

Notice to all residents of Stow, Stow Park and Normanby by Stow

A public meeting will be held at St Mary's Church, Stow on Tuesday 6th August at 7.30pm, to which all residents are invited.

In the 1940s, a Fund was set up in Stow, the purpose of which was described in an appeal letter dated 10th February 1944 as 'the provision of a post-war Village Centre'

Lots of fundraising activities & events took place, and locals made donations to the Fund.

In the 1950s some of the sporting clubs in the village wanted to buy a field for a playing field with a children's corner and to build a pavilion on it which would have the dual purpose of changing rooms and a village hall, but the Fund committee wouldn't agree to this.

In the 1960s, with the Fund at approximately £1,500, there were a few more fundraising events, and the aim was re-stated as 'to build and maintain a village hall and car park'.

In the 1970s there was little enthusiasm in the village for continued fundraising, and a public meeting was held in May 1975 to discuss what to do about the Fund (then standing at £2,365). It was agreed that a joint Parish Council/Fund committee be set up to look at other ways of using the Fund, and the money was to be invested by the Parish Council. However legal advice at the time was that '*the Fund is held on charitable trusts for the purpose of a village hall. As such it can only lawfully be used for this precise purpose*'. At a further parish meeting in October 1978 it was decided to just let the Fund sit and grow.

Apart from an unsuccessful tender for a small piece of land in 1984, since the early 1980s the annual parish meetings have recorded no further fundraising and no suitable land coming available.

Last year the Parish Council found itself no longer able to administer the Fund and asked for help in transferring the balance of just over £32,000 into a new account. A new Stow Recreation Fund committee was formed of Charles Hewitt, John Martinson, Doug Garner, Andrew Fenn and Clare Ella. Legal advice has been taken and, due to new legislation, it is now possible to alter the charitable purposes of the Fund, so long as they are still for the benefit of Stow and its residents.

As the building of a village hall in Stow is no longer a realistic aim, the purpose of the Public Meeting is to consider a change to the constitution of the Fund to allow the £32,000 to be used for other projects, and to discuss what the money could be spent on.

Suggestions for the Fund so far include:- a defibrillator and somewhere to house it, a memorial to those from the village who have died in conflict, flashing 'Your Speed' signs at the edge of the village on Sturton Road and Ingham Road, new equipment in the play park and an electronic winding system for the church clock. Please come along with your ideas.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to make a suggestion for the use of the Fund, please email clare_ella@hotmail.com or put your suggestion in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Stow Recreation Fund' and hand it in at the Cross Keys. Please send your email or deliver your envelope BEFORE 6pm on Saturday 3rd August.

Please note – no final decisions about how the money will be used will be made at this meeting, it is just an opportunity to discuss possibilities and consider a way forward.

Clare Ella – secretary - Stow Recreation Fund

**A public meeting for the residents of
Stow, Stow Park and Normanby by Stow
at St Mary's Church, Stow on Tuesday 6th August at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and brief history of the Stow Recreation Fund

2. Discussion of a proposed amendment to the current constitution to allow charitable purposes other than the provision of a Post War Village Centre

3. Discussion of suggestions for uses of the Fund
 - a) a defibrillator and somewhere to house it
 - b) a memorial to those from the village who have died in conflict
 - c) flashing 'Your Speed' signs at the edge of the village on Sturton Road and Ingham Road
 - d) new equipment in the play park (including adult exercise equipment)
 - e) an electronic winding system for the church clock
 - f) further ideas received by email or letter prior to the meeting
 - g) further ideas from residents at the meeting

4. The way forward :- including ideas to research further, and new committee members