



**MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY 2024 AT STOW YOUTH CENTRE, FOSSEWAY,
STOW ON THE WOLD GL54 1DW AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs B Eddolls (Chairman), J Scarsbrook (Vice Chairman), A White, J Piper, J Davies, V Davies, Cllrs S Winter, S Clarke & M Stracey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Evans, Clerk/RFO of Council, District Councillor Dilys Neill & PCSO's John Allen & Kim Graham, Cara Loukes & colleague & 1 member of public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Alison Tighe
Ward County Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington,

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman announced that the Clerk will be leaving Stow on the Wold Town Council, A date has yet to be agreed and the job will be advertised soon.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members were reminded to declare any interests that may arise during the meeting.

4. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED that the Chairman should sign the minutes as a true and accurate record. **Motion carried.**

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The member of public reserved right to comment on the County Councillors report and was given the opportunity to speak at the appropriate time.

6. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2023

The Clerk reported that the precept had been submitted.

The response to the examiners questions regarding the Neighbourhood Plan have been submitted and copies of both Sow on the Wold Town Councils and Cotswold District Council are on the Stow Town Council website.

Bridget Bowen the internal auditor visited on the 9th February the report was positive.

Reponses to the New Councillor vacancy we were encouraging. There were 7 applicants. Each applicant has been interviewed and a decision will be made on Tuesday 5th March at 6 pm via the method of a vote.

7. POLICE REPORT

PSCO John Allen attended the meeting and delivered the police report, the report was circulated to all members and placed on the Councils website under NEWS. There was a total of 6 crimes during the period 21st January – 21st February. PCSO Allen explained in more detail the incident in the square. They also explained that the police reception would remain closed as they were unable to recruit a receptionist in the immediate future.

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR MARK MACKENZIE-CHARRINGTON, COTSWOLD DIVISION

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington's report had been circulated to all members and placed on Council's website under NEWS. Cllr MacKenzie- Charrington did not attend the meeting so could not elaborate.



9. REPORT FROM WARD DISTRICT CLLR DILYS NEILL

Cllr Neill's report had been circulated to all members and placed on Council's website under NEWS. Cllr Neill expanded on the visit to Stow by Cllr Joe Harris, they visited Newlands and walked around Stow looking at the street signs. A list has been compiled of all the signs that need replacing.

10. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CARA LOUKES ON THE RESULTS OF THE GRCC 2023 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

A report was given by Cara Loukes on behalf of GRCC regarding the housing needs survey completed in June 2023. The survey confirmed the need for 24 houses. The survey also reiterated that stow has an aging population and that the population is declining. 15% of stow residents completed the survey. Cara explained how her services could be used to bring about housing through exception sites.

11. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND AGREE THE CHANGES.

Members reviewed the document and the changes made. The document has been brought in line with legislative changes.

RESOLVED to accept the financial regulations and the changes made. **Motion carried.**

12. TO REVIEW THE STANDING ORDERS AND AGREE THE CHANGES.

Members reviewed the Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to accept the policy. **Motion carried.**

13. TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING POLICIES AND AGREE THE CHANGES.

- a) MATERNITY LEAVE AND MATERNITY PAY ADVICE NOTE
- b) HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY
- c) HEALTH & SAFETY DSE ADVICE NOTE
- d) GRANT AWARDING POLICY
- e) INFORMATION AVAILABLE UNDER PUBLICATION SCHEME
- f) TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- g) COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Members discussed each individual policy and agreed to accept all changes as recommended by the Clerk.

RESOLVED to accept all policies A-G. **Motion carried.**

14. TO AGREE THE PROPOSED METAL DETECTING ON COUNCIL LAND POLICY.

Members discussed allowing metal detecting on the QEII field, considering the information on from The Battlefields Trust, they decided that the risk of not properly cataloguing any finds outweighed the benefits.

RESOLVED to accept the policy on not allowing metal detecting on Council land. **Motion carried.**

15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM HATWELL'S FUN FAIR TO INCREASE THE AREA USED FOR THE FAIR TO INCLUDE THE SQUARE OUTSIDE OF STOW LODGE.

Members discussed the benefits of allowing the fair more space within the square. Several members were concerned about the impact on the businesses and several members were concerned about the loss of parking.

RESOLVED that the fair would be allowed to extend for one year providing that adequate access to the square through the middle was left and that the disabled car parking spaces remained usable. **Motion carried.**

16. TO CONSIDER THE GRANT APPLICATION OF £1197.00 FROM FRIENDS OF SWELL SCHOOL TO PROVIDE 1 HOUR OF MUSIC LESSONS PER WEEK TO 34 CHILDREN DURING FEBRUARY 2024 TO JULY 2024.



Members discussed this application, although they were not able to fully support the application due to the school being outside of the parish. There are 11 children attending the school from Stow on the Wold.

RESOLVED to award £411.46 – a prorated amount of the grant for the children who are residents of Stow on the Wold. **Motion carried.**

17. TO CONSIDER THE GRANT APPLICATION FROM NORTH COTSWOLD ROTARY CLUB FOR THE VALUE OF £250.00 TO COVER THE COST OF DRAMA LESSONS FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS AT STOW ON THE WOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Members discussed the application.

RESOLVED to award the full amount of £250.00. **Motion carried.**

18. TO CONSIDER THE GRANT APPLICATION FROM STOW ON THE WOLD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB FOR THE VALUE OF £5000.00 TO REPAIR THE CEILING OF THE CLUB HOUSE.

Members discussed the grant to the rugby club. The club is outside of the boundary of the parish however 20% of their members are from Stow on the Wold. They also contribute to the town.

RESOLVED to award £2000.00 towards the cost of the new ceiling in recognition of the part the rugby club plays in the community. **Motion carried.**

19. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST TO ERECT AN INFORMATION BOARD ABOUT THE BATTLE OF STOW AT THE FOUNTAIN.

Members discussed the proposal, potential designs, and placement of notice board. the board should be placed in between the benches behind the fountain facing north.

RESOLVED to agree in principle to the notice board, subject to further information from the Battlefields Trust and appropriate permissions. **Motion carried.**

20. TO NOTE THAT TREES ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF KING GEORGES PLAYING FIELD HAVE BEEN REMOVED DUE TO ASH DIE BACK.

Council noted the removal of the trees, comments were made on the changes it makes to the view.

21. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK ON THE PUBLIC TOILETS.

The Clerk reported that the deadline for a decision was the 31st March 2024. Clerk has approached local companies to tender. Full information has been received from Danfo regarding the current maintenance costs and the utility bills.

Members were informed that the toilets would be leased to STC on a peppercorn rent and that all maintenance would be STC's responsibility. Cllr A White requested that the Clerk approaches CDC to discuss the possibility of STC owning the building.

Cllrs J Davies & V Davies will approach the businesses of Stow to inform them of the situation.

22. TO RECEIVE BRIEF REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: -

a) BURIAL BOARD

No meeting held since last full council meeting.

b) FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

i) TO APPROVE BANK RECONCILIATIONS TO 31st JANUARY 2024

Resolved approved an amount of £41,802.66 when all outstanding cheques had been drawn.
Motion Carried.

ii) TO REPORT BALANCE IN CCLA ACCOUNT AS OF 31st JANUARY 2024

Clerk reported that there was £264,996.64 in the account.

iii) TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR FEBRUARY 2024



RESOLVED expenditure approved for a gross amount of £9,065.48 For details see Appendix 1 on page 440. **Motion carried.**

c) PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE

No meeting held since last full council meeting.

d) PLANNING, TRAFFIC & PARKING COMMITTEE

Meeting held on the 27th February 2024 to discuss current planning applications.

e) NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

No meeting has been held. Council have responded to the questions from the examiner. A full report from the examiner can be expected in mid-March 2024.

23. REPORT BY ANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE HAD A MEETING OR ATTENDED ANY EVENT ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL.

Cllr J Piper attended the first meeting of St Edwards Hall, the trustees are pleased with the work completed by GCC on the building. Barclays are now paying a rent for using the library. 40% is going directly to the St Edwards Hall. The fire alarms are being changed to Wireless Alarms.

Cllr J Davies attended the social club meeting, nothing significant to report.

Cllr A White, B Eddolls, J Scarsbrook, V Davies along with the Clerk attended a meeting with GCC parking to review how to make the on-street parking work more efficiently. A working group will be formed including residents to discuss in more detail.

The Clerk attend a meeting in Cirencester regarding the Local Plan.

Cllrs A Tighe and S Winter visited the school and the Youth club and asked questions regarding the proposed skate park. These were productive, children have a preference for a bike track.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.00 pm in Stow Youth Centre.

25. MEETING CLOSED – 8.37 pm

Signed
Chairman of Council

Date

APPENDIX 1

Viking Payments	Stationary - hole punch, date stamp, bulldog clips	£40.43	£8.09	£48.52
Bridget Bowen	Internal audit Review	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
Techtonic it Solutions Ltd	remote monitoring & Microsoft	£110.30	£22.06	£132.36
Administration		£3,535.23	£0.00	£3,535.23
Gloucestershire County Council	Road closure for church walk	£870.00	£0.00	£870.00
B Eddolls	grass seed, petrol, and paint brushes	£76.52	£0.00	£76.52



cottage garden services	Trim cemetery yew trees, park inspections, empty bins, clean park park	£1,928.00	£385.60	£2,313.60
RCOH	2 days work for the Neighbourhood plan	£1,100.00	£220.00	£1,320.00
Eon	cricket pavillion electricity	£16.10	£0.80	£16.90
Charge Card				
NEST	February Pension Contributions	£228.14	£0.00	£228.14
Richard Coglán LTD	Copier Charges	£27.62	£5.52	£33.14
Grundon	Office bin	£55.31	£11.06	£66.37
Grundon	Cemetery bin	£56.40	£11.28	£67.68
Eon	electricity for pavilion	£16.02	£0.81	£16.83
Sirus	call charges	£75.16	£15.03	£90.19
		£8,385.23	£680.25	£9,065.48

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