

Stow Recreation Fund Committee Report April 2018-2019

As reported last year, a new HSBC bank account was opened by the committee in March 2018, and the balance was transferred from the Parish Council administered Scottish Widows fund.

The current balance is £32,898.27. We are looking into opening a connected savings account. The interest available to community funds is minimal, but better than nothing.

A long letter was drafted and sent to the Charities commission in May 2018, but, despite chasing, no response was received until December 2018. The reply was singularly unhelpful, and members of the committee are now looking to meet with a local Charity law specialist to discuss ways that it may be possible to administer the fund without further recourse to the charity commissioners. These could include an insurance policy to protect the committee from any claims of distribution in breach of trust, and holding an AGM to which all residents of Stow will be invited by way of a leaflet through their door, setting out a brief summary of the background to the fund, and making suggestions for uses of the money that could be discussed at the AGM, IF and WHEN it can be administered. The meeting would have to be in the church as there are no other suitable venues.

Possible projects the fund could support include flashing speed awareness signs on Sturton and Ingham Road entering the village, providing a defibrillator together with a safe housing/box, substantial and long lasting playing field equipment, or assisting with the funding of an electrical winding system for the church clock if no volunteers can be found to wind it manually. The residents could be asked to think of other projects with the requirement that they be 'for the benefit of the village and its residents'. There is however little point in spending time and energy on researching possible projects at this stage - until we know the funds can be administered.

We appreciate that things continue to move slowly, but we are all volunteers, and if the administration of the fund was straightforward it would have been resolved at one of the many and varied attempts in the past.

Clare Ella
Secretary SRFC