

STIRCHLEY, the Way Forward

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 30th January 2018 Artefact Café

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.

In attendance: Chris Tomlinson. Sue Fellows. Susan MacLean. Kerry Leslie. Councillor Mary Locke. Stu Ward. Andy Weatherley. Mark Summerfield.

Chris opened the meeting at 7.05 p.m. thanking those who were in attendance.

1. Apologies: Lisa Girling. Dr. S. Warburton. Emma Ashton.
2. Minutes of previous meeting approved.
3. Matters Arising
 - Christmas Fair. Sue reported the event had been very successful and there had been lots of really good feedback. Councillor Locke said she had been very happy to help out on the day. Councillor Locke said the success was due to an excellent team effort by Sturchley, the Way Forward.
 - Shopper's car park petition. Susan reported the petition which included an on line version totalled 419 signatures, was handed into the Council on 5th December 2017. StWF have received a reply from BCC who said they were unable to help but were making Seven Capital the new owners of the Tesco development site aware of the promise made to Sturchley residents and traders for car parking spaces.
 - Kerry wanted to know if StWF had asked local traders or the school if their unused parking spaces could be used at the week-ends. Or utilise space already available in Sturchley. Sue told her that many traders used their spaces and it wasn't fair to expect Wickes, The Co op, Printigo, to offer parking when Sturchley deserved its own shopper's car park. Chris said he had not been in favour of signing the petition but maybe the traders and school could be approached.
 - **ACTION – Kerry agreed to make an approach to traders and the school concerning parking.**

Councillor Mary Locke mentioned she had met with Seven Capital, and they were very approachable. It is their intention to clear the knotweed from part of the site by the end of February. Also it was their intention to use local builders. Sue said she wasn't sure of this, because usually they have contracts with their own builders.

Councillor Locke said Our M.P Steve McCabe was meeting with them within the next week or so to discuss their plans for the Tesco site they now own.

Kerry asked if Lidl had sold their land (bowling alley site). Councillor Locke she was not aware of any sale. The demolition had been completed but everything was on hold. BCC were awaiting the decision of the courts.

4. S106 Money.

Chris gave a brief description of what was meant by S106 money to those present. Kerry asked if Seven Capital were going to provide further S106 money. Councillor Locke said the original money has increased but wasn't sure of the exact amount.

Councillor Locke went on to say that a new boiler for Stirchley Library would be paid for from another council budget. However, some of the S106 public realm improvement money would be given to the library. Susan asked how the money for the library would be spent. Councillor Locke replied it would be for asbestos removal, roof repairs, and renovations to the building. Historic England had inspected the building to suggest how better the building could be used and more energy efficient etc.

Susan asked if Councillor Locke had any further information concerning the supply and updating of rubbish bins in Stirchley. There is a need as there are a lot of hot food establishments. Councillor Locke has spoken with Jackie Kennedy and she will ask Darren Share to contact StWF concerning this. Kerry asked if better recycling bins could be provided for the flats in Stirchley.

After a discussion concerning the S106 money it was suggested that smaller groups in Stirchley could put forward their ideas with a plan and costs. The Council would consider the ideas and decide if the criteria were met and S106 money could be used.

StWF would be the conduit for the plans and money. Chris suggested we have an application form available for interested parties. Susan said this would be democratic and better because it would be easier for the council to deal with one organisation. Sue said too many other groups were getting involved and there was too much talk and little action. Stirchley the Way Forward were constituted, with a bank account and experience they should be the preferred group.

ACTION Chris to draft and application form.

5. A.O.B. Susan outlined the plan for Stirchley to enter a competition Neighbourhood in bloom organised by R.H.S. The idea was to bring the community together to green up grey spaces. Especially the high street. StWF will be applying for funds from the 'Proceeds of Crime' to assist any neighbours or traders who would like to grow plants, flowers, herbs in containers or front gardens and be judged in the competition. No prize, but it would make Stirchley a better place to work, live and visit.

Kerry said there was another link for the RHS Greening Britain

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/greening-grey-britain>

Susan asked the group if anyone was happy to co-ordinate the RHS competition. Stu and Andy said they were happy to take a look at the application.

ACTION Susan to put the application for funds on 2nd February 2018.

Application handed in on Friday 2nd February.

Mark Summerfield said he was now the treasurer of Friends of Stirchley Library and would keep us updated.

Councillor Locke asked if anyone could go to the meeting on Thursday 1st Feb to support Rea Meadow Day Nursery which was in danger of closing.

Susan mentioned Lisa Girling had asked if anything could be done with problems with pigeons on the high street. There was general discussion.

Action: Councillor Locke to look into this.

Update: Councillor Locke has spoken with environment and their written response is available on request.

Sue asked if people could volunteer for the forthcoming Stirchley Fete.

The date had been decided, Sunday June 3rd and would be held at the Stirchley Baths community centre. 12 noon until 5 p.m.

Anyone who wanted a stall to let us know.

We ask for a donation for a pitch at the fete. Please contact Susan for further details.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Next meeting will be the AGM

We encourage you all to attend if you can and the date will be Thursday 29th March 2018

7 p.m. Deep End Room, Stirchley Baths.

Chris thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.13 p.m