

## **Stow Parish Council Annual Meeting 2018/2019**

### **Recognition of Service**

Owen Miller, who died recently served the village both practically and with wisdom for many years until 2015. He served as a parish councillor and tree warden and this service should be recorded

The seat at the junction of Ingham road / South drive has been refurbished and now has a commemorative plaque recording the Post Office service of Bill Ingamells: Sheila Allen, Jill West and their mother Mrs Wattam.

**Stow Parish Council** comprises a group of seven volunteers from the local community supported by a professional clerk trying to maintain and improve the facilities of the area with a very limited budget.

Planning Applications have required the Councils consideration through the year.

Stow is small village and boasts a Play park and a Cemetery both which require regular maintenance; other areas of grass some of which are maintained by a contractor, those requiring more regular cutting maintained by home owners or volunteers. At present David Justham continues to store the parish lawnmower and mow the parish grass on Church Road where the herbaceous border is weeded and planted by volunteers.

In recent years Stow Fun Raisers have worked with the Parish Council in providing improvements for the village and we hope that this will continue.

An area of land on the outskirts of the village continues to be rented out to a local resident.

**Stow Recreation Fund.** Thanks are due to Clare Ella for continuing to manage the fund affairs, and whilst the way forward to administrate the monies is proving difficult, projects to put the fund to are multitude as reported in the Fund's own report.

**Doug Garner** continues to organise a Saturday men's breakfast gathering continues to be successful.

### **Play Park.**

Maintenance and improvement of the park continues. The long hedge, on the Sturton Road side has been extensively trimmed and the trimmings remain to be removed into the corner of the park when the ground is suitable for the tractors.

The other long field side hedge requires consideration, whilst new infill hedging was planted it has been destroyed by vandalism before it has had time to grow.

The play equipment is in good order. A further seat or picnic table has been considered. A gate to prevent children running out of the park onto Stow Park Road has been commissioned.

## **Cemetery**

The cemetery remains in good order and improvements continue, the extra areas of grass have not been seeded due to the hot and then wet weather.

## **Whipping Post**

The Whipping Post has been refurbished and is standing proudly on the village green. Huge thanks to thanks to Mark Rose, John Martinson and David Justham.

## **Grass Maintenance Contractor**

A new grass maintenance contractor has been commissioned for 2019/2020.

**Parish Notice Board** No further damage has occurred during the year.

## **St Mary's Drive / South Drive**

A site meeting was held with a representative of Acis housing following numerous communications. Parking problems persist on St Mary's Crescent this was discussed along with other issues raised by residents. The meeting was useful and we await progress.

## **Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan**

An initiative supported by the Parish Council alongside that of Sturton by Stow which has proved to be both interesting and taxing. Thank you to Stow Parishioners, Pam Duncan and Norman Read, Stow's lead volunteers for this project.

**Stow Charity Cup** was not awarded by Sturton by Stow Primary School at the end of the 2017/2018 academic year. This cup was given to the school along with funds which were raised on the transfer in 2012 of the Charities with the intention of maintaining the historical names of the Charities. Should the School no longer intend to award cups of this nature this may need to be reconsidered.

## *Stow Charities Trust.*

*Bequests made in the 17th Century to support education and the relief of the poor by The Countess of Warwick and the Lord of the Manor, Edward Burgh and were substantial at that time. However falling interest rates and the small amounts of money available to dispense, along with few applications meant that the Trust had become a white elephant. With the permission of the Charities Commission it was converted and added to a larger Lincolnshire County charities pot where it was likely to attract larger amounts of interest and therefore be of greater use.*