

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 March at 7.30pm at Stirchley Baths

Disclaimer re Minutes of StWF. Minutes are only approved at the next advertised meeting.

The minutes from StWF meeting may not accurately reflect the discussions that took place amongst the StWF participants. Statements are paraphrased and may oversimplify discussions, leaving out many nuances in conversation, and may inaccurately report facts.

If there are any objections, then please make them known before or at the next meeting where they can be rectified.

Chair: Chris Tomlinson Secretary: Rachael Fraser

Present:

1. Apologies: Sue Jones, Wayne Pell, Rose, Julie Olleranshaw and Kerry.
2. Minutes of the last meeting on 17th January - approved.
3. Matters arising:
 - The Summer Fete:** A small planning group has been set up since the last meeting.
 - Stirchley Library:** Councillor Mary Locke provided a summary in Kerry's absence. Stirchley was to be open 21 hours a week. The Friends of Stirchley Library was set up and they need to get an idea of the cost to repair the library. As it's a listed building, it may be possible to get funding from the council or by other means – possibly consider section 106 money. Cllr Locke was unsure when the group would get details on the costs. Repairs needed include: a new boiler and dealing with asbestos in the roof.
 - Aldi proposal:** Aldi has been proposed on the Magnet site. Lisa and Susan spoke to the traders on the high street and to Magnet, whose manager said: "We're not going anywhere." There was no clarity on what will happen going forward.
 - Void property on Mary Vale Road and Pershore Road:** Cllr Locke spoke to the city council and the enforcement officers, who are taking photos. The head solicitor for the council is writing to them. Cllr Locke will get a report on this next week. Cllr Locke said it's an eyesore, so writing to Edgbaston.
4. Treasurer's report: On 10th March they had £258.01. Since then they've had a £1,560.30 income. Expenditure has been £867.71. So currently in the bank is £950.60.
5. Proposals for posts: Sue, Lisa, Chris and Susan were all prepared to stand again and welcomed another couple of administrators. The group voted in favour for them to run again. A few hands were raised stating they wouldn't mind joining as administrators. No one came forward to sign up for a position.
6. Public meeting: Chris gave an overview of the S106 funding. There was a discussion around a representative (and constituted) group to bring together all the pre-existing groups in Stirchley so everyone could bring together ideas, assess the viability of projects and decide what the money could be spent on that would benefit the community.

Tom: In spending the money are there any existing permissions or do we have to seek new permissions? Do we need to seek new permissions if already sought for money?

Cllr Locke: I see it as the different groups coming together and working together for the future of Stirchley and what we can achieve.

Susan: I would say that we'd need firm details of the criteria. As Tesco still owns the land it's criteria would remain the same.

Sunanda: The longer we take to decide what [projects], people might decide they want to be part of it, such as the highway. The money is available. It's for the public improvements and not spent on the highway. If it's for community maintenance [money] should be given up front or a business plan of how that money would be maintained.

Tom: Can the money be spent on salaries?

Chris said about the potential challenges around project management and raised how that could be difficult on one person or a small group of people to do with other work/personal commitments, as well as the challenges around deciding on projects and dividing the money between them.

Chris: It seemed that Wayne was saying it would be more like a job centre management team. My feeling is that there is a lot of flexibility on what it can be spent on. From my personal perspective, it's unrealistic to expect hundreds of grants to be assessed on their lunchtime. Perhaps it could be a case of creating a position for a year or two to be spent on projects. It would be simple if it was £X hundred to be spent on one thing, but it's likely there will be various projects and it'll be a case of working out funds for those projects. We'll probably find a way to decide what projects are to be made and some management funds. If it's a job for them for however many years, it's not feasible.

Councillor Huxtable explained the decision on the projects will go to a cabinet in the council to decide. Each project has to have consultation first. He hoped that the community groups might be able to get matched funding from other sources too.

Councillor Huxtable: The council would be able to look at all the community groups and projects and all the community groups would be able to get some money and they'd get matched funds externally. That's how I see it developing. For example, like the Arts group gets pro-bono work from IBM.

Karen: S106 money sits in the Economy Directorate not in the Place Directorate where Wayne sits. There will be some criteria for 106 and matched funding.

The group spoke again about the need to agree on the separate constituted group. Two meetings have been booked to discuss this and there will probably need to be more meetings. Two public meetings will be held on:

1. Tuesday 21 March at 7.15pm at Stirchley United Club – to decide on a representative group and administrative responsibilities and bring along ideas for what the money could be spent on.

2. Tuesday 4 April at 7.15pm at Stirchley United Club – a chance for projects to be decided on and budget the money properly.

Emma: Both the creative and the bureaucratic processes need to be paid attention to.

Susan: We need more information from Wayne. He'll be there on the 4th.

The meetings will be promoted, social media and announced on neighbourhood forums.

7. Fete:

Sue: It's going well. It'll be inside and outside of the community centre. There will be demos of martial arts, hula hoops, children's disco, bouncy castle, face painting. We've got 28 stalls booked up and food stalls. We're looking for volunteers still for games. It's on Saturday 27th May, 12-5pm.

8. **AOB:** Susan made the group aware of the upcoming bake off at the Baths on Saturday 18th March, to support homeless people. More details are in leaflets in the entrance.
9. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm at the Stirchley Baths.