Stobswell Forum AGM Minutes 19/05/2022

Present - Colin, Lorraine, Ali, Joy, Sheena, Mike, Elizabeth, Anne, Harry, Ted, Graeme, Alison, Carla, Val, Allan, Helen, Liz, Ian, Linda

Apologies - Nichola, David, Irene, Michael Marra MSP, Mercedes Villolba MSP, Maggie Chapman MSP, Shona Robison MSP, Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Cllr Georgia Cruickshank, Cllr Lynne Short,

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Proposed as correct by Helen and Seconded by Colin.

Annual Accounts - Copies of Independent Audited Annual Accounts were available for perusal at the AGM and have also been posted on social media and Stobswell Forum's website. Proposed as true reflection by Graeme and Seconded by Sheena.

Election of Trustees - All existing Trustees stood down and the following attendees were happy to be elected as Stobswell Forum Trustees, namely - David, Robbie, Ali, Nichola, Colin, Sheena, Joy, Helen, Harry, Graeme, Lorraine, Ian.

Office Bearers -		**Nominated By**	**Seconded By**
Chair -	Colin	Graeme	Harry
Vice Chair -	David	Colin	Graeme
Treasurer -	Graeme	Lorraine	Helen
Secretary -	Not Elected		
Minute Secretary -	Lorraine	Colin	Graeme

Micro Presentations (5 Minutes Maximum)

Helen gave a presentation on Cultural Activity in Stobswell. Representation of diverse ideas, customs, social behaviour of a group of people ie People of Stobswell.

Dundee Design Festival in September 2021
Festive Celebration, Light Nights, Xmas Shop on Albert Street, Concert and Xmas Tree light up at Morgan Academy December 2021

Outfest in Showcase the Street April 2022

Colin explained that Stobswell Forum became an Incorporated Charity (SCIO) last year. He explained that all Trustees have to be members but not all members have to be Trustees. Members can vote Trustees in or out and can get involved in the work of the Stobswell Forum. More members give us more influence in getting things done.

Alison from Dundee International Woman's Centre gave an insight into Discover Dundee, funded to March 2023 by Scottish Government and Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust. Discover Dundee helps newcomers to Dundee to find their way around. So far they have visited places like McManus Galleries, Broughty Castle, Open Close tour of Stobswell and had Dundee food tastings which led to a discussion on Jute Jam and Journalism.

Ali made a fun interactive presentation on **menti.com** of what Stobfest means to those present. Results were diverse and surprising and can be found on the Stobswell Forum's website.

Transcript of Colin's Annual Report

Stobswell Forum 2022 Annual Report

I'm not going to talk about the Annual Report as there are copies on the tables, its on the Forums Web-Site and it will be included in the meeting notes that are posted on Social Media

I'm only going to talk for a couple of minutes, which I'm sure is good news……first off I'd like to again say thanks to all of the Trustees for all of their efforts - not least for putting up with me and some of my daft ideas

The other thing I want to talk about tonight is Democracy

Its a worrying time - Democracy is under pressure in many places across the world and in some places it's much worse than that. In Ukraine we can see where we end up if Democracy ultimately fails

You might be thinking what's this got to do with the The Stobie Forum, even with our lofty ambitions we aren't going to be a player on the world stage - well at least not this year.

But here's the thing if we can't make Democracy work here in Stobswell why would we think it will work anywhere else.

Big Democracy you know the stuff that goes on in the City Centre, Edinburgh and London will all fail unless it's built on what goes on in places like well……. The Stobie.

So the Stobswell Forum will be working harder than ever over the next year to make Local Democracy work better, we'll be working with our elected representatives and the council officials, we're going to be Passionate (Yes), Persuasive and above all Persistent in our objective to bring more people into making decisions about their community.

One of the main things the Forum will be concentrating on over the next year has to be to get more people involved in making decisions in their community we have to help change from a past where things were decided for us because experts "somewhere" knew best, to a future where the community are the experts and the community make the decisions and the experts make it happen.

The community needs to take the lead and the Forum can be a part of that wider community, this might make some people uncomfortable not because it can't work, because it does work in other parts of the world, as an example in some Local Authority areas in as diverse places as Brazil and the US, local communities make direct decisions on how 40% of their councils budget is spent. Just think about that and how things might look different here in Stobswell.

I think we are already travelling along a road that could see huge changes in the way Democracy works in Scotland over the coming years and we can play our part starting now. Just because things have been done in a certain way in the past does not mean it has to be the same in the future, the fact is if Democracy is to prosper things have to change.

Thanks for listening and I'm glad I got that off my chest

Date of AGM 2023 - To be announced at a later date