



PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

7:00pm Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p>FCCA: Chairman Andrew Atkinson Secretary: Brenda Bates Treasurer: Howard Stride Minutes secretary Barbara Cole Committee Members: Heather Rous Judith Tanswell Andrea Cantrill</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council- Parks and Green Spaces: Dawn O'Brien Rebecca Owens</p>	
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u> Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA Public Meeting.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from John Rowley</p>	
<p>3. <u>St. Thomas's Update</u> Terry Wilkes, Church Leader of Windmill Community Church was unable to attend the meeting but had provided the following update on the progress at St Thomas Church which was read out by Heather:</p> <p>"This is my fourth year working on the project and I am pleased to say we have now received funds to enable us to complete the works. So far we have restored the foundations, replaced the roof and the rear extension is constructed. We have to retain the existing windows which have been re-glazed with security glass. Internally we have created a small kitchen area with a serving hatch. The main hall brickwork has been stitched and covered with insulated plasterboard and skimmed. First fix electrics and plumbing are now complete. The next phase of work internally is to plaster the rear extension, install the central heating boiler and fit out the disabled toilet and the kitchen. Externally we will lay the foul, storm and waste pipes and run the gas pipe to the rear of the building. We are obtaining quotations for secondary double glazing and these windows are complex and very expensive because they are arched. The next phase will be to install the security cameras and other security and fire alarm systems, build the front wall and landscape the grounds. The final job will be to install the "bell" and we are</p>	

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<p>grateful to the previous members of St Thomas Church for gifting this to us. The target date, subject to service connections, is end of August/September.</p> <p>On the 18th July we have a team of 12 volunteers coming from the USA to help us to decorate the main hall. Once the building is finished we will open it for a whole week so the community can visit and join us for coffee. I trust the majority of residents have received our Community Newsletter and a new Newsletter is being prepared which will be circulated to the residents of Finchfield and Castlecroft to keep them informed. The restoration has involved a heavy workload over the past years but it has been worth all the effort to see this iconic building coming back into use in the heart of Finchfield. Over the coming months we will be settling how we can provide a caretaker facility and then we can introduce various programmes for community involvement.</p> <p>We really look forward to meeting everyone and welcoming you into St Thomas Building.”</p> <p>Howard asked Heather to send him a copy of the email</p>	<p>HR</p>
<p>4. <u>Minutes of Meeting 13th March 2018 and AGM</u></p> <p>No corrections to the minutes of previous public meeting and AGM had been identified. The minutes were therefore signed off by Andrew as an accurate record</p>	
<p>5. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Cross references to previous minutes are shown in brackets</p> <p>5.1 <u>Castlecroft Playground Update (4.2)</u></p> <p>An oak tree that was over one hundred years old had been taken down. Brenda contacted Chris Jones to see if there was enough Section 106 money left in order to carve the tree stump and found that there was. Robot Cossey was recommended as a wood sculptor by Andrea. Robot was commissioned and he has produced an owl sculpture which has delighted FCCA and set off the playground.</p> <p>5.2 <u>Motorbikes (4.5)</u></p> <p>Barbara said that motorbikes have recently been heard again in the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve on several occasions. They tend to be there at specific times, around 6.00 pm and from 10.00 pm until 11:30 pm. There are at least two bikes. They seem to be coming from the Railway Walk, heading for the Compton Park playing fields which they then use as a speedway track. The police have been informed on three occasions.</p> <p>5.3 <u>PACT Meetings and Police Response (4.6)</u></p> <p>Andrew had told previous meetings about an incident where someone had tried to access his property in broad daylight. He had phoned the police on 101 and had been told to send them an email. He received no response. Subsequently he had raised the matter at a PACT (Partners and Community Together) meeting and it was followed up.</p> <p>5.4 <u>Air Pollution (4.8)</u></p> <p>Andrea emailed the Committee with the results of the Friends of the Earth taking measurements near to Majestic Wine. They were high but not dangerously high. She also provided the results taken outside Smestow and Bhyllsacre schools, observing that they were lower than those taken at Majestic Wine but were taken over a two week period and therefore did not take into account the peak times of drop off and pick up outside the schools.</p>	

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<p>5.5 Chairman’s Annual Report (5)</p> <p>The following correction to the Chairman’s Annual Report was noted. FCCA did not produce a performance of Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors”, given by The Lord Chamberlain’s Men, FCCA attended the performance as visitors.</p> <p>Treasurer’s Report – Latest Accounts</p> <p>It was noted that Howard has issued the latest FCCA annual accounts to the Committee. The accounts will be submitted to an AGM at a later date. Brenda thanked Howard for all the work he had put into producing the accounts. This was seconded by Andrew</p> <p>5.6 Parking in Bagridge Close (8.1)</p> <p>Parking in Bagridge Close is still an issue. Brenda has written to Wolverhampton City Council but has not received a reply.</p> <p>5.7 Large Caravan in Pool Hall Road (8.2)</p> <p>A large caravan had been parked in Pool Hall Road, overlapping the pavement. It is still there but usually only around Bank Holidays. Wolverhampton City Council have dealt with the issue.</p> <p>5.8 Pedestrian Crossing in Castlecroft Road (8.3)</p> <p>Brenda said that she had asked Wolverhampton City Council to clarify their proposals to put a pedestrian crossing in Castlecroft Road. However, she has been told that this is currently on hold</p> <p>5.9 FCCA Website (9.2)</p> <p>There had been concerns that the FCCA website was not up to date. Andrew had taken this problem on board. There is now a dedicated volunteer, Ian Cole who has updated the website and is keeping it up to date. Andrew advised that if anyone wants to put anything onto the website, they should contact either Ian or himself. All meeting minutes are now on the website. Ian is receiving them but does not edit anything. Notification of all future FCCA events will be posted on the web site.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Issues</u></p> <p>6.1 Smart Device Yoga Future</p> <p>Smart Device Yoga computer classes are continuing. They are held every Wednesday, alternately in mornings and afternoons and have also become a social group. The application for further Lottery funding has been submitted and in response a questionnaire has been received. Hopefully FCCA will be on course for a grant to assist in funding the classes. The balance from the previous grant should run until September. The funding is needed in order to pay Wolverhampton City Council for room hire and to pay a trainer for professional help.</p> <p>6.2 Funding for FCCA</p> <p>Brenda has written to Cllr Wendy Thompson asking about the possibility of Wolverhampton City Council providing funding for FCCA. Cllr Thompson is investigating this request. Cyril Randles has also indicated that some annual funding could be given to organisations. Brenda could also contact Cyril</p>	<p>BB</p>

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<p>7. Friends of Smestow Valley</p> <p>Dawn O'Brien (Head Ranger) and Becky Owens (Ranger) from Wolverhampton City Council's Parks and Green Spaces department introduced themselves. They were attending the FCCA meeting to talk about the Friends of Smestow Valley group. Dawn said that many of the original rangers had left the Council. She said that there are no umbrella groups promoting interest and activities in the local nature reserve. There are however, individual groups in existence, for example the birding group. She said that they want to re-instate activities in the Smestow Valley and empower the individual groups. She said that they are scouring for additional funding opportunities and trying to get additional help to obtain funding.</p> <p>The Friends of Smestow Valley group is based at Southgate Lodge in West Park. A room has been cleared for the individual groups to meet. Something similar has been set up at East Park. Help and support is being given to Wildside activity Centre.</p> <p>Brenda asked if Dawn and Becky knew of George Reiss who worked on the Local Neighbourhood Plan. He had a complete survey of the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Heather said that she would love to help and spoke of the issue of trees being felled. Dawn said that she would produce a mission statement with contact numbers, for the FCCA website.</p> <p>Dawn said that she was not aware that the owl was being carved for the Castlecroft Playground until after it had been completed. Heather said that it had all happened so quickly that there was no chance to notify anyone. Dawn said that she would like to organisation a competition to name the owl. Brenda said that see would send Dawn some photographs of the owl being carved.</p> <p>Andrew said that FCCA will gladly help Dawn and Becky to promote and support the group.</p>	
<p>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting: 9th October 7.00 pm at Smestow Community School. To be confirmed by Andrew</p>	AA