

# STOW ON THE WOLD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Stow Youth Centre, Fosseway, Stow on the Wold at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Town Cllrs: M Curtis (MC) (Chair), S Clarke (SC), B Eddolls (BE), S Green (SG), M Moseley (MM), J Scarsbrook (JS), V Davies (VD) & A White (AW), Ward County Cllr N Moor & District Cllr S Jepson, 26 members of the public and Deputy Clerk, Ms L Burke

**Apologies:** Town Cllr C Smalley & Ward District Cllr B Dare.

## **1. Welcome Statement**

Chairman MC welcomed everyone to the meeting mentioning Cllr Smalley's apologies. He also welcomed Cllr Sue Jepson who had agreed to speak on behalf of County Councillor Lynden Stowe and Ward District Cllr Richard Keeling. MC gave a brief overview of the elections last May. Eleven councillors were elected although there have been two resignations. The Council has one applicant and is currently seeking another. The clerk resigned and left in November. Heather Siphthorp will be joining as clerk on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 and is looking forward to working with the councillors and residents. All the committees are forging ahead with projects and have more in the pipeline.

## **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Proposed – AW Seconded - BE, agreed by all previously present.

## **3. Speaker District Councillor Sue Jepson**

Cllr Jepson re-iterated apologies from Cllrs Stowe and Dare; thanked Cllr Richard Keeling for his help with planning issues in the absence of BD. She stated that again Council Tax had been frozen. Green bin and parking charges had been frozen until 2020. The Local Plan would be coming out for consultation in approximately 6 weeks. Also the draft Housing Plan is out for consultation. Housing number requirements are in the region of 8400 over 20 year plan and she could see no further allocation for Stow. CDC are looking into unitary feasibility with West Oxfordshire, a study is in progress. June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 has been set for the McCarthy & Stone SAS site appeal hearing. Town council said that this was the only available site for small workshops. The Doctors are in full support for the Tall Trees application for the surgery. NHS has agreed funding for the site. Another application will be coming in for approval of a surgery on the Gypsy Field site in June. The Planning Officer has stated there is no need for another surgery. Stow Council asked that decision reasons be emailed to the council. SJ said she would speak to planners. MC thanks Cllr Jepson for attending the meeting.

## **4. Reports**

### **a) AW - Planning, Traffic and Parking**

The committee had met 20 times during the year and considered 50 planning applications. AW has attended three CDC Planning meetings to speak on behalf of the community; he also attended the Inspector's enquiry on the ECV proposal. The committee has worked on proposals for traffic management and parking in the Square; secured better bus links with Kingham station and regained nine parking bays for the community with the removal of the recycling bays in Tesco car park. For the future the committee would like to see a 20 mph zone for Stow; looking for sites for off street parking; working with GCC on the Fosseway problems; and chasing GCC to deal with the proliferation of A boards throughout the town. The Committee were dismayed that Brackley have sold the planning approval on the land North of Tesco site to McCarthy & Stone. Brackley had intended to build not for profit apartments for local people. McCarthy & Stone are a national company and actively advertising for countryside residents for high cost apartments.

### **b) Sue Green – Parks and Square**

The committee has been working hard to improve the green spaces throughout the town. The 'Clean for the Queen' campaign was very successful; SG thanked the Civic Society, WI and all the volunteers who helped. Following on the success of last year's Dog Anti-fouling Campaign the committee is planning another campaign, date to be decided. SG was

delighted to mention that the VIC has agreed to a three year contract, she advised that a meeting was being planned to discuss out of hours cover for Sundays and Bank Holidays. A new lease has been signed with the cricket club. The circus is coming to Stow in May and the funfair in June. The bonfire event last November was very popular and another is being planned for this year. The Cadbury tree was very popular. Events are being planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to celebrate the Queens official birthday following the successful beacon lighting. SG thanked both the committee and all who helped with the events.

**c) Ben Eddolls – Neighbourhood Plan**

Following a meeting held in St Edward's Hall an event was held in the Square to gather ideas from the Stow residents about what they would like to see in Stow. This was followed up with public meetings, ideas such as traffic calming measures, a playground in the Swells, a new surgery, lack of affordable housing etc were put forward. A steering committee was formed to pull all the ideas together and create a plan for Stow and the Swells. A core document was produced working alongside the emerging CDC Local Plan and covers a wide range of issues in Stow. A design code guide was produced for any future building in Stow. The Council has approved the documents and they will be sent to CDC for an initial view and for comments. It will then be sent to an independent examiner and if approved put out to public consultation. As a result of the public demand for affordable housing a Community Land Trust is in the process of being formed. BE thanked all the members of the steering group for their hard work and support.

**d) Colin Smalley – Burial Board**

In his absence CS sent in a short report read out by MC. The Burial Board strives to keep the cemetery looking tidy and safe for people visiting. Memorials are checked regularly by way of push testing. The board are very aware of the surface of Spring Gardens leading to the cemetery and allotments needs repairing; discussions have been held with Bromford Housing to alleviate this problem. The Traffic and Parking committee have taken up this issue and are actively pursuing Bromford's for a resolution. Much work had been carried out over the year. The stone pillars at the entrance from Back Walls have been repaired; the ornamental yews have been cut back to allow ease of access; the hedge overshadowing the ashes interment area has been removed to allow more light making the area more welcoming; a children's area is on the process of being designed incorporating a seating area and sensory garden; a member of the public is donating three cherry flowering cherry trees for the Millennium Cemetery. In a recent walk through the Cemetery a list of areas needing attention was collated. These works will be carried out subject to budget as soon as possible.

**5. Public Comments and Questions**

Members of the public expressed concern about the plastic hedges outside Huffkins and the proliferation of A-boards on the roads.

The CLT came out of the Neighbourhood Plan, there about 170 branches throughout the UK and they help to facilitate housing owned and run for the local people. The Council is very aware that the age profile in Stow is being raised with the construction of care homes. Much must be done to try and facilitate housing for young people.

SC has developed a growing e-mail alert loop as a way of posting information to the public. The idea of a public surgery was put forward.

**The meeting closed at 8.35pm**

**Signed .....**

**Date .....**