

**STOW ON THE WOLD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018 AT 7.00 PM AT STOW SOCIAL CLUB, WELL LANE, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**PRESENT:** Town Councillors B Eddolls (Chairman), S Clarke, J Scarsbrook, M Moseley, M Curtis, A White, J Davies, P Day, V Davies & S Green, Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk of council & Ms L Burke, Deputy clerk of council, Ward County Cllr N Moor, Ward District Cllr D Neill, PC N Westmacott, Mrs R Scutt, Head Teacher, Stow Primary School and circa 82 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Town Cllr C Smalley, Rev M Short and Miss N Winter (Stow VIC/Library)

**1. WELCOME**

Cllr B Eddolls, Chairman of Stow Town Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that this was the Town's Annual Meeting and that it was not a council meeting but is currently organised by Stow Town Council and gives residents the opportunity to air their views and is important for the council to understand what matters to the people of Stow.

**2. TO SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017.**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting be signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.

**3. REPORT FROM PC WESTMACOTT**

PC Westmacott informed everyone that the recordable crime figures were the same as last year. Of the 124 recorded 13 had been detected. Over the area approximately 632 incidents took place compared with 500 per day in Gloucester. Although advising to contact the MP for more resources he said it was a catch 22 situation as not enough crime was committed in the area. The local police force was working within the community especially with local schools in the area. He suggested that as the 101 phone line was not working as well as it should e-mailing 101 could produce a quicker response. Should anyone be under threat then 999 should be called. He encouraged the public to be vigilant. Cllr Eddolls thanked PC Westmacott for his report.

**4. NEW COMMUNITY CONNECTOR'S SCHEME IN THE COTSWOLDS – MR K DOWER, GRCC'S PROJECT CO COORDINATOR**

Mr Dower informed the public about the Village & Community Agents and Social Prescribers. There are two local to the North Cotswold area Mr Steve Wincup and Ms Jo Spicer. They work with people that need support. The service is confidential and links in with other agencies. Contact details are available in the library, doctors surgery, website, local magazines etc. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mr Dower.

**5. REPORT ON STOW PRIMARY SHOOOL – MRS R SCUTT, HEAD TEACHER**

Mrs Scutt opened by saying there were 114 children in the school and pre-school and that she has been head for 16 years. There have been improvements all round with the school gaining 86% in the sats. They won the gold award in sports for the second time. Throughout the year the children have taken part in many activities, for example, the town's dog fouling campaign, visits to the library, the bonfire and fireworks event, harvest festival, Remembrance Day parade, open the book, to name a few. The children have also been practising lockdown procedures in the case of an emergency. Mrs Scutt finished by thanking Open Book, Pets Therapy Dog, Co-op Store, Tesco Store, Mrs Peaston of Tesco, PTFA,

Brethren Family, Town Council, Shops, Civic Society, Rotary Club, Police and any others that have given their time and support to the school. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mrs Scutt.

**6. STOW BRETHERN'S WORK IN THE COMMUNITY – MR RICK SIDERFIN**

Mr Siderfin opened by saying that the Brethren are working to promote a good community spirit within Stow. They have been able to help out with such things as clearing heavy snow, helping out with medical movements, town's litter pick & delivering information for the Town Council. The RRT (Rapid Response Team) charity helped out with the Tour of Britain and is ready to help with any emergencies that arise. Cllr Eddolls thanked the Brethren for all their help throughout the year.

**7. THE ORDER OF ST JOHN CARE TRUST NEWLY OPENED EDWARDSTOW COURT– MS FAYE QUINN AND MS MARION FLETT**

Ms Quinn started by saying that the Order of St John is the oldest charity providing care homes throughout the country and provides care for 3,500 people. Edwardstow provides care for 48 people, 32 for dementia and 16 for the elderly. It welcomed its first resident on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The court is employing 60 people and providing training for carers. They have a café, shop, hairdressers, activities, day care and respite in a safe and secure environment. One in four people over the age of 80 have dementia in some form or other. The 21<sup>st</sup> April is National Care Home open day and all are welcome to come and view the facility. Edwardstow is using local staff where possible and are looking for volunteer visitors etc. Cllr Eddolls thanked Ms Quinn.

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

Cllr Eddolls began by thanking his ten fellow councillors for their work. He also thanked Mrs Heather Siphthorp, Clerk & RFO, for her work on behalf of the council. Also Ms Linda Burke, Deputy clerk for her assistance.

Cllr Mike Moseley is chair of the Finance & general purpose committee. The council is in a good position financially due to careful budgeting and planning for the future. Grants are available from the council and an application form can be obtained via the website or office.

Cllr Colin Smalley is chair of the Burial Board. This year has seen repairs to the Bier House in the cemetery and tree works in the churchyard. The Community Payback Team (CPT) has been working hard in both the cemetery and churchyard. Future plans include the possible resurfacing of the overflow car park at the cemetery; new surfaces for the footpaths in the cemetery and repairs to the Lych Gate.

Cllr Sue Green is chair of Parks and square committee. This year has seen a renewal of the dog fouling and litter pick campaigns. A successful bonfire event and Christmas tree light switch on event despite the freezing weather. New "Welcome" signs have been erected on the QEII field and there are some new gates too. The CPT team have again been working hard clearing both QEII and King George's playing fields and our thanks to them. The committee are looking into a new metal fence for the King George's play area and a BMX feasibility study. On 11<sup>th</sup> November there will be a Beacon lighting taking place on the QEII field as part of a nationwide event in celebration of 100 years since the end of WW1. . The town bonfire & fireworks event will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Cllr Alun White is chair of Planning, traffic & parking committee. The 'Adopt a Gulley' scheme is taking off, with residents helping to clear the gullies or if unable to do so reporting

them to council. The committee has negotiated 48 reduced rate parking spaces in the Mangersbury Road car park. The committee is actively working on a 20 mph zone in town, the pedestrianisation of Digbeth Street, a 7.5 tonne weight limit for Sheep Street and affordable housing.

#### **9. REPORT FROM WARD COUNTY COUNCILLOR NIGEL MOOR**

Cllr Moor began by informing us that he covers 20 parishes and said Stow has a fantastic atmosphere and the town council fight for what they want. He divided his talk into three elements. He first spoke of the statutory duties that the County Council has to carry out. These include child protection and the vulnerable elderly as well as working with the NHS on public health issues. Infrastructure includes roads, footpaths, and cycle ways, subsidised public transport and liaison with the railways etc. The County Council helps with libraries, schools, parking, management, broadband, TRO's, licencing and much more. A new innovation is The Road Safety Hub where it is possible to report road safety issues and road damage. [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/community-hub](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/community-hub) where problems can be reported brings together the Road Safety Team, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Gloucestershire Police and GCC Highways.

Secondly the budget for 2018/19 was agreed at £412.9M based on a tax increase of 4.49%. 2% is ringfenced for adult care. The Lengthsman will be starting in Stow on May 28<sup>th</sup>. As part of the £150M investment on the county's roads over the next five years, the Square in Stow will be resurfaced in May and the Evesham Road from Troopers Lodge to Stow later in April. Safe and Well visits conducted by the GFRS are planned, hoping to reach 10,000 households in 2018/19 and since 2013 the number of domestic fires has decreased by nearly 10%.

Cllr Moor stated that he is trying to reduce the impact of traffic particularly HGV's on Stow. He has set up a task group to examine conditions along the A429. His aim is to remove the A429 from the freight routes through Gloucestershire. Thirdly, the legal requirement for the 20 mph zone in Stow is complete and he has hopes that the new signage will be installed this summer. A weight restriction for Digbeth Street is being investigated; and work with the town council to introduce traffic calming measures is being undertaken. Finally, the lights through Stow from the Wyck junction to the Tesco junction have been reset and have improved traffic flow. Cllr Ben Eddolls thanked Cllr Moor.

#### **10. REPORT FROM WARD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DILYS NEILL**

Cllr Neill began by thanking everyone for their good wishes during her illness. She went on to say that the District Council is responsible for planning, housing, refuse services etc. The Council meets every three months. Publica is a new company formed to make savings. CDC monies come in from the council tax, business rates and new homes bonus.

Cllr Neill recently took part in a tour of public conveniences to view facilities provided in the area. Affordable housing is a huge priority for Stow. The Local Plan will hopefully be approved in the next few months. She then went on to say that she enjoyed being a councillor and enjoyed working with local councils and Cllr Nigel Moor. Cllr Eddolls thanked Cllr Neill.

#### **11. STOW NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) GROUP UPDATE – CLLR PETER DAY**

Cllr Day, chairman of the group, began by saying that the NDP could form the future of Stow. The current plan had begun in 2014 and is currently being updated in conjunction with the NPPF. There is a growing need for affordable housing with the elderly demographic changing, overall currently 25%, Stow at present is at 35% and with the new builds will move

to 45%. The lack of affordable housing causes problems with recruiting people to the service industries for example the fire service. Cllr Eddolls thanked Cllr Day.

**12. WORK OF THE STOW LIBRARY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE (VIC) – MRS SUE JOHN AND MISS VAL GODDARD**

The library has housed the VIC for the last three years and is actively supporting Stow and encouraging visitors towards the sights and shops. The footfall has increased over the period bucking the local trend. The library stages events to encourage children to visit and to read; computers are provided for members of the public to access emails and internet. The library has a project with the Tesco Tokens (received 20,000 votes) to provide books in foodbanks, also leaving literature in the boxes informing people of the computer access available. More books are needed for the project as there are now foodbanks in Moreton and Bourton. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mrs John and Miss Goddard.

**13. ST EDWARD'S HALL – MISS BARBARA BANNING, CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES**

There are nine trustees who meet three or four times a year to oversee the hall. It is a charity and has a website; it is also full of history and paintings. The website provides a calendar showing event dates; priority is given to Stow events so if a date clashes with a hirer it is possible to change their dates. The hall is booked for the Motor Show and the Cotswold Festival. If any work to be done on the building the trustees try to use local services. New lighting is now in place and work is being done to the kitchen. There is to be an open weekend in August. Cllr Eddolls thanked Miss Banning.

**14. STOW MOTOR SHOW SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 – MR GEOFF PARKE**

The motor show will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July on the QEII field; it is possible to register interest on the website. There will be various events going on, hot & cold food and a bar. Volunteers to act as stewards on the day would be most welcome. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mr Parke.

**15. UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DRS SURGERY**

The new building is going up rapidly and it is hoped to be fitted out ready for Christmas and hopefully by the end of the year a brand new surgery. Dr Thornett has now retired and two new doctors have joined the practice, Drs Linden and Jenkins, the practice has also expanded the nursing team and there is now a frailty nurse to help the vulnerable who can help them with contacting other services etc.

**16. ARE THERE ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED THIS EVENING WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK?**

**Community Land Trust – Mr Peter Minty**

Mr Minty spoke about a survey on affordable housing needs. Also the CLT had been looking for affordable sites without success. He also appealed for new members. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mr Minty.

**Tesco Community Champion – Mrs Clare Peaston**

Mrs Peaston reminded everyone about the Tesco 'Bags for help' scheme, she advised looking at the Tesco website for how to apply. She appealed for Stow and the surrounding area projects. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mrs Peaston.

**Stow Civic Society – Mr Nigel Surman**

Mr Surman, chairman of the society, said there were approximately 200 members who enjoyed evening talks, trips and an autumn lunch etc. They now host walks every Sunday. As

a society they try and address local issues, have an advisory position on the planning committee, provide finger posts and help with identifying buildings of local interest. Mr Surman made an appeal for new members and informed everyone that they are possibly going to run a single use plastic campaign. Cllr Eddolls thanked Mr Surman

**17. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

**18. MEETING CLOSED** at 9.40 pm.

Minutes taken by Ms L Burke, Deputy Clerk of Stow Town Council.