

Minutes StWF AGM meeting held on zoom 27th July 2020 7 p.m.

Stu: chaired the meeting.

Susan: Minutes.

Present: Sue. Susan. Michelle. Stu. Margaret. Councillor Locke. Brendan. Sharon. Martin. Julie. Evan. Laura.

1 .Apologies: Lisa G. Ian S. Stacey W. Chris.H. Precious L.

Stu invited the guests to introduce themselves to each other.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 4th March 2019 Approved by those present.

3. Matters Arising

A. An update on the planning application made for the land purchased by Seven Capital. We believe the housing part of the planning has been accepted but we need confirmation from Councillor Lock if the retail part was going ahead. Councillor Locke said it is with planning. (Previously the land was owned by Tesco).

The planning application made by the Stirchley co-operative group (Not the co-op food store as a lot of residents mistakenly thought) comprising of local businesses (Artefact, Bike Foundry and Loaf) which is still with Planning. This is for the piece of Seven Capital land within the primary shopping area of Stirchley.

Councillor Locke informs the meeting the original plans have been changed from 4 storeys to 3 storeys. There will be a short consultation and will go back to planning possibly September.

Michelle asked if Councillor Locke could assure the meeting the local residents would be consulted. As she felt the plan for only residents who are non car owners to rent the apartments would not work. Michelle said these types of plans have been tried in Brighton but had failed miserably when visitors to the non car owning tenants were car drivers. Or a partner moved in who was a car driver. Michelle's said she thought it was an unnecessary burden on the residents in the side roads, especially for those residents living in Hunts Road. Sue and Susan agreed. Michelle felt it would lead to resident car parking permits. Which are very expensive? Michelle also said she had found it ridiculous as a one parent family trying to cope with a young baby and shopping.

Susan suggested the plan might not be fit for purpose with only one disabled space and there should be more. Sue agreed as a disabled driver she drives around everywhere trying to find a space. If there is additional pressure on car parking places. Councillor Locke said the residents would be consulted. Michelle said we want more than a notice placed on a lamp post we need letters to each individual resident

within the local vicinity of the proposed block. Sue said she knew of at least four residents in Hunts Road who knew nothing of the proposed development.

It is unsure if the land has been formerly purchased by the Stirchley Cooperative group from Seven Capital. No one knew if the sale was reliant on of planning approval.

B. Graffiti kits purchased with funding were distributed to local businesses on the high street by Susan. This was a promotion by Councillor Locke.

4. Treasurers Report Opening balance as of

1st Jan 2019 - £1339.39 Closing balance as of today's date £551.16

There were two successful events, the fete 2019 and Xmas fayre 2019. As a not for profit group and with the Covid situation we have been able to make larger donations this year. As follows:-

£200 Stirchley Primary School

£50 Stirchley History Group.

£50 Lets grow together, fruit and nut trail Stirchley.

£50 Dads Lane Community Group

£150 Stirchley Youth Theatre

£200 Leaf creative (dementia group) Memory café

£60 Stirchley Baths Xmas Tree

£125 Stirchley Baths donation from Fete

£20.00 Birmingham Rock School

£100 Sherbourne Sea Cadets

£50 Dementia Champions

£50 Artefact arts and crafts Stirchley

Total of community donations £1,105.00

5. Stirchley Bloomers Report update from Stu.

Stu explained Stirchley Bloomers was a spin off from Stirchley the Way Forward and is now a constituted group in its own right and organised by Kerry Leslie. Stu said the group concentrated on weeding and planting near to

the former constituency office on the High Street.

6. S106 Feedback

Councillor Locke

Not much happening due to Covid19 Delegated authority agreed for bins, benches, painting railings and planters. The shop frontage scheme the council officers are working on the COGA (conditions of grant aid) any Stirchley traders interested should perhaps contact the officer through Councillor Locke. The updates on the high street await the transport plan before starting. The proposal for restrictions of the high street to enable social distancing is available [https://covidmeasuresbirmingham commonplace is/schemes/proposals/Stirchley-local-centre/details](https://covidmeasuresbirmingham.com commonplace is/schemes/proposals/Stirchley-local-centre/details).

Or to make comments the email: connected@birmingham.gov.uk

We recommend businesses read the documents and make comments. You have until 31st July 2020 although the officers will listen to comments after this date. It is intended the restrictions will come into place in August as a temporary measure for six months. If the traders and residents are happy with all or part of the scheme this could be made permanent.

Laura indicated she was in support of the plans especially the park lets. Michelle asked what are park lets. Susan checked on Google. However, Susan was unsure how this would work. If the council are restricting the parking on the high street outside businesses to widen the pavement to assist with social distancing then a park let would obstruct the pedestrians. Michelle asked Martin if he would be thinking of putting table and chairs for his restaurant into the road. Martin wasn't sure but wanted to support green eco efforts. Stirchley needs to be forward thinking. Michelle said although it could look nice, its not suitable for the British climate and there are the fumes, along with the road is an arterial route to and from the City. Councillor Locke also said Pershore Road is a blue route for all our services.

Sue asked Councillor Locke what percentage of parking was being removed. Councillor Locke said she thought it was about 25% Sue said that's wrong looking at the plans it looks as though it is more like 40% it is also incorrect allowing additional space on pavements which are already wide enough. Susan said she thought Hazelwell Street did need restricting and would slow the traffic and give the pedestrians opportunity to cross at the junction of Bournville Lane and Hazelwell Street.

Martin asked what did the council want to achieve. He was concerned

because many businesses including his own need space to deliver stock which is every day.

Martin suggested deliveries and collections could perhaps be restricted to a certain time of the day. Sue said she thought that impossible. Their delivery drivers come and every hour of each day, very difficult if coming from long distance too. Susan said it would mean the trucks perhaps parking in side roads waiting for time to pass. Stirchley is unlike Harborne and Kings Heath where there are service roads and car parks. Stirchley has none of those. Stirchley High Street (Perschore Road) backs onto residential houses with no spare space.

Someone suggested parking on Morrison's or Magnets. Sue said I can't see any of our customers carrying a base unit or set of drawers from DJF Kitchens premises to Magnet car park. Why does everyone suggest parking on the privately owned car parks of shops? Totally inconsiderate! Martin suggested we all need to do our bit to encourage cycling; walking etc. but it could impact local businesses negatively. Susan this is true, we aren't an outside café culture, certainly wouldn't want to sit on the main road with the bus and trucks going past. It would be too scary. Councillor Locke said be sure to put in your comments.

High Street Funding Report –

On behalf of Stirchley traders Susan along with Sandra Cooper representing residents attended a seminar in Manchester earlier in the year. The idea is to help our high street thrive in these indecisive and challenging times.

A footfall count took place in March and another planned for August and a further one in December.

We need volunteers to undertake this task.

Susan: My suggestion, we invest in permanent footfall cameras which would give us the accurate indication of footfall over a 24 hours period. I think this would be more beneficial to see the affect of the footfall since Covid. The funding for the cameras could come from the allocation from central government to our local council to assist our high street.

7. Proposal and vote for administrative posts.

There are five positions available along with two co-opted positions. Susan said she had the names of people who wish to join the committee. Susan had asked for anyone who was interested to email her ahead of tonight's meeting. We will read out the names and then ask for votes.

Stu said would you like to make comment.

Sue: I am standing down as of tonight. I would like to thank you all for your support, I have enjoyed being part of Stirchley the Way Forward but it is time to retire from the committee.

Susan: I am resigning from my position as secretary and administrator of Stirchley, the Way Forward as from tonight.

Thank you very much for the opportunities of representing StWF over the past five years. I have enjoyed working with you all and it has definitely been a team effort. I think it is time for a younger more dynamic team member to take my place and take StWF forward.

If I can be of any help during this transition, please let me know.

Lisa is standing down. Lisa thanks all the other members of the team and looks forward to seeing StWF go onward and upward.

VOTE FOR Committee Members:

Stu wishes to stand:

Lisa proposes and Susan seconds.

Martin wishes to stand:

Stu proposes and Lisa seconds.

Michelle wishes to stand:

Susan proposes and Sue seconds.

Stacey wishes to stand:

Stu proposes and Susan seconds.

Precious wishes to stand:

Susan proposes and Sue seconds.

Ian Steadman put forward an interest prior to the meeting but since

has declined the offer of a position on the committee.

Votes were taken all in agreement, except, Margaret who abstained.

We are looking for NON COMMITTEE volunteers to take an active role within StWF group

9. Any other Business

AOB Truck of the Day:

Susan (a)

I along with Councillor Locke, Chief Council Highways Engineer Sajid, Rob and Evan residents, and a representative of the logistics company who work with Cadbury attended a meeting at Mondalez, (Cadbury) with Simon Birtles the Health and Safety Manager. 16th July 2020.

Simon Birtles was very aware of the concerns of local Bournville Lane, Bond Street, Oxford and Regent Street residents who have put up with trucks carrying out dangerous manoeuvres in the local residential streets for many years. The problem in the main are trucks trying to negotiate Bournville Lane Bridge and in doing so causing a danger to the local residents by reversing and manoeuvring within confined roads.

The conclusion was Mondalez and the Council will work together to continue to monitor the problem. Mondalez have offered to work together on funding with the council. Some ideas, change of postal code for Mondalez. Better road signage. Drivers will be instructed not to enter the area and to access Mondalez via Linden Road. A crossing refuge and build out at the junction of Hazelwell Street and Bournville Lane should also discourage drivers of large truck blindly following sat navs and wanting to turn into Bournville Lane. It is hoped a permanent solution can be found before March 2021 the situation will continue to be monitored by local residents Mondalez and the Council.

Susan: (b)

I would like to bring to the attention of those viewing the meeting. StWF are a not for profit traders group representing traders of Stirchley and the community.

We are always welcoming of businesses arriving in Stirchley bringing much needed revenue to the local economy.

However, we do not comment on planning portals as a group in favour or against applications. This does not stop members commenting individually.

This is to remain neutral as the situation may arise where the group are asked to support a particular planning application and another group ask the group to vote against it.

10. Date and time of next meeting TBA ON StWF WEBSITE

Stu thanked those viewing the meeting and asked if Susan could extend a formal invitation to the new committee members.

Stu also wanted to thank Susan, Sue and Lisa for all their hard work over the past five years and the success this has brought to Stirchley and the business group.

Stu closed the meeting 7.58 p.m.