

**STOW ON THE WOLD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023  
AT 7.00 PM AT STOW SOCIAL CLUB, WELL LANE, STOW ON THE WOLD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**PRESENT:** Town Councillors B Eddolls (Chairman), J Scarsbrook, S Clarke, J Davies, V Davies, J Scarsbrook, J Piper, A Tighe, Mrs C Evans, Clerk/RFO of council & Ms E Sajewicz, Deputy clerk of council, Ward County Cllr M MacKenzie-Charrington, Police Inspector S Ellson & colleagues, Mrs R Scutt (Head of Stow Primary School) and approximately 30 members of the public

**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 SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2022**

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

**3. REPORT FROM POLICE**

Inspector Simon Ellson introduced himself and colleagues PC Ali Palfrey and PCSO John Allen. He encouraged people to contact Police via the website or get email address from town clerk Claire. He said policing priorities in Stow and the North Cotswolds include acquisitive crime e.g. quad bikes from sheds/dwellings; organised crime groups from outside the area targeting high value property. Police are working on it behind the scenes. The Cotswolds is one of the safest places in the country to live in terms of crime.

PCSO John Allen spoke about work they have been doing in the area, including a mobile police station visiting the villages, crime prevention advice, speed watch, school visits, working with HMRC and the Environment Agency on oil spills and diesel. He said the team can be contacted via the website.

Asked about speedwatch results, PCSO Allen said warnings are sent, and if there is a repeat the driver will be targeted. A resident said speeding was an issue outside Tesco.

Officers were thanked for their report and their work in Stow.

**4. REPORT FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLLR MARK MACKENZIE-CHARRINGTON**

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington introduced him and said he represented residents of Stow, Moreton and Upper Rissington at the County Council. He spoke about Highway issues saying the past winter had devastated the roads and it would take a bit of time to repair the potholes and surfaces. He said he had access to an annual budget of £30,000 to help with local issues. Suggestions could be put forward via Stow Town Council, whose monthly meetings he normally attends.

He spoke about quarry traffic issues, and the Robin Bus Service currently being trialled.

A member of the public asked about vehicles parking on dropped kerbs and was advised that a traffic warden could deal with that.

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington was thanked for his report and his support for the town.

**5. REPORT BY COTSWOLD DISTRICT CLLR DILYS NEILL**

Cllr Neill had given her apologies as she was unable to attend. Her report was read by Town Councillor Janet Piper and had been published on the Town Council website.

Questions were asked about the lack of new social housing in Stow since 1990, and about the state of traffic in the town.

Town Council Chairman, Ben Eddolls, encouraged the speakers to come and talk to the Council. He said the Town Council was actively trying to get new affordable housing for Stow, but in terms of traffic there was no magic solution.

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

Cllr Ben Eddolls introduced the Town Clerk, Claire Evans, and Deputy Clerk Liz Sajewicz. Recent Council activities had been consultation on possible sites for the Neighbourhood Plan which resulted in the site behind Tesco being preferred, and a new bench on Stocks Green to commemorate Covid volunteers. He gave an update about King Georges Field following its occupation by Travellers, saying the Council had been working hard to improve security of the fields with new rising bollards and fencing being installed. Other events organised by Town Council included the spectacular fireworks nights, Remembrance Parade and Armistice, with children from the school playing a key role, and similarly at the Christmas Tree Lighting event. He said the Community Payback Team were back in Stow once a week to help with odd jobs around the town.

A new Town Council been elected in May, and welcomed new Council member Merlyn Stracey. To mark the Coronation, Fisher House held a street party, and volunteers made a path around the edge of the allotments. The Town Council was working with the County and District Councils to get the footway outside Crestow House reopened as soon as possible.

Hatwell's Fun Fair would be in Stow from 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Revel in the Square would be happening on 15<sup>th</sup> July with family fun, entertainment and live music in the evening.

The next stage of formal consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan was coming up.

Other plans were to repaint the pavilion and prepare Cemetery Meadow for use as well the regular bonfire, fireworks, Remembrance and Christmas Lights.

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

Mrs Scutt spoke about the school and encouraged everyone to come and visit. The school values are Heart, Hand, Mind, so the emphasis is not just about learning. This year the focus has been on reading, to catch up following Covid. Perseverance is the mantra. Support from the Town Council, school governors, Police and the Churches in Stow including fantastic support from Tesco and the Brethren with food boxes etc for children and families, was hugely appreciated. It was shocking the access children had with the internet. The school tries to inspire children to be young leaders, encouraging them to help others. There were 3 Ukrainian children at the school and they had been embraced by the children.

She spoke about challenges, including housing, saying Heather View has brought new children/families but more needed. Funding was a challenge. The school didn't strike but teachers feel strongly about this critical issue.

Mrs Scutt thanked everyone for their amazing support.

Mr Bockhart thanked the school for their participation in Remembrance events, saying the school was affiliated with the Stow British Legion.

Mrs Scutt was thanked for her report.

**8. THE DEMENTIA CAFÉ – CAROLYN BUFFERY**

Ms Buffery spoke to say her mother, Alexa Buffery, had found there was a need for more support in this area for people with dementia and their carers. She had set up the new café with the advice and support of Dementia Friends North Cotswolds. Stow Town Council had given a grant of £500 which would be used to purchase exercise equipment.

The café is held at the Baptist Church on the first and third Friday of each month, 2pm - 4pm, offering friendship, support, advice and activities for anyone living with or caring for someone with dementia.

#### **9. NEWLANDS – AMY GOODSON**

General Manager Amy Goodson and deputy Jane said Newlands had been part of Stow for 30 years and tried to build links with the community. Newlands was keen to support any local causes, and invited residents to come along for a look and a cuppa.

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

Trustee Thomas Green and Secretary Debbie said the Youth Club ran regularly on Friday evenings with 60 young people attending, including some from surrounding villages. They spoke about the activities and trips and the brilliant leader, Ria. The Youth Club is a fun, safe space, where young people are not judged and can have a laugh. It is difficult to be a young person these days and the Club is doing important work. They thanked the dedicated trustees especially Frances and Debs, and thanked Tesco, the Co-op, the Town Council and for the fantastic local support generally. They spoke about the new kitchen that was planned, and about the Club's allotment plot, and thanked Chris Small for his help.

The Youth Club's email address is [stowyouthclub@gmail.com](mailto:stowyouthclub@gmail.com)

Cllr Eddolls said a few years ago the Youth Club had nearly folded, but now it was a great success, and he thanked everyone involved for the work they do.

#### **11. KATE'S HOME NURSING – NICK PUFFETT**

Nick said Kate's Home Nursing was started by Kate King who wanted to die at home. Now there are 23 nurses who are highly skilled in palliative care, providing a very bespoke hospice and home service. There was a carers' café on the first Thursday of each month and he would like to talk to Carolyn about the Dementia Café. Kate's Home Nursing also offers bereavement support, a bereavement café, and has recently introduced complementary therapy. They are also working with Beautylicious in Bourton to offer mobile service to patients and carers. They help around 200 patients and 300 carers/bereaved every year, and have to raise £500,000. Nick thanked the generous donors from the local community and businesses.

#### **12. TESCO – DAVE RHODES**

New Store Manager, Dave Rhodes, said Tesco was a massive organisation and as part of the community he welcomed anyone to come and see him with requests (but not on Thursdays), and he would do what he could to help. He spoke about extension plans for the store, saying he had asked for increased ranges of non-food items and fresh food. Tesco doesn't want to take business away from the town. He is happy to hear feedback and for his email address to be shared: [dave.rhodes@tesco.com](mailto:dave.rhodes@tesco.com)

#### **13. ST EDWARD'S CHURCH – DESMOND WATSON**

Desmond spoke about keeping worship open since the Rector left in October. The refurbishment had recently been completed and he encouraged everyone to come and see the wonderful result – a flexible space with the solidity of its historical past. The new priest in charge would be starting in September.

Question: Clock face is a bit dirty, suggestion that the Fire Service might be able to help.

Desmond will liaise.

#### **14. STOW MOTOR CLUB – BEN EDDOLLS**

New Motor Club chairman is Paul Evans. He spoke about the club's activities, of which the main event is the Stow Motor Show, which is held every two years, with the next event to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 on the Cricket Field. He encouraged everyone to take part or come along. Last year there were 2000 visitors. The event supports local charities including Stow Community Hub, the Sam Pickering Trust and Cotswold Friends.

**15. UPDATE ON CELEBRATIONS IN THE TOWN ON 15TH JULY KNOWN AS REVEL IN THE SQUARE –  
CLAIRE EVANS, TOWN CLERK**

Claire spoke about plans for the event, including a live band the Rock Mockers, food stalls and other entertainment and activities, and encouraged everyone to come along and enjoy the celebrations.

**16. ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK**

**Food Bank – Lorna and Joy** – spoke about the work of the Food Bank and explained that people were referred to it by local organisations such as the school, doctors, housing associations. They also have dedicated advisors who can help with benefits and entitlements. The Food Bank is in Stow on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Baptist Church. Thank you to local business who have a collection point/tin/donations, and thank you for the tons of food donated by the people of Stow.

**Trustees of St Edward’s Hall – Andrew Easterbrook, Secretary** – Mr Eastbrook said the hall was thriving. Some major work would be done this autumn, and he thanked Stow Town Council for grant funding received. Opening of the attic was an aspiration, but it would need £40,000-£50,000.

**Royal British Legion – Ron Bockhart and S M Gore**– Mr Bockhart thanked Town Clerk, Claire, for her work on Remembrance events last year. He said the Stow Legion is down to six members on the committee and desperately needed more people to help. They meet once a month every third Wednesday for two hours max. If anybody is able to help it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Ron or S?.

Stewart - A new cadet unit is being planned for Stow by the Police.

Carolyn Buffery spoke about litter picking, saying some more people were needed to litter pick. She said the worst places were outside premises that have tables out front, and could they be encouraged to keep these tidy. Ben thanked Carolyn and her friends for the work they were doing for the town.

A resident spoke on behalf of the Community Land Trust saying the CLT aimed to create truly affordable housing in Stow for local people, and asked people to join as members or to consider joining the board. There would be an open meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**17. MEETING CLOSED**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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