

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2017 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the Chair), Maureen Waugh, Colin Hames, Roy Hughes, Peter Holmes, Val Beesley, Nicola Alexander, and Colin Towell (8)

Other members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Yvonne and John Woodward (5)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies from Committee Members.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1(3.1)

Overhanging hedges: The hedges at Cross Street had been cut but insufficiently and were still 3 feet over the pathway. The vacant plot on Moat Street had not yet been cut back and a car was regularly parked on the path next to the hedge making it impossible for pedestrians to pass.

3.2 (3.2) Land adjacent to the Swimming Pool: The Head Teacher had been advised that no S 106 money was available but no other suggestions for finance had been made at this time. P i t Borough to be asked.

3.3 (3.3) Society poster: The Chairman is working on a new poster.

3.4(3.4) Blue Plaque for Admiral Sportswear Long Street: It was reported that some clearance work had taken place on site.

3.5 (3.5) Traffic warning signs: No new specific examples were brought to the meeting. The Chairman will report the damaged direction sign facing southbound traffic on the A5199 outside the Horse and Trumpet.

3.6 (3.7) Cars parked on pavements: No new examples were given but the attention of the meeting was brought to a newspaper article about regulations presently in force in London prohibiting parking on footpaths being introduced on a country wide basis. See the minutes of the last meeting for actions on profile raising.

3.7 (3.7) WWI Memorial seat: the secretary had been advised that Oadby CS had gone ahead with a seat funded by the Oadby Village Hall Trust at a cost of about £1400 including fixing. There was some disappointment about this as it had originally been suggested as a Borough wide project supported by each C S. Oadby to be advised.

4 Society Events

4.1, 12 March, Sunday, 10.00 to 4.30 LRFHS AGM at Grace Road: From an exhibiter viewpoint this had again been a very successful event and there had been some interest in the Society's display.

4.2 15 March Wigston Stakeholders Event at the Elms: This had been a reasonably successful event and there had been some interest in the Society's display. However not many members of the public attended.

4.3, 31 March 2017, Friday, skittles match with Leicester CS: This event was very successful. Table skittles were played and Wigston won. There were 35 people present with a profit of 18.35 plus 25.50, being 50% of the extra raffle tickets sold. Thanks were expressed to Nicola and Val and Colin.

4.4, 8 April, Saturday, History Exhibition at Cross Street Church: Colin Hames would fill the 2-4 slot on the rota.

4.5, 30 April 2017, Sunday 10.30am, Heritage Walk: it was decided not to have a special display banner but to use the existing at Age UK on the day. The display boards to be erected at the FWK and Blue plaques books to be for sale and Society leaflets to be available. Paul at the FWK to be advised of numbers for coffee etc. The Chair and Secretary will meet to discuss final arrangements and the leaflet. It was reported that the organiser of other walks in Wigston had complained via facebook that the Society was copying ideas used in their walks, a suitable response had been made. *It was later announced that there were 32 bookings and a waiting list had been established.*

4.6, 3 May 2017, Wednesday AGM: It was agreed that the start time will be 7pm and that there would be no quiz. It was agreed that the AGM would be held at the start of the evening followed by refreshments. It was agreed that simple frames would be purchased from the legacy money for the commendation certificates. The display boards and banner will be used. Despite the discussion at the previous meeting it was agreed that the subs would be increased to £9.00 in 2018 from £8.00 in 2017. All current committee members and officers agreed to continue in office and John and Yvonne Woodward agreed to stand as committee members.

4.7, 6 August 2017 WWI Commemoration Parade in South Wigston: No further information was available.

4.8, 14 September 2017, Thursday: Annual Lecture: No further details are available.

4.9 Outing to Flag Fen: There were no further details available.

4.10 25 May 2017, Wednesday, Lunch: It was proposed that a lunch be held at the Horse and Trumpet but the landlady had advised that she does not now serve lunches. Nicola will try the Plough and if this is not successful, the Fairfield. An advert had already been placed in Wigstons' Voice.

5 Website and Facebook

All details are up to date.

6 Correspondence

In addition to the event on the agenda support sheet, Members were advised of the GWHS outing to Newark on 17 May. A church tour had been suggested and a trip up the tower was requested.

7 Planning Matters

7.1 Land off Pochins Bridge Road: Nothing further to report.

7.2 Newton Lane, construct 450 dwellings: Despite works to the hedges and fences the developers had advised that they do not actually own the site yet.

7.3 Canal Street/Hat and Cap factory: Nothing further to report.

7.4 Meadow Hill, Cooks Lane, construct 53 dwellings: Nothing further to report.

7.5 Premier Drum factory site demolition and construction of a Wickes and a Lidl Store: Nothing further to report. *It was later noticed that this item is on the agenda for the Development Control Committee on Thursday, 13 April.*

7.6 Glen Parva Y O C demolition and Construction of new prison: Despite earlier reports it had since been learned that an early start on demolition of the existing buildings was expected. The anticipated severe traffic problems on Saffron Road during construction and when the prison is in use were again discussed.

7.7 4 Glengate, loft conversion: no comment.

7.8 52 Blaby road, creation of flats to first floor: it was noted that these works had received planning permission.

7.9 FWK Trees: A member (a tree warden) brought to the Committee's attention a tree in the rear garden of the FWK Museum which the Trust wished to remove. He considered that the tree should be retained but the Arboricultural Officer had recommended approval for removal as to do otherwise would need a TPO placing on it.

8 Borough projects

8.1 Pride of the Borough: The Pinfold; it had been made known that P i t B now wished to place a new seat, a planting trough and the information board on the site, discussions were ongoing.

8.2 Greening the Borough: There had been no further progress on additional trees for Holmden Avenue but it was stated that these should be planted in the ground and not in pots, to be taken up at the Forum.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Street Art: There was nothing new to report.

9.2 Significant buildings review: The Chairman, Secretary and M Forryan had attended a successful meeting with Jamie Carr at the Council to discuss handing over the review at the AGM.

9.3 History of Street names: There was no further information on taking this project forward, the GWHS member did not wish to take the project on.

10 Wigstons' Voice

The Editor had printed the spring edition and enveloped it for distribution. Thanks were recorded to the Editor and to the contributors.

11 Residents Forum

A written report of matters raised at the Wigston forum had been circulated. There were no further questions.

There had been no Committee member present at the South Wigston meeting.

12 Meeting with the Council, Council problems, Organisation.

Members were advised of the Peer Group review at the Council which was attended by the Chair and Secretary and by Colin Hames as a volunteer at Brocks Hill. An email had been received from the CEO setting out the positive results from the review. See Forum notes referred to in item 11 above for

discussions on the problems at the Council. A chart of Council committee structures had been obtained and members were referred to the Council website for details.

13 Assets of Community Interest

There was some discussion about a shop premises in central Wigston. Otherwise members were urged to carry on with research on the assets allocated at the Awayday.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Bus route changes: Members were reminded of the imminent changes to the 44 and 49 services. Serious concern was expressed and it was noted that despite promises from Arriva when the Society had last taken up the issue of a cross Borough service, they had not consulted with the Society on the current changes. It was reported that new timetables were available on line.

14.2 Shops update and Vapeshops: It was reported that the Co Op Travel shop had reopened as Thomas Cook. Also that the gift shop on Leicester Road appeared to be closed. There were now three Vape shops in Wigston one of which was in the long empty former Heath's shop in the Arcade.

14.3 Letterbox Articles: The closing date for articles for Letterbox is 21 April, ideas were requested.

14.4 Library/ Record Office: It was reported that County is considering changing remaining libraries included Wigston into 'Smart Libraries' where there are no staff but entry and book lending is controlled by a card held by the user. General concern was expressed about the resulting lack of facilities (eg school projects) and that further education courses in librarianship are being withdrawn because of a lack of take up. Furthermore there are likely to be changes at the Record Office and concern was expressed that the loss of this facility would be damaging to prestige and trade in Wigston, let alone the loss of access by the public to the contents.

14.5 Neglected house inside Aylestone Lane: It was reported that this house was being worked on and that a large pothole in the entrance to the car park was dangerous.

13 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the **AGM** on Wednesday 3 May at 7pm

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 7 June 2017 at 7.00 for 7.15pm.