

Minutes - Meeting 13th June 2018 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.

The meeting was chaired by Sue Fellows and opened at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Sue Fellows. Councillor Mary Locke. Ian Steadman. Lisa Girling. Joe Marsden. Susan MacLean. Kerry Leslie. Stu Ward. Jordan Isherwood.

1. Apologies: Chris Tomlinson.
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting. www.stirchleytwf.co.uk Minutes approved.
3. Matters Arising:

Sue asked Councillor Locke for an update on the question Ian Steadman asked at the last meeting.

'Were there funds available for Stirchley, the Way Forward as there is for the Neighbourhood forum?'

Councillor Locke said she had investigated but there were no direct funding. The funding for the Neighbourhood Forum comes from a fund formerly known as the 'Community Chest'. Possibly look again in the future as Stirchley, the Way Forward was an important asset to Stirchley linking Community, residents and businesses. Susan added that BCC (Birmingham City Council) have public liability insurance which covers the neighbourhood forum. But, Stirchley, the Way Forward pays for StWF public liability insurance.

Councillor Locke mentioned she would like to set up future ward meetings inclusive of residents and businesses maybe to include Cotteridge. Or maybe Stirchley would prefer a singular Ward meeting. These would take place possibly twice a year.

Sue said there had been a lot of bad feeling towards Stirchley because of the B.I.D. (Business Improvement District). Joe said he thought B.I.D's were a good idea and allowed the area to make improvements. Sue said the BID was for the area covered by Bournville, Kings Norton, Stirchley, and Cotteridge. Unfortunately the BID was not suitable for Stirchley. The cost to the businesses wasn't fully understood by the Lifford Business Association or the harmful effect on a business that were unable to pay. Susan mentioned the fees included £40,000 just on administration and that the Lifford Business Association now defunct did not consult properly with the Stirchley Businesses.

Kerry said there was a lot of friction and we couldn't go through that again. . Stirchley is an up and coming vibrant area to live and trade.

Mary asked if we could be more inclusive of the Pineapple estate and Hazelwell area and to include Cotteridge.

Susan said we have extended the hand of friendship but nothing has happened yet.

Sue said it would be very good to get more people involved especially when the new development goes ahead on the Seven Capital site. We do want an inclusive organisation for new and established businesses in Stirchley.

Joe commented that Stirchley is truly a good place to trade, he had heard of possible new businesses looking for premises in the area. Such as *****moving from the City. Birmingham certainly was becoming the Second City in its own right.

Councillor Locke commented it is especially important with the Commonwealth Games coming to the City.

4. Update on Planning.

Susan – Liam from the Wildcat Tap. Permission granted. With few conditions which she thought were a little prohibitive.

Councillor Locke asked what they were. **Susan said it was a personal observation and Liam had not made a comment to her.**

. (A). Liam would not be able to let the flat above the premises to another separate tenant. (b). the smoking shelters at the rear will need a different design. Susan said she hadn't read the BCC planning but wondered why the design should be different. Better smoking in the rear yard of the commercial property than outside on the public pavement. (C.) mention of the necessity for CCTV cameras.

Susan thought there was too much interference from the neighbourhood forum representing residents and not backing of businesses in the area. Susan said she thought we should do everything possible to make the high street a thriving business area for day/evening trade. Not to put unnecessary obstacles in their way.

Susan - Corner of Maryvale Road and Pershore Road. The public consultation had now finished but the planning department haven't made their decision yet.

Councillor Locke wasn't aware of any further information.

Lisa said she saw a concrete mixer there at the site pouring concrete, and skips and workmen. Councillor Locke said she would make note.

Joe asked what the plan for the building was. Sue explained, the present building would be demolished. Replacing it with a four storey building to house 42 single room flats.

This wasn't the family homes most wanted for Stirchley more likely to encourage a transient population. Lisa said with all the new homes being built consideration needed into the lack of school places.

There was mention of parking desperately needed in Stirchley too. There was a groundswell of cyclists, residents, who would like to see the Stirchley high street and surrounding roads pedestrianized. This was impractical and although we should encourage walking, use of public transport, Pershore Road, Stirchley was a main City route and lack of parking caused more problems for the area. Joe asked if Brian Withey from Printigo could be asked to offer a pay and display car park. Kerry said he has been approached but prefers to keep the car park for his customers.

5. Stirchley in Bloom

Stu updated everyone on the progress. He had spoken with Felipe on Monday about the fruit and nut-tree funding obtained. Stu suggested we hold a meeting with all those interested and re-visit the statement and work towards entering Stirchley into the RHS competition 2019.

Kerry suggested incorporating plants and the recycling of plastic waste. Joe said he has Key Kegs which cut down could make attractive planters which would be a way of recycling.

Sue asked how much they would cost. Joe said they would be free and he was happy to support the scheme. Sue complimented him on the look of the British Oak and the hanging baskets.

Stu suggested a meeting beginning of July. Susan informed the meeting that she had given a cheque for £175 from the funding to Umberslade Nurseries for the hanging baskets. There is now £125 left in the fund. Kerry added there was £53.00 from their fundraising to go into the fund too.

General conversation continued. Councillor Locke said she would like to see the area in front of the former Stirchley Constituency Office tidied up and weeded.

Kerry would like to see the rest of the money put towards painting the planters in Stirchley, to give them another 12 months lease of life. Stu suggested further discussion at the Stirchley Bloomers meeting.

Update: Meeting organised for those interested in this project.

3rd July 7-8 p.m. Café of Stirchley Baths.

6. Stirchley Fete 2018 Sue wanted to say thank Susan for the work involved in organising the fete. Susan thanked Sue but said it was truly a team effort. Sue said there were 20 volunteers helping on the day and thanks to them for such a successful event. Everyone agreed.

Susan said it had been a great day and from the compliments very successful. Money raised, every penny will go back into the coffers to organise the next event. Details of the fete are available on our webpage with photographs and mention of our sponsors and the volunteers who were brilliant. Susan mentioned that already she was getting requests from stallholders who have asked to book for future events.

7. Any Other Business:

Sue wanted to offer StWF support for the British Oak. They were a positive asset to Stirchley and although she knew they were receiving a few complaints for noise, she thought it was totally unwarranted. Joe said BCC had visited and everything was in order and he hoped to work with the community.

Councillor Locke apologised for not being able to attend the Neighbourhood Forum meetings but she had other BCC commitments. However, she wanted it known she was always there to listen and act upon any concerns. Councillor Locke has asked the Neighbourhood Forum if they would consider moving their set Monday night meeting. Unfortunately this is not possible at present. Councillor Locke told the meeting she holds a monthly surgery and she will be a visible councillor to residents and the businesses.

Lisa asked if there was someone we could contact to have added bins on the high street. Councillor Locke said she would let her have a contact.

Susan asked if the Councillor had any information about the bail hostel in Stirchley. She knew of the Victoria Road hostel but she had heard of one in her road. Susan was especially concerned the hostel may house sex offenders. Susan recognised everyone has their human rights but residents need to be informed, especially if they have children.

Councillor Locke said she would look into it.

Sue thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said the next meeting will be Wednesday September 5th Stirchley Baths unless something urgent came up.

Sue closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

SVM 14.06.18

