

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2018 AT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY MEETING CENTRE, PADDOCK STREET

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

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Gaynor Johnson, Helen Hay, Ann Cousins, May Hilton (6)

1 Apologies: Apologies were received from John and Yvonne Woodward.

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2018 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: There had been no response from the Council on this matter despite a further reminder. I was suggested that photos be taken and submitted. *After the meeting on 6 August a full response was received from the Council including the fact that Martin Hone had left on 28 March. Further action to be agreed.*

3.2 (3.2) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: The proof of the artwork for the information board had been signed off on 31 July after much difficulty which was finally solved by the Chairman. A full size copy was tabled. It was expected that delivery would be in about four weeks when Jelsons will install the plaque and information board on site and arrange an unveiling ceremony. The Society will then also present its certificate of commendation. Funding had been received from Jelsons and the GWHS but not the Forum at the time of the meeting, the full cost had been paid to the manufacturer.

3.3 (3.3) Definitive Paths: An update was given on the need to register rights of way by 2026. It was reported that necessary maps are available at Oadby library. An item on the subject will be included in Wigstons' Voice

3.4 (3.4) Eyesores of Wigston: The properties on the list will be monitored and added to as necessary. There was a discussion about the Poundland/Boots alleyway and land at the rear. This is used and a proposal that it should be fenced off was not agreed. The Chairman will ask the local councillor for advice on ownership. It was reported that a POTB litter pick around McDonalds roundabout produced several sacks of rubbish. An item on litter will be included in the Voice.

3.5 (3.6) Farmers Market Display: This was postponed until the spring.

3.6 (8.0) GDPR returns: A letter had been prepared to send to those members who had not returned their form and will be sent out with a letter about outstanding subscriptions, with the newsletter.

3.7 (14.0) Meres Walk: The Secretary had agreed with members involved that he would send the evidence gathered by those members to the Council in response to the email received. Care was needed because some gardens had been extended and gates installed many years ago and statutory time limits for action had probably expired.

3.8 (4.1) Patchwalk actions: It was agreed that the Boots, Gym and Long Lane items should be a priority, see 3.4 above *It was noted on 8 August that the weeds on Long Lane near the gym had been removed.* It was suggested that Heath's shop may move to smaller premises.

3.9 (12.0) Business Membership: There had been no interest shown from commercial businesses which had been approached. It was agreed that no further action be taken for the time being and that the proposal be discussed again early next year.

3.10 (13.5) Letterbox: The articles sent to Letterbox were: Trees and Tree Wardens (bfd from last time); Lecture; 40 Years of Local action; A walk around Central Wigston; Paint Disposal Permits; Definitive Paths and Overhanging Hedges.

The company designing Letterbox had declined to include the article on Paint Disposal Permits as it was critical of the Council. However, it was not critical of the Borough but was critical of the County. Also, the item on trees and tree wardens was amended to omit criticism of the Council on Holmden Avenue trees.

4 Society Events

4.1 Awayday: Work is continuing on dealing with the action list from the awayday on 6 February and regular checks will continue. The suggestion of having an agenda item at each meeting on 'Promoting the Society' will be implemented in September. A summary of outstanding actions will be circulated.

4.2 Annual Lecture: Posters were mostly in place (*the remainder were fixed w/c 6 August*) Members ordered their personal tickets, but more sales were urgently needed. *After the meeting the Chairman circulated posters to several organisations. As at 8 August sales were 35, maximum is 80.*

4.3.1 40th Anniversary reception: The Mayor and Mayoress had agreed to attend. Background music had not yet been identified but enquiries continue, CD to be used if necessary. The Chairman can print invites now that speaker and Mayor confirmed. Traders' organisations and Friends of the Record Office to be included in invite list. A quote for refreshments was awaited and it was proposed that a sub-committee of VB, NA, AC and the Secretary be formed to finalise arrangements.

4.3.2 Anniversary Quiz: The closing date is 12 August, sales by members were £62.00, Mrs Kind to be advised. *Her own sales were later notified as £120.*

4.3.3 Anniversary edition of Wigstons' Voice: The editor emphasised that the deadline for articles would be 11 August. Articles as before plus 'Large Extensions'. This matter was discussed and permitted development rights were mentioned as these allowed certain small extensions without approval. The high number of applications for extensions was highlighted with 72 in Oadby and 68 in Wigston this year to date.

5. Website/Facebook:

The Pinfold would be highlighted on Facebook. The Facebook address will be circulated to members with the aim of increasing 'friends'.

6. Correspondence:

These are as stated on the agenda backing sheet. It was advised that an audio of the Stuart Bailey Memorial event was on the Leicester CS Facebook page.

7. Planning Matters:

a) Newton Lane Estate: It was noted that the first foundations were being constructed. *The meeting on 10 August was abandoned as the Barratt's representatives did not turn up.*

b) Premier Drum Site: It was noted that the road works were complete and signs indicated that Lidl would open soon.

c) Glen Parva New Prison: The reserve matters application was due to be considered at the Development Committee on 26 July with a recommendation to approve.

d) Long Street Admiral Factory: Nothing new to report.

e) Horse and Trumpet Decking and Footpath: The diversion consultation closed on 18 June but no results were available, position to be queried with County Hall.

f) Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge: There was nothing further to report.

g) WMC Long Street: This application had not been approved despite the previous minutes.

i) Hat and Cap factory 41-43 Canal Street: No further information was available.

8 Council Committee reports

The Full Council, Service Delivery, Policy and Finance, Development Control and Oadby Residents Forum were reported on. The only items of interest were: a proposal to change to wheelie bins with continuing weekly collections from next year, the new Prison being approved and the possible reinstatement of the Greening the Borough working group.

9. Borough Projects.

9.1 The Pinfold: work is complete and this item can be deleted from future agendas.

9.2 Holmden Avenue Trees: This matter had not yet been taken up with the County. It was stated that the existing trees were in poor condition and might as well be removed.

10 Assets of Community Value

10.1 Central Wigston Shop: There had been no progress on registering the property as an asset of community value. The Vice Chair and Secretary will work together this matter.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Bulb Planting 2018: The Society had been asked to plant bulbs at the top of Holmden Avenue, bulbs will be delivered in the autumn by P o t B.

11.2 Brocks Hill: The site generally had changed for the worst since Brocks Hill was taken over by contractors. Children from the inner city did not now visit. The new car park was not being used despite existing car parks being full, signs were needed, but the café is excellent.

11.3 The Bigger Picture: it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting, perhaps with an officer in attendance.

11.4 The Local Plan: There had been an update on the Local Plan from the Council and this indicated that it was expected to be adopted in the late autumn.

11.5 Barclays Bank Closure: The closure of Barclays branch in Wigston was discussed, this would leave a large shop unit empty. There were concerns about the length of time it is taking to relet the former Nat West bank premises in Bell Street.

11.6 Large Extensions to domestic dwellings: see 4.3.3 above

11.7 Wigston Library: the library is now open again. The application for longer total opening hours in Oadby was noted but there had been no similar application for Wigston. Members were urged to complete the County questionnaire about Wigston Library, closing date 12 August. *The Secretary later learned that the expected start date for the Smart Library at Wigston was April 2019 but there may be a phased introduction and that room hire was currently £10 per hour.*

11.8 Wigston Walks DVD: The Chairman suggested that the Wigston and South Wigston Walks be transferred to DVD with commentary by Dave Andrews. A charge of £10 was agreed with £1 going to Rainbows as with the GWHS DVDs, further financial details to be agreed, this would be done as a project for 2019.

12 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm