



## **MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT THE YOUTH CLUB CENTRE, FOSSEWAY, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 1DW AT 7.15 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: S Green (Chairman), J Davies, S Clarke & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of the council & 1 member of public

**Also in attendance:** Advisors: Messrs: G Parke, N Surman & S Jones

**Public Participation:** Members of public present were given an opportunity to speak during the course of the meeting at the chairman's discretion.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs: M Curtis, V Davies & P Day

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the agenda as the meeting progressed.

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Green, seconded Cllr J Davies that the chairman should sign the minutes as a true and accurate record. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

**4. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVE MINUTES**

Clerk had contacted Mr Surman in his capacity as Chairman of Stow Civic Society to ask for an update on additional signs for the Monarch's Way footpath. He said they were waiting comment from the Monarch's Way Association in relation to their proposals.

Debris, accumulated as a result of work by the Community Payback Team, will be burnt by CGS as it will be too costly to remove from site. The pile is adjacent to farmland and great care will be taken to ensure the right weather conditions are in place so as not to cause any issues for nearby residents.

At the same time they will remove the fallen trees close to the vehicular access on the Oddington Road. Clerk is to organise for a tree surgeon to visit the site to see if the remaining trees are safe in this area.

Clerk asked Mr Surman how the Wells clean up had gone. He said that the council may wish to consider putting in a plug that could be easily accessed hence cancelling the need for a water pump to be on site. This will be placed on the agenda for a meeting later in the year.

Council's 3 year Strategic Plan is currently on ice as further work is felt necessary by some members of council and will be looked at by the Finance & General Purpose committee.

The Farmers Market continues to grow in size and popularity. No market took place in December due to the weather.

A copy of the Youth Survey carried out some time back in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan was given to each member. This information was requested when it was suggested that perhaps a BMX track could be installed at King George's Field and whether there was a need or an ambition from the youngsters to have such a facility in the town.

Allotment rents are coming in and tenants have until the end of January to renew their tenancy.

Two moles had been caught on King George's Field who had been popping up in the play area.

Chairman of Stow Cricket Club had written thanking the council for the donation for use of the pavilion for the Bonfire event. He also mentioned that he would like to erect and fly a cricket club flag during the summer which would include sponsors names. This to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and clerk was requested to get more information on the design etc to allow a decision to be made.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

## 6. REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS 2017

### i) Christmas Lights

The clerk gave a report on this year's lights. All the external sockets had been installed with the exception of Hampton's in Digbeth Street. Council had received a great deal of positive feedback on the lights, in particular the tree lights on Stocks Green and the new over road signs. The general consensus was that "they were in keeping with Stow". There are some spare tree lights left over and a set of Christmas tree lights. Clerk asked by chairman to ascertain what the installation costs would be to put these on a tree at The Fountain and another on the Shrubbery. Clerk had met with the supplier of the over road signs and he had apologised for the fact that the sign for the High Street entrance had to be taken down as the decoration was too low and the double decker bus could not get under it. Further investigations are taking place on this as it is a bit of mystery why this happened as the size was exactly the same as the old one. It was agreed that the three over road signs should be the same throughout the town. Three options were put forward and it was agreed to go with Option 2. Discussion took place on the tree lights on Stocks Green in that the tree surgeon felt that they should be removed each year as he was concerned they would not last. Clerk had spoken to manufacturer who had assured her that this is a best selling product, on a nationwide basis and that their recommendation is that they should not be removed annually. They also have a two year guarantee. All agreed that the lights would stay up as it is not cost effective to remove each season as the installation costs are high. The clerk suggested that an alternative way to take down the stars and overhead signs should be found. The cherry picker is not cost effective as the machine can only be hired on a daily basis when actually it is only needed for a maximum of a couple of hours. Clerk said she will be applying for a Tesco Bag grant towards the replacement of all current bulbs with LED's for strings of lights on buildings throughout the town. This will significantly reduce the running costs.

### ii) Christmas tree lights switch on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Despite the weather conditions it was thought that those that braved the conditions had a good time. Clerk had sent out a letter of thanks to all who had helped. Clerk suggested that perhaps the event should start earlier to allow people to visit the shops and take advantage of any attractions the council lays on. Discussion took place on the layout of the area and it was felt that this definitely needs careful consideration and changes made for this year. A working party meeting was set up and all the businesses in the town will be invited to attend. This will then allow a discussion on what the town should do in relation to the Christmas tree lights switch on – keep it small and very community based or try to expand by having more attractions in the hope of increasing the footfall through the town.

## 7. REVIEW OF BONFIRE EVENT FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

This item had been placed on the agenda in error and had been dealt with at the last meeting.

## 8. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

**RESOLVED** – Proposed Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr J Davies that subject to one minor amendment that the draft is approved. **RECORD OF VOTING** – All in favour. **Motion carried.**

## 9. CYCLE RACKS

Meeting discussed various options and ultimately agreed that the Procity decorative modular bike rack was the most suitable. An area on the highway, adjacent to Stow Lodge Hotel, was suggested. Clerk to contact GCC Highways to see if they would give permission for it to be erected at this location.

**10. VISITOR INFORMATION NOTICEBOARDS AT CAR PARKS ADJACENT TO TESCO & MAUGERSBURY ROAD**

Clerk confirmed that the refurbishment of the noticeboard at Shoppers Car park adjacent to Tesco will cost £260 + VAT. This should be completed within the next 6 weeks. She then presented three alternative designs for the new noticeboard for the Maugersbury Road car park. Two models were selected and the clerk is to ascertain if the lettering on the header board on the one could be black and, if the second model chosen could have a side rather than top opening.

**11. QEII FIELD (& CRICKET GROUND)**

Clerk said that a total of nine moles had been caught on the field in late November early December.

**i) Surface at Talbot Square kissing gate entrance to field**

Clerk to speak to Mr Small with regard to putting some hardcore down in the entrance.

**ii) Site meeting to discuss where to locate the two new noticeboards for the field**

Cllrs J Davies & Green arranged to meet on site to discuss suitable locations. This will hopefully take place before the end of the month.

**iii) Work to date by Community Payback Team**

Discussion took place on what the Team had achieved at the QEII field. Differing opinions on whether the team had perhaps been too harsh in places.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Litter pick to be placed on the agenda for next meeting to enable a date to be set sometime in April or May.

Clerk to ask CGS to secure the bonfire site area as the fencing has blown down. It was also suggested that the Stocks Green will need reseeding at the appropriate time. Clerk to take this up with contractor.

It was also mentioned that a grass verge at the bottom of Back Walls (if approaching from Fosseway) has been badly churned up by vehicles.

**13. MEETING CLOSED:** 8.25 pm.

**14. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.15 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman      Dated: \_\_\_\_\_