

**STOW ON THE WOLD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025  
AT 7.00 PM AT STOW SOCIAL CLUB, WELL LANE, STOW ON THE WOLD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**PRESENT:** 55 attendees including town, district and county councillors, police, representatives of local organisations and members of the public

**APOLOGIES:**

**1. WELCOME BY CLLR BEN EDDOLLS, CHAIRMAN OF STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Cllr Ben Eddolls, Chairman of Stow Town Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Stow Social Club for hosting the meeting.

**2. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2024**

The minutes were agreed for signing by the chairman as a true and accurate record.

**3. REPORT FROM POLICE**

Sgt Philippa Moore introduced herself and described the local team. The following types of reports were increasing: residential burglaries and thefts of motor vehicles. She spoke about timer switches for lights and Faraday pouches for keyless vehicles, both available from the station.

Questions/comments:

Great to see Police station is now open – staffed 10am-2pm Mon-Fri.

Perception that there is a drug problem in the town – Police are not getting sufficient intelligence – requested anyone with information to please get in touch, pop in to the station.

**4. REPORT ON STOW PRIMARY SHOOOL – MRS REBECCA SCUTT, HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs Scutt has been at the school for 23 years. She spoke about the latest Ofsted inspection, a great result, and SATS results 100% in reading and maths. The school gets wonderful support from organisations in the town including the town council, police, Legion members, Co-op, Tesco, Edwardstow, Brio, Masonic Lodge, St Edward's and Baptist churches, Brethren, Rotary, WI, lots of community members, governors and parents.

She spoke about extra-curricular activities and a grant from Davison's Law potentially for a swimming pool.

She said school numbers were falling due to families not being able to afford to live here and asked for anything that could be done to help.

Chairman thanked Mrs Scutt and encouraged everyone to visit the school.

**5. REPORT FROM BAYHILL PROPERTY – GUY WOODISSE**

Mr Woodisse described the development in Oddington Road of 37 net zero affordable homes, with a mix of tenures and a good range of family housing. Housing association, Platform Housing and contractor, Speller Metcalf would be doing the work. He said Platform Housing would liaise with the Town Council.

A piece of land had been potentially set aside for the Community Land Trust to build 12 homes, free of charge to the CLT subject to planning, etc. This would allow for a local connection clause.

Archaeological investigations have been carried out on the site. Finds have been catalogued and reported. Results showed the site was occupied at least 2000 years ago and activity included quarrying for local stone and possibly textile manufacturing. Evidence of refuse, food and pottery had been found. He said a presentation would be given to the town council.

Questions/comments:

Prices – would be determined by Platform Housing. Criteria to be met, and a restriction so that the homes can't be staircased out.

#### **6. REPORT BY COTSWOLD DISTRICT CLLR DILYS NEILL**

Cllr Neill said she had been the district councillor for 8 ½ years. She welcomed hearing from local residents. She gives detailed reports every month to the town council meetings and these are available on the town council website. She spoke about some cuts as a result of the latest CDC budget, including reduced customer service phonenumber hours.

She noted the proposed change to a unitary authority, and the need to plan for a lot more housing, were challenges facing CDC.

CDC has an ongoing Unsung Heroes award scheme and anyone could nominate a person for an award. She encouraged residents to contact her with nominations.

Questions/comments:

Asked about the car park toilets being opened for the horse fair, but not for visitors, Cllr Neill said she has been saying the same thing at CDC committee meetings.

#### **7. REPORT FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLLR DARYL CORPS**

Cllr Corps said he lives in Longborough and has been on the district council for a number of years, and is now a county council member. He supported keeping the toilets in the Square open. He promised to do his best for the people of Stow.

#### **8. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE YEAR AHEAD – CLLR BEN EDDOLLS, CHAIRMAN OF STOW TOWN COUNCIL**

Cllr Ben Eddolls said the town council has 11 members and a town clerk and deputy clerk. It owns the playing fields but not much else. The power the town council has is through its relationships with the district and county councillors who help us out.

Questions/comments:

The state of the toilets in the Square is very poor – this has been reported.

The stocks – the town council has engaged a heritage expert and timber conservator and is following the process to have appropriate conservation work done.

Churchyard wall – the town council is responsible for the wall for historical reasons and is working with the diocese to get sorted.

Cllr Eddolls encouraged residents to come along to council meetings.

#### **9. CENTRE 67 – STOW ON THE WOLD YOUTH CLUB – TRUSTEES**

Lucy Busby and Debbie Coleman spoke as members of the Youth Club Board of Trustees. The Youth Club is thriving, with three sessions every week attended by about 50 children

and run by exceptional youth leader, Ria, providing activities at the club. The club has started providing hot meals to raise funds.

Trustees are needed and residents were encouraged to consider coming forward.

Last year the club received funding from Lady Bamford, the Sidney & Crystal Gale Fund, North Cotswold Rotary. The youth club is also helped by Cathy, “the youth club angel” who has contributed hugely and enabled activities that wouldn’t otherwise be possible. They expressed thanks to everyone for their support.

Cllr Eddolls noted that it had been 10 years since the Youth Club nearly folded. Now it’s amazing what goes on

#### **10. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

Cllr Eddolls said the Community Land Trust is about getting truly affordable housing for local people, so our kids can stay here. CLT secretary and treasurer, David Germaney, thanked local organisations for their support, namely the Town Council, District Council, William Hinton Accountants, Newlands and North Cotswold Rotary. Discussions are ongoing about the land in Oddington Road. The Bayhill development has been delayed by a year and that has delayed progress for the CLT. A recent membership drive and leaflet drop resulted in only 2 new members. He appealed for more people to join and get involved with the CLT.

#### **11. WI**

The WI had given apologies but provided a written report which was read out.

#### **12. ST EDWARD’S CHURCH – REVD KAREN WELLMAN**

The Revd Karen Wellman had given apologies but provided an update, saying her focus last year had been on getting to know people, and this year it was to get much more involved in the community. Her contract has been extended until the end of 2028.

#### **13. STOW MOTOR CLUB**

Pete Brown, club chairperson, spoke about the club’s history and encouraged people to get involved. Membership is good value at £24. The club is socially based for anyone interested in motor vehicles of any type, from electric vehicles to steam trains. There are regular events and drives out. The club holds a Motor Show every second year, with fundraising in between. In 2022 there were over 2000 visitors, but the weather meant there were fewer in 2024. Funds were raised for various charities. He thanked sponsors including Brio, VJ Colletts and William Hinton. There were plans for a Help for Heroes fundraiser. The club is involved with Cotswold School to help young drivers, and is keen to involve families and possibly pets. Website is stowmc.org

#### **14. NORTH COTSWOLD ROTARY**

Diana White spoke saying she was the president but Bryan Massen would be taking over on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The branch covers Northleach to Moreton and the villages either side. She thanked the Civic Society for their support via their newsletter. Mrs White spoke about Rotary’s £7000 grants programme, and events, saying “the more you support us the more we can support you”.

A Community Service Award was presented to Helen, who goes above and beyond with litterpicking in Stow. Helen said she would love more volunteers in Stow but was happy to do it and encouraged people to come and say hello.

## 15. ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK

**Moreton Angling Club** – Neil Halley said the club has waters at Adlestrop, Bourton on the Water and Huntsmans Quarry with membership available for all age groups. He encouraged anyone interested to look at their website.

**Friends of Stow Surgery – Tim Churchward** – Chairman Mr Churchward said there were 5 on the committee and they were always looking for people to join. AGM to be held next Friday.

### Questions

Telephone box at Fountain potentially being removed. The Town Council objected to removal of the payphone and BT has decided not to remove it at present.

Importance of having truly affordable housing. Cllr Neill spoke about the levels being set by government and said she would find out when the Oddington Road homes will be available. Cllr Eddolls said the CLT is the route for truly affordable housing. He spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan saying there was still worthwhile content in it, for example the Design Code. There were comments that Stow has ended up with empty retirement homes when what it needs is affordable housing.

## 16. MEETING CLOSED

Ben thanked everyone for coming tonight, saying this meeting had been more positive than any he had chaired over the years. He thanked the Town Council Clerk and Deputy Clerk, and the Social Club for hosting tonight's meeting.  
Meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Minutes taken by Ms E Sajewicz, Deputy Clerk of Stow on the Wold Town Council