



## AGM and PUBLIC MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

7:00pm Tuesday 13th March 2018 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p><b>FCCA:</b>            Chairman                    Andrew Atkinson            Secretary:                   Brenda Bates            Treasurer:                   Heather Rous            Minutes secretary        Barbara Cole</p> <p><b>Members of the Public:</b>            Andrea Cantrill            John Rowley            Andy Chamberlain        Howard Stride            Peter Merrick              William Swanson            Pat Powell                  Ron Wellsted            Roger Randall</p>	
<p><b>1. <u>Welcome</u></b>            Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA AGM and Public Meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Apologies</u></b>            Apologies were received from Judith Tanswell, Madeline Stride, Dr David Rendell and Justine Crane</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017</u></b>            The following corrections to the minutes of previous public meeting were identified:</p> <p><b>Section 4.5 Motorbikes</b>            “It had been installed by the Wildside Activity Centre and funded by the Aviva Community Fund”            should read:            “It had been installed by the Wildside Activity Centre and funded by the Active Citizens Fund”</p> <p><b>Section 4.8 Air Pollution</b>            “Heather had spoken to Smestow School about measuring air quality as an activity for pupils but she was told that they no longer undertake science work in the curriculum because it needs to be supervised.”</p>	

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<p>Should read:</p> <p>“Heather had spoken to Smestow School about measuring air quality as an activity for pupils but she was told that they no longer undertake extra curricula science work because it needs to be supervised.”</p> <p>Clarification was asked on the following:</p> <p><b>Section 4.1 St Thomas Church Building</b></p> <p>“It was noted that although it was not an official charity, almost £1,000 of prime funding had originally been raised to initiate the project”</p> <p>John Rowley asked what was not an official charity. Heather responded that it was FCCA that was not an official charity. £750 had been donated towards the initiation of the project.</p> <p><b>18/03/2018 Subsequent Confirmation by Andrew Atkinson about the £750 donated:</b></p> <p>FCA - (Finchfield Community Association) not FCCA were involved at the very start in getting something done about the former church building, which was falling into dis-repair, and some funds were donated by the public towards this cause. Monies collected were paid into a new pass book a/c at The Nationwide Building Society, in the name of "Friends of St. Thomas Church", and was separate from FCA Accounts.</p> <p><b>Section 4.4 No 90 Castlecroft Road</b></p> <p>John asked for clarification on what was meant by:</p> <p>“Brenda said that she had spoken to the planners about things going against the Local Neighbourhood Plan. The planners had told her that they only look at planning applications, they cannot influence them”.</p> <p>Brenda explained that she had had a meeting with Karen from Planning at an engagement meeting at Tettenhall Library regarding the Urban Development Plan. Brenda had expressed her disappointment about the number of large top of the range houses that are being built. She was told that the planners cannot influence what goes into the Planning Department, they can only look at what goes in and apply the appropriate rules. The planners cannot tell developers what to apply permission for.</p> <p>There were no other queries or corrections to the minutes. Heather Rous then proposed that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. This was seconded by John Rowley. The minutes were duly signed off by Andrew and accepted.</p>	
<p><b>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p> <p><b><u>St Thomas Church Building</u></b></p> <p>Heather gave an update on the St Thomas Church Building. She said that the funding grants had come in. The roof had been made watertight and the subsidence had been addressed. The landscaping had been done and the toilet block was being built. The building could be complete by the end of the summer. There had been a great amount of public interest whilst the builders had been there. A banner had been put up advertising what the building will be used for. It will be used as a community church and a community hub. Heather said that the building will become a focus for the village.</p> <p><b>4.2 <u>Castlecroft Playground Update</u></b></p>	

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<p>Heather gave an update on Castlecroft Playground. During the first week after opening there had been some disruptive children but they were successfully invited to form a park squad which is now working well. The planned bulb planting has not yet taken place. Bulbs will be planted round the edge rather than in the grassed area due to mowing difficulties. An oak tree that was over one hundred years old has been taken down. Brenda has contacted Chris Jones to see if there is any money left in order to carve the tree stump. Chris said that he would talk to his team about this. Andrea said that she has friend who carves tree trunks and may be able to help.</p> <p>The question of what has happened to the balance of the £82,000 Section 106 money was raised. John said that it was important that this was followed up. Andrew said that FCCA were on the case. John suggested that a meeting with Debbie Meyrick and Cllr Wendy Thompson should take place.</p> <p><b>4.3 <u>Bantock House Update</u></b></p> <p>There was nothing further to report on Bantock House other than that building work to get easier disabled access to the toilet area is ongoing and that the café is being extended but the kitchen is not.</p> <p><b>4.4 <u>No 90 and No 94 Castlecroft Road</u></b></p> <p>John said that he felt that No 90 and No 94 were not in character with the Local Neighbourhood Plan and that developers should be made aware of the existence of the plan when submitting planning applications. Brenda said that developers are made aware of the plan but people’s awareness differs.</p> <p>In the September meeting John had asked whether the local councillors had looked into the issue of 90 Castlecroft Road. He had asked Brenda to write to ward Councillors about 90 and 94 Castlecroft Road. He now asked whether Brenda had done so. She replied that she had not. Brenda said she would write to the councillors on behalf of FCCA.</p> <p><b>4.5 <u>Motorbikes</u></b></p> <p>Barbara said that a motorbike had recently been heard in the evenings going round the Barley Field in the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve. John replied that means of preventing this destructive behaviour could be looked at when the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) money was obtained.</p> <p><b>4.6 <u>PACT Meetings and Police Response</u></b></p> <p>Andrew had told the previous meeting 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 had received no response. Subsequently he had raised the matter at a PACT (Partners and Community Together) meeting but still nothing had happened. Andrew reported that Jim Smith (neighbourhood Safety Co-ordinator) had now been in touch with him.</p> <p>Andrew was disappointed that the police had not helped him and that it had taken a long time to get any response. Pat Powell observed that the police did not seem to be responding, cars were being stolen and victims of crime were being giving crime numbers but no other help. It was agreed that Jim Smith is very good at providing assistance. PACT meetings now take place every two months and more people are attending them. The next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p><b>4.7 <u>Under the Bridge Project</u></b></p> <p>John reported that the motorbike barrier that had been put in place underneath Castlecroft Bridge was there to improve appearance and to discourage antisocial</p>	<p>BB</p>

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<p>behaviour. A mural, waste bin and a green oak bench have now also been put in place. Some of the vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility and the steps have been repaired by South Staffs Council.</p> <p><b>4.8 Air Pollution</b></p> <p>John had previously raised the issue of air pollution from vehicle fumes around schools. Andrea had spoken of Friends of the Earth undertaking measurements near to Majestic Wine. She said that she now had the results but they were not dangerously high. Andrew asked Andrea to send him the results and he would arrange to have them put on the FCCA web site</p> <p>Heather said that her grandson was going on a geography field trip to measure air quality in Bhylls Lane on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. All agreed that measurements really need to be taken when the traffic is idling.</p> <p><b>4.9 Wolverhampton Environment Centre (WEC)</b></p> <p>Work has now started at the WEC. The site is being cleared in order for the surveyors to be able to get in. Areas of scrubland have been cleared. Andrew said that when he had any further information, he would email those present at the current meeting.</p> <p>John said that WV Living have submitted a planning application for the housing development on the WEC. WV Living is a private limited company set up by Wolverhampton City Council to build and develop new homes. A Planning Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the proposals and to hear the objections. After this a decision will be made. In order for a Planning Committee meeting to be called there must be six objections to a development proposal. There have been a lot more than six objections.</p>	<p>AC/AA</p>
<p><b>5. Chairman's Annual Report</b></p> <p>Andrew presented the following synopsis of the past year:</p> <p>The last year saw FCCA involved in several issues and activities, from helping residents with planning issues to fun social events enjoyed by all.</p> <p>Following years of badgering Wolverhampton Council, we finally saw the Section 106 money spent on the refurbishment of the Castlecroft Playground, and thanks mainly to Heather it finally opened in the summer. We had a celebration event, attended by Councillors and Council Officials, everyone had an ice cream, much to the children's delight.</p> <p>We also helped facilitate the puppet week-end at Bantock House, and renewed our friendship with Chris and his Punch and Judy presentation.</p> <p>We were fortunate enough to have our groundworks grant renewed by Creative Black Country, which saw our most ambitious plans to date come to fruition. We produced a production of the mimed comedy "The Belleview Hotel", and also a performance of Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors", given by The Lord Chamberlain's Men. Also, with the help of Black Country Touring, and financed by our grant from CBC, we put on the first ever out-door film show at Bantock – "La La Land". It was well attended, even the rain did not deter people. All our activities were a success, mainly due to the help of our CBC Mentor Jeremy Brown, and this was our final year working with him, as he has now secured a new position with the Arts Council in the Scilly Isles. We wish him well in his new career.</p> <p>We were successful in obtaining funding for another year from the Lottery "Awards for All" to enable us to continue with our "Smart Device Yoga" drop in IT help sessions at Bantock House. This continues to be very popular, with a regular core of attendees, as well as one off. Heather and I are currently engaging with WVSC to explore further</p>	

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<p>funding to enable us to continue for another year.</p> <p>Following an approach from The Grand Theatre, we have re-started our “Go and See” programme, underwritten by a small cash surplus from CBC. 40 local children and their minders will start the season by going to see “There was an old woman who swallowed a fly” on 25<sup>th</sup> March, and then in April, 20 of us are booked in to “A feast of Gilbert and Sullivan”. We have also been offered block booking tickets for “Jekyll &amp; Hyde” and “The Turn of The Screw”. If you would like to go to either of these, please see me afterwards, or get details from our web site.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank both Brenda and Heather for their sterling work during the last year, especially Heather who has, despite enormous odds, managed to keep track of our finances.</p> <p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>At the last FCCA AGM, Heather agreed to continue as Treasurer on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement could be found.</p> <p>Heather said that at the end of the previous month, FCCA had a balance of £10,377.02. This would be sufficient to support “Smart Device Yoga” until September (the costs being that of the tutors and use of the tractor shed at Bantock House). She said that she was confident that FCCA would get further funding. Social events throughout the year were always in credit and there are no debtors.</p>	
<p><b>6. <u>Election of Officers 2018/2019</u></b></p> <p>At this point in the meeting the Chairman and Officers of the Committee stood down in order for a new Chairman and Officers to be elected.</p> <p>The nominations were as follows:</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <p>Howard Stride proposed Andrew Atkinson. This was seconded by Heather Rous.  Andrew Atkinson proposed Howard Stride. This was seconded by Brenda Bates.  Brenda Bates proposed Judith Tanswell. This was seconded by Heather Rous.  Andrew Atkinson proposed Heather Rous. This was seconded by Howard Stride.  Andrew Atkinson proposed Brenda Bates. This was seconded by Heather Rous.</p> <p>Andrew asked if there were any other volunteers willing to join the Committee. Andrea Cantrill said that she would join. Andrew therefore proposed Andrea This was seconded by Brenda Bates</p> <p>Andrew asked John Rowley if he wished to become a member but John declined.</p> <p>Having established the Committee, the posts of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Minutes Secretary were nominated:</p> <p>Chairman. Howard Stride proposed Andrew Atkinson. This was seconded by Heather Rous. Andrew accepted the position.</p> <p>Treasurer. Heather Rous proposed Howard Stride. This was seconded by Andrew Atkinson. Howard accepted the position.</p> <p>Secretary. Andrew Atkinson proposed Brenda Bates. This was seconded by Heather Rous. Brenda accepted the position.</p> <p>Minutes Secretary. Andrew Atkinson proposed Barbara Cole. This was seconded by Heather Rous.</p>	

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At this point the Committee and Officers of the Committee were deemed to be complete.	
<p><b>7. <u>Events</u></b></p> <p>Events were reported upon in Andrew's Chairman's Report.</p>	
<p><b>8. <u>Issues</u></b></p> <p><b>8.1 Parking in Bagridge Close</b> Parking in Bagridge Close is still an issue.</p> <p><b>8.2 Large Caravan in Pool Hall Road</b> A large caravan had been parked in Pool Hall Road, overlapping the pavement. Environmental Health ensured that it was moved.</p> <p><b>8.3 Pedestrian Crossing in Castlecroft Road</b> Brenda said that she had asked Wolverhampton City Council for their proposals to put a pedestrian crossing in Castlecroft Road. Her request had been acknowledged but that was all that had happened. John commented on excessive speeding at the junction of Castlecroft Road and Bhylls Lane. He said that a young person had been knocked over. Now Wolverhampton City Council are going to put a pedestrian crossing in place. The Council have appointed a consultant and there will be consultation with local residents. The crossing will raise an issue because there will be no parking allowed near to it and this will have an adverse effect on the shops. John said that he will be involved in the consultation and would report back to FCCA at the next meeting. The Committee agreed that FCCA should be involved.</p> <p><b>8.4 Junction of Merridale Road and Jeffcock Road</b> Howard asked if anyone had raised the issue of safety at the junction of Merridale Road and Jeffcock Road. He was informed that although this came under Bradmore and Park, the issue was known to have been raised.</p> <p><b>8.5 Road Resurfacing at Finchfield Shops</b> Howard observed that the road had been resurfaced outside the chip shop but not outside the Co-Op. He was informed that this was a private landlord issue. The landlord had resurfaced part of the road as a result of pressure from some of the shop keepers.</p>	
<p><b>9. <u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p><b>9.1 FCCA Accounts</b> Having taken on the role of Treasurer Howard said that one of his concerns was to make sure that FCCA had a set of professionally produced accounts. These would be needed if FCCA are to put up a good case for obtaining further grants (e.g. for the future funding of IT for Smart Device Yoga). Howard said that it was currently difficult to establish the outset of FCCA's financial year, since initially, Andrew had put some of his own money into FCCA and a decision needs to be made upon how this is accounted for.</p>	

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<p><b>9.2 FCCA Website</b></p> <p>It was noted that the FCCA website is not up to date. Andrew said that he had it in his diary to meet with Ian Cole who created the website in order to address this. It was also noted that the fee for Spanglefish is due for renewal and that Ron who leads the IT classes on a Wednesday could probably provide a better alternative</p> <p><b>9.3 Support for St Thomas Church Building</b></p> <p>Heather emphasised the importance of FCCA asking people to support the St Thomas Church Building as a community space. For example, using it for children’s parties.</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	<b>AA</b>
<p><b>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting:</b> Date to be confirmed by Andrew</p>	<b>AA</b>