

Tutbury Old School Community Association

Minutes of a meeting of Tutbury Old School Community Association held on Monday 6th July 2009 at the Tutbury Institute, High Street, Tutbury at 7.30pm.

Present

Joanna Woodberry, Jane Taylor, Councillor Bob Fraser, Bill Crossley, Graham Lowther, Dave Kennedy, Di Needham, Sally Walkley (CASES), Councillor Liz Staples, Caroline Stringer, Duncan Austin, Jill Page, Barbara Crossley, Francis Crossley, Councillor Trevor Hathaway, Sue Adams and Pete Steadman.

Apologies

Pat Harvey, Carolyn Coxon, Arthur Tipper and Deb Bacon.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd June 2009 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The book entitled 'A School Intended and Since Built' by Reg Pye, has been re-printed by permission of the author's son. Tutbury Parish Council arranged and paid for the print run of 250 books.

Some-one has chopped away some of the ivy, which is growing into the roof, at its roots.

Pre-school have had their booking for the autumn term accepted by SCC Youth Service. Di Needham asked that users ensure they make firm bookings with SCC Youth Service for the building as there is no clerk in position at present.

There has been no meeting with anyone from SCC to discuss the business plan since the last meeting.

Report from Councillor Bob Fraser

Councillor Fraser reported that since the County Council elections on 4th June, when 49 of the 62 seats were won by Conservative councillors, many changes have been taking place and it has been a very busy time for everyone, including himself. He is now a cabinet member with responsibility for community health. However, it is still early days. It has already been decided that council properties will be managed by one department rather than being under the control of different functions of the council, hence Tutbury Old School will no longer be under the control of the Youth Service. Councillor Fraser is meeting with an officer responsible for such property the day after the meeting.

There was some discussion about the implications of the political changes on the future of the building and how TOSCA's plans to bring the building into community ownership were affected. It is still too early for the council to commit itself to either a community asset transfer or retention of the building within its estate but plans to sell the building are definitely on hold for the foreseeable future.

Joanna has written a letter to Philip Atkins, the new leader of SCC, to make him aware of TOSCA and its aims. The letter was read out. It was agreed that although it is only a month since the election, TOSCA needs to keep the pressure on. Councillor Fraser would have brought the officer to the meeting had it been at Tutbury Old School. Jill Page suggested that such a meeting ought to take place when pre-school are in session. This meeting will be arranged before the end of term. Caroline Stringer has a petition to present with 600 signatures.

Business Plan

The business plan has not yet been presented to SCC as discussed at the previous meeting. Jill suggested that it now needs to include a new user as Tutbury Toddlers are relocating from the village hall to Tutbury Old School.

Event on Saturday 4th July

Jo and Jane sold refreshments, including scones and cakes kindly donated by members of the scout group and Liz Staples, raising £58.10. Dave Kennedy sold books and raised £24 but also displayed photos and information on the history of the school, which was much appreciated. TOSCA are indebted to Tutbury Parish Council, especially Chairman Bill Crossley and Clerk Steve Powell for arranging the reprint of the book.

It was agreed that the opened box of books will go to Dave Kennedy and the unopened box can be kept at Tutbury Museum, as they may want to sell it.

The photographs are ultimately going to the museum to be put onto disc. In the meantime, Caroline asked to borrow the display boards and photographs for a 5 aside football event to be held at Tutbury Old School on Saturday 25th July at 11 am.

Any Other Business

The 5 a-side football event is to raise fund for an interactive white board. Lloyds TSB are match funding the project. The target is £1,000 and pre-school are well on the way. Councillor Fraser made the meeting aware that he has a 'local community fund' (formerly the local member initiative scheme) of £10,000 as a member of SCC, with further funding of up to £30,000 which could be accessed depending on the type of project.

There was some discussion about the situation regarding the Cornmill Lane car park. The decision to the sell the car park has been put on hold by SCC. ESBC have still not had a response to their offer. There followed a discussion about why things can't change all at once.

Jo asked what TOSCA's angle is now there are different council members to deal with; whether it would better if TOSCA were to acquire it or if it were kept by SCC. It was felt that it would be in better hands as a community asset and this would be the best solution for the users. TOSCA is confident that all our local councillors will be acting in its best interest as they know how important this issue is to Tutbury. Dave was pleased to note that there is a petition in favour of the pre-school with 600 signatures.

Sally Walkley informed the meeting that the Heritage Lottery are actively seeking projects in the East Midlands and have sizeable grants to give out. Sally will let Joanna have the contact details so a meeting can be arranged.

Bill Crossley reported on the Tutbury School Charities, on behalf of Arthur Tipper. The charity is in the process of making an application to the Land Registry to register land at Richard Wakefield Primary School, which was swapped for Tutbury Old School. There has been a slight hitch due to a recent application by SCC but there are missing deeds and the charity at least has a photocopy of a document from the Lichfield diocese which proves title to the playground and dining room. There appears to be no question that SCC does not own the school playing field.

Tutbury Youth Club will continue its sessions through July and most of August. There will also be some day time sessions.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 26th August to be held at Tutbury Old School, Cornmill Lane, Tutbury at 7.30 pm

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.