

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2017 AT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY ROOMS, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the chair), Maureen Waugh, Peter Holmes, Colin Hames, Roy Hughes, Colin Towell, (6)

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Gaynor Johnson, Alan Freckingham, Richard Carter (6)

1 Apologies: Apologies were received from: Val Beesley, Nicola Alexander and John and Yvonne Woodward.

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2017 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Overhanging Hedges: The Council had declined to be involved in the state of the garden at Langton Road.

3.2 (3.2) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: No further action has been reported from the school or the Council. A member reported that land registry documents show that the freeholder of the land is Leicestershire CC and it is leased to the school for 125 years from 1951. There is a separate lease of the pool land, initially to the Borough Council. The Secretary will ask for an update from Mr Hone at the Council and if there is no response it will be raised at the March Forum meeting.

3.3 (3.3) Traffic Warning Signs: No further action had yet been taken.

3.4 (3.4) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: The Chairman and Secretary had met with the Chairman of the Historical Society on site and had agreed locations and a design for the plinth for the plaque and information board, this is to be sent to Jelsons. Mike Forryan had since prepared a layout for the information board which was tabled at the meeting.

3.5 (3.5) Meres Walk: A member had tried to report the problem to the Customer Service shop but the officer there stated that the shop does not issue complaints numbers and said that the Walk was owned by the County. When raising this at the Forum meeting the member was informed by a Councillor that the land was owned by the Borough and that he would advise the Shop accordingly. It was stated that trees on the walk needed coppicing.

3.6 (8.0) Brocks Hill: There was nothing further to report.

3.7 (13.5) Library: The Vice Chair reported on her meeting with Cllr Charlesworth who explained his party's position. She had raised the matter at the Forum meeting but there had been no response from the public in attendance. It was suggested that volunteers could be used as is happening in some county libraries but this is unlikely to be taken forward by the County Council. It was agreed to await a formal announcement and respond to the consultation accordingly.

3.8 (13.6) Christmas Card: The Chairman had prepared a card for which he was thanked. The cards were split between Members for distribution.

4 Society Events

4.1 Skittles Match: Friday 17 November at 7.30 at the Conservative Club, had made a profit of £88.00.

4.2 Dates for 2018: The following dates and speakers were agreed for 2018: Awayday, Wednesday 14 February; AGM, Wednesday 2 May with Mike Bates speaking on Meres Walk; Annual Lecture, Thursday 13 September with Dr David Amos speaking on the GCR. The Secretary to contact speakers before booking date for the Lecture and N A to contact Fire Station re Awayday.

5. Website/Facebook: The website has now been tidied up and the Street Names project is now on the site, also on the GWHS site. With the approval of Jamie Carr the Local List as contained in the Local Plan now out for consultation is also on the website. Jamie Carr had agreed that the list would remain as it is and after the Local Plan is formally adopted he would accept additions as suggested in Saffron Road.

6. Correspondence:

These are as stated on the agenda backing sheet.

7. Planning Matters:

a) Newton Lane Estate: Nothing to report but see item 8 on street naming.

b) Meadow Hill Cooks Lane: Nothing new to report, but enquiry to be made about street names chosen by the Council.

c) Premier Drum Site: Nothing new to report.

d) Glen Parva New Prison: Nothing to report.

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

f) Horse Trumpet Decking and Footpath: No response to email after reminder. Raised at Forum where it was stated that an application for the footpath diversion had been sent to County on 28 November (*no notice published in press as at 10 December*) also timber decking on hard slabbing but this is incorrect, to be followed up with Council.

g) 26-28 Station Road, former probation office/police station: After amendments on car parking (increased from 3 to 6) and increases in some room sizes as well as improved fire precautions this application had been approved and work had commenced.

h) Barrack Yard Moat Street: This property remained for sale.

i) Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge: An outline application had been submitted and comments submitted by Society are attached to these minutes.

J) 52 Blaby Road, 7 dwellings in roof space: This application had been refused.

k) Elms Social Club: Minutes of Council's Development Control Committee November meeting awaited to ascertain true position.

2 Land to the north of Denby Dale: Comments have been submitted and are attached to these minutes.

3 WMC Long Street: A revised application had been submitted appearing to respond to previous criticism, comments had been submitted and are attached.

4 Hat and Cap factory 41-43 Canal Street: It was noted that the compulsory purchase order had been published by the Council in the Leicester Mercury.

8 Street Naming Newton Lane Development.

The Society had been asked to suggest names with reasons for the 23 roads on the, as yet not started, Newton Lane Development. Various individual names were suggested along with themes. These to be coordinated and submitted before the extended deadline of 25 December.

9 Forum Debrief.

The Vice Chair had attended the Wigston meeting and had prepared a briefing note which the secretary will email to Members.

A Member had attended the South Wigston meeting where the newly opened Elliott Hall Community Centre was discussed and in particular the funding of £40,000 for it from the Council. It was not clear if this had come from the Forum budget or from S 106 money. Furthermore the £3,000 running cost grant was queried. This to be formally raised with the Council.

It was noted that that part of the Bassett Street centre was for sale, it was asked if the former school element of the site is listed. *It was later confirmed that the original South Wigston School is on the existing Local List.*

10 Local Plan.

The final version of the Local plan was now out for consultation with a closure date for responses of 18 December. *An extension had been asked for but as at 12 December there had been no response .It was suggested that the 12 chapter, 135 page document, should be split between Members for comment but this was not proceeded with. It was later identified that comments could now be made only on the **legal compliance and soundness of the plan and as to what changes are needed to make it sound.** Therefore, it is now suggested that the Society is not in a position to identify such unsoundness and therefore no response will be made.*

11. Borough Projects.

11.1 The Pinfold: The proposal was again reported at the Forum meeting and the financing was clarified.

11.2 Holmden Avenue Trees: There was no further information to report. A Member was concerned that hedgerows around his property and bordering Willow Park had been cut by the Council thereby destroying certain growth that he had encouraged over the years.

12 Society Projects: History of Street Names:

This project is proceeding and is reported in the newly issued Letterbox. There was a query about Goddards Close which was identified as being in Oadby.

13 Assets of Community Value

13.1 Central Wigston Shop: It was reported that a conversation had taken place with Mr Cox by a third party and options had been put to him. There was no response at the date of this meeting. It was confirmed that the application for listing for the Record Office was proceeding slowly.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Letterbox Delivery Dates: In view of some addresses not receiving the previous edition of Letterbox, Members were asked to advise the Secretary of the date they received their copy.

14.2 Library Notice Board: The GWHS has been advised that the joint GWHS/ CS/ FWK notice board in the library had been moved. He had visited the library and rearranged the displays. However the header notice did not now fit and was looking scrappy. The Library had agreed to remake it. Members are asked to take a look and report back

15 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday 3 January 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm