



## MEETING MINUTES

6:30pm Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p><b>FCCA:</b>  Chairman                      Andrew Atkinson  Committee member        Brenda Bates  Committee member        Heather Rous  Minutes secretary         Barbara Cole</p> <p><b>Members of the Public:</b>  John Rowley                WREN</p>	
<p><b>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Andrew Atkinson opened the FCCA public meeting. it was noted that the only non-committee member to attend was John Rowley  Apologies were received from Judith Tanswell and Justine Crane</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Minutes of Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016</u></b></p> <p>John Rowley said that he had only received a copy of the minutes when he arrived at the meeting and had therefore not had chance to read them. In future he requested that a copy of the minutes to be emailed to those present at each FCCA meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the procedure would be for Barbara to write the minutes and send them to Andrew. Any amendments would be notified to Barbara, who would update the minutes and send the updated version to Andrew. Andrew would then arrange for the minutes to be updated to the FCCA website and would email copies to those who had been present at the meeting and who had given their email address. Andrew would also send copies to the three ward councillors.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Matters Arising and Acceptance of Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that any matters arising would be covered as items under the main agenda.</p> <p>The minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes were duly signed off and accepted.</p>	

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<p><b>4. <u>St Thomas Church Building</u></b></p> <p>Heather Rous gave an update on the St Thomas Church Building. She said that the overall situation was unchanged but all was in place to move forward.</p> <p>Heather said that Lidl had submitted a reduced offer for the back land to Kimberly Properties. This was now back with the Lidl board of directors because Kimberly Properties had not accepted the reduced offer. Everything else depends on the outcome of this negotiation because the owner wants the money at the same time for both the property and the land at the rear. Heather said that hopefully this situation would be resolved by Christmas.</p> <p>It will not be possible to apply to Veolia Environmental Trust for a £50,000 grant to restore the building until Windmill Community Church own the building. Originally there had been a December deadline for the application. This has now passed but Veolia have granted an extension until March.</p> <p>Heather indicated that the situation was extremely frustrating.</p>	
<p><b>5. <u>Castlecroft Playground Update</u></b></p> <p>Brenda Bates gave an update on Castlecroft Playground. Brenda said that she had met with Cllr Wendy Thompson after the last FCCA meeting and had asked her to look into a few matters concerning the playground. Brenda had seen Cllr Thompson again at the next PACT meeting.</p> <p>Brenda said that Mark Sennett of Wolverhampton City Council had sent Cllr Thompson an email about the playground. He had indicated that tendering for the development was in place and that a decision should be in place by 14<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Brenda said that she had also been in touch with Debbie Meyrick but as yet had not received a reply.</p> <p>John suggested another meeting in the New Year with the playground committee and Cllr Thompson.</p> <p>It was agreed that FCCA should “hold off” whilst tendering is taking place.</p> <p>Andrew said that he already had plans for discussions in January.</p> <p>Brenda suggested that an email should be sent to Mark Sennett for an update around 14<sup>th</sup> December followed by progression of the way forward in January.</p> <p>It was agreed that the local councillors should be kept “in the loop”.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether MP Rob Marris should be contacted.</p> <p>Heather suggested that the Express and Star could be contacted after January.</p> <p>It was agreed that FCCA should continue to work through Cllr Thompson and that working as a committee carried more weight than working as individuals.</p>	
<p><b>6. <u>FCCA Events Reports</u></b></p> <p><b>6.1 Smart Device Yoga</b></p> <p>Smart Device Yoga drop in sessions, for those with computer, laptop and smart phone issues have been held at the Bantock House “Tractor Shed” supported by Lottery funding. One of the trainers was James Clarke. It came as a great shock when FCCA heard of the sudden death of Stephanie, James’ wife. FCCA sent their condolences to James and his family.</p>	

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<p>The last session at Bantock House is on December 21st, however, there is still Lottery money available until June.</p> <p>The sessions are free of charge and held every Wednesday, alternating mornings and afternoons. The sessions have been reasonably well attended and have picked up a set core of people. FCCA are now exploring alternative sources of funding. They cannot go back to the Lottery because the funding was for one year only. Andrew has contacted Sharon Nanan-Sen of Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council for help.</p> <p>Publicity is on-going on the FCCA web site and at Bantock House and will be resumed in the "Park" magazine in January.</p> <p><b>6.2 Creative Black Country Arts</b></p> <p>FCCA have had a successful year with the Groundworks programme in conjunction with Creative Black Country, using an Arts Council grant and have now been accepted for a third year. As a result of this an extra £1,000 will be available in addition to the existing £2,000 grant.</p> <p>FCCA have met with Jeremy Brown to talk about publicity. Jeremy works for Wolverhampton City Council and has links with Creative Black Country. Future ideas include a four to six week season of activities to coincide with another "Puppet Summer".</p> <p>John Rowley said that FCCA is helping to support Bantock House but in his opinion, the events are being held too far north in the Finchfield and Castlecroft area.</p> <p>Andrew said that Justine Crane has an idea of holding a family fun day in Castlecroft at the Old Wolves Club. However, it will need to be financed. 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> July next year are currently being suggested as possible dates.</p> <p>Heather and Andrew are meeting Creative Black Country Arts in the near future and will undertake a presentation of what FCCA has achieved during the last year.</p> <p>John spoke of a group of six to eight elderly ladies from Hazelmere Drive who may be interested in going to the pantomime A date of 10<sup>th</sup> January is currently planned. Andrew said that previously, charitable institutions have been allocated tickets to see dress rehearsals but these tickets have now been allocated to Dudley Zoo. A complaint has been made and now the Grand Theatre has made an offer of some tickets in the general audience. Andrew said that he did not know how many would be available but there could be approximately thirty five.</p> <p><b>6.3 Bantock Events</b></p> <p><b>6.3.1 Possible Future Events</b></p> <p>Andrew outlined some of the future events that FCCA is potentially going to be involved in during the coming year; Puppet Summer and the following plays: Life is a Beach, Love's Labours Lost, Lord Chamberlain's Men, The Cherry Orchard and Macbeth</p> <p>John observed a difference between FCCA and the former FACTAR organisation, saying that FACTAR had focussed more on issues than events. He recommended that as many people as possible need to be informed of the events.</p>	

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<p><b>6.3.2 Annual Barn Dance Saturday November 12th</b></p> <p>A third annual barn dance was held at Bantock Park on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was well supported and was classified as a concert rather than a dance due to the performance of the Miss Fortunes trio. As a result of the concert status FCCA received a subsidy from Creative Black Country Arts. A profit was made although the amount is not currently known. Attendees applied for tickets on the website and because of this FCCA have email addresses to which future events can be publicised.</p> <p>It was recognised that in future more help was needed for standing on the gate and selling refreshments. John volunteered to help next time the event takes place. It was also recognised that payments need to be standardised in future (i.e. payment in advance or on the day).</p>	
<p><b>7. <u>Issues</u></b></p> <p><b>7.1 Week Day Closure of Bantock House</b></p> <p>There are proposals that Bantock House will be closed during the week. Wolverhampton City Council held a consultation meeting but it was poorly attended.</p> <p><b>7.2 No 90 Castlecroft Road</b></p> <p>FCCA contacted Cllr Wendy Thompson asking how much Wolverhampton City Council received for the strip of land that had been sold. Cllr Thompson responded at a PACT meeting that the sum was £5,000.</p> <p>John expressed a concern that green space land is being lost and it is lost for very little money. He wondered what can be done. The land at No 90 Castlecroft Road has not actually been built on but the extension could not have gone ahead without it. John said that the Local Neighbourhood Plan is being ignored time and time again and despite protests developments go ahead. Wolverhampton City Council should clarify the reasons for making their decisions as the LNP appears to be being ignored. The LNP seems to have been superseded by the Government initiative to build more houses.</p> <p>Brenda observed that not enough people are objecting to the loss of green space. John said that he had no confidence that planning decisions were taking local residents into consideration.</p> <p><b>7.3 Castlecroft Bridge – Bridge Sign</b></p> <p>The weak bridge warning sign was removed from Castlecroft Bridge and was found in the Local Nature Reserve. Andrew had agreed to write to Wolverhampton City Council requesting a new sign. However, John said that in the meantime the sign had been replaced.</p> <p><b>7.4 Motorbikes</b></p> <p>The issue of motorbikes being ridden in the Local Nature Reserve during summer months is a PACT issue, as is drug dealing. It was agreed that Andrew would contact Jim Smith to see if a PACT meeting could be held at Smestow School.</p>	<p>AA</p>

	ACTION
<p><b>7.5 Under the Bridge Project (Castlecroft Bridge)</b></p> <p>The “under the bridge” project is progressing. This will put a barrier in place allowing pedal cycles but currently it will not allow mobility scooters. John asked if he could have support from FCCA in assisting with applications and he quoted the barrier as an example. John also spoke of assistance with money. WREN have half a dozen people who can assist but he recognised that both organisations are stretched. He recognised that involvement gives both organisations credibility but they are too isolated.</p> <p>John said that he wanted to thank Chris Williams for rebuilding the footbridge. He said that contact had been made with the Council’s Parks Department through the litter pick. John said that the Parks Department want to engage with local people.</p> <p><b>7.6 Verge Parking</b></p> <p>Brenda brought up the subject of parking on grass verges at the PACT meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September. She was promised that a letter could be sent out to persistent parkers but nothing has happened and the situation has just got worse. It is not illegal and it depends upon how the verge is accessed (i.e. by bumping up the kerb or via a dropped kerb).</p> <p><b>7.7 Swimming Club</b></p> <p>John spoke about the Smestow School Swimming Club, saying that costs had become an immovable object. The School had waived the last ten weeks of payment amounting to £170. John had kept the money hoping that the club would restart, however, this had not happened. The School would not take the money back. John had therefore given the money to the MS Therapy Centre at Newbridge making it clear that the money had come from Smestow School. He had received a thank you letter.</p> <p><b>7.8 Smestow School – Bookings for Meetings</b></p> <p>Andrew had spoken to Martin Morgan in order to clarify the process for booking of rooms for public meetings within the community school. However, he observed that the School always facilitated FCCA meetings somewhere on the premises and therefore there were no real grounds to complain.</p>	
<p><b>8. <u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p><b>8.1 Wildside Activity Centre and Watercare</b></p> <p>John asked if activities at the Wildside Activity Centre could be advertised in the Park magazine. The Centre has lost funding. Andrew said that FCCA have held their canal boat cruises from the Wildside Activity Centre and that FCCA advocates supporting them. He said that he would write a piece about Wildside in the Park and give details on how to get there. John endorsed this suggestion. Andrew also said that he would write a piece about Waterside Care. John said that he would send some details to Andrew before the 15<sup>th</sup> December cut off for January</p>	<p>AA</p> <p>JR</p>

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>8.2 Issues</b></p> <p>John raised two issues.</p> <p><b>8.2.1 Air Pollution</b></p> <p>John said that air pollution around schools is particularly noticeable on cold mornings. He said that he wanted to make the point about the air quality in the vicinity of the three schools in Bhylls Lane and Castlecroft Lane.</p> <p>Heather said that she would give her grandson a note to take to school suggesting a project to measure air pollution.</p> <p>Brenda wondered whether air quality in the City is monitored. She said that she would contact City Direct telling them that a member of the public had raised the issue. She would ask if air quality is monitored and if so, would it be possible to have a report.</p> <p><b>8.2.2 TDCC Parish Council Application</b></p> <p>John asked if FCCA were aware that the TDCC had applied to Wolverhampton City Council in order to become a Parish Council. The City Council have agreed to a review of how TDCC uses its' powers. This would introduce an extra level of government and cost a lot of money. Also, there would be the issue of the whole of the Local Neighbourhood Plan being the responsibility of a Parish Council. Would there be another layer of Council Tax?</p> <p>It was agreed that the issue would need a lot of consultation.</p> <p>There was no other business</p>	<p><b>HR</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p>
<p><b>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 6:30 pm Smestow Community School</p> <p>AGM at 6:30 to be followed by public meeting</p> <p>Date to be confirmed by Andrew</p>	<b>AA</b>