Correspondence

Lothian and Borders Outdoor Diary 2012.
Scottish Borders Consolidated Local Plan.
Former Royal Hotel Site Stow mini-planning brief - For consultation with comments due by Friday 6th July 2012. This will be discussed at the next Community Council meeting.

The plan can be downloaded from:

http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory/15/planning_briefs/category/31.

Borders Biodiversity Week.

Scotland's Floral Gateway Competition 2012.

Clare Malster – Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme.

Clare Malster – Energy Saving – Free Insulation Offers in South East Scotland - The comment was made that uptake has been good and it is worthwhile getting loft insulation, as it will save money year on year.

AOCB

Pixellated pictures on TV – especially on the ITV circuit were raised.

This is a problem for both Stow and Fountainhall. Bill Herd will take this up with Christine Graham.

It was also noted that the pavement between Townfoot and the front of the old police station floods when it rains.

PLEASE NOTE

The next meeting of the Parish of Stow Community Council will be held on Monday 11th June 2012 in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting is not taking place on the first Monday of the month as usual, due to the public holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All are welcome at Community Council meetings, which are open to the public.