

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2017 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Maureen Waugh (in the Chair), Colin Hames, Roy Hughes, Peter Holmes, Val Beesley, John and Yvonne Woodward and Colin Towell (8)

Other members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Gaynor Johnson and May Hilton (5)
John and Yvonne Woodward were welcomed to their first meeting as Committee members.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from: Peter Cousins and Nicola Alexander.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April were approved and signed. The minutes of the AGM on 3 May 2017 were noted.

3 Matters Arising

3.1(3.1) Overhanging hedges: The hedge on the vacant plot on Moat Street is to be reported to County

3.2 (3.2) Land adjacent to the Swimming Pool: The Secretary will speak to Pride in the Borough.

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

3.4 (3.5) Traffic warning signs: Colin Hames will supply specific examples. The 'new road layout ahead' sign on Oadby Road is to be reported. The Chairman will report the damaged direction sign facing southbound traffic on the A5199 outside the Horse and Trumpet.

3.5 (3.6) Cars parked on pavements: It was noted that Leicester City are introducing specific areas on pavements for car parking.

3.6 (3.7) WWI Memorial seat: The Secretary will contact Oadby C S, see last minutes.

3.7 (14.1) Bus route changes: It was noted that not all 49 buses go to Fleckney with some terminating in Wigston Magna and not covering the Meadows estate. There was some improvement in punctuality on this service. Problems remain with the 44/44A service and it was noted that only the Centrebus circular service links Oadby and Wigston.

4 Society Events

4.1, 8 April, Saturday, History Exhibition at Cross Street Church: There was a good attendance and if the event is repeated the Society would wish to be present.

4.2, 30 April 2017, Sunday 10.30am, Heritage Walk: The event had been extremely successful with 50 people attending and a profit of £160 with one Blue Plaques book sold. If the event is repeated perhaps a slightly shorter route is needed. Peter Cousins was thanked for all the work he did on this event.

4.3, 3 May 2017, Wednesday AGM: It was agreed that the meeting had been a success with good attendance, (better than last year). The Secretary considered that the evening was a little rushed but this did not detract too much from the impression given to those attending. It was agreed that refreshments must be served on arrival in future.

It was agreed that a significant buildings book should be sent to Graham Harrison (Buildrite). The issue of the J Hoots wall and screen to be raised at South Wigston residents meeting.

4.4, 25 May lunch at the Plough: A lower attendance on this occasion possibly due to the bank holiday weekend starting on 27 May. Thanks were expressed to Nicola for organising the event.

4.5, 6 August 2017 WWI Commemoration Parade in South Wigston: the Secretary had been asked by Cllr Boulter if it would exhibit its stand at the display at the Barracks, this was agreed. *The Council's Letterbox newsletter received after the meeting contained an advert for this event from 11am to 4pm.*

4.6 Outing to Castor and Durobrivae: This new destination is a conducted tour led by Professor Steve Upex, an expert from Cambridge University, and replaces Must Farm and Flag Fen destinations. This is a joint venture with O&W Fieldworkers and GWHS who are taking the financial lead. The cost is £35 including a very good lunch and coach. Details from the Secretary. *As at 25 June 10 seats left.*

4.7, 14 September 2017, Thursday: Annual Lecture: In the absence of the Chairman no further details were discussed.

4.8 9 September, Saturday 2-4pm, Grand Wigston Show: Event advertised only. Should the CS have a stand?

5 Website and Facebook

There was no report available.

6 Correspondence

In addition to the events on the agenda support sheet, Members were advised of the P i t B Litter pick on 17 June at Junction Road car park at 10 am. Litter problems were reported at: Two Steeples pub, Farm foods Bull head Street frontage, Boots, rear of Iceland. The trolleys were again being left at the Bell Street pocket park.

Also mentioned was the Probus Club outing to Oxford on Tuesday 19 September, details from the Secretary.

7 Planning Matters

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

7.2 Newton Lane, construct 450 dwellings: Nothing further to report.

7.3 Canal Street/Hat and Cap factory: The Secretary had been advised that the building was still in the process of being compulsorily purchased by the Council.

7.4 Meadow Hill, Cooks Lane, construct 53 dwellings: Nothing further to report regarding this site however it was noted that the car sales plot near Kilby Bridge was cleared and closed.

7.5 Premier Drum factory site demolition and construction of a Wickes and a Lidl Store: This application was considered and approved at a Development Control Committee on 13 April 2017. It was noted that the site was in an untidy state and that the fence at the back edge of the footpath was demolished and therefore the open state of the site was dangerous.

7.6 Glen Parva Y O C demolition and Construction of new prison: It was reported that Blaby DC had approved the application (outline). The comments made by the Society were included in the Council's

report to its committee. *It was later noted that the same report as submitted to Blaby was considered by O&WBC at its Development Committee on 15 June with a recommendation to grant, but the outcome is not known.*

7.7 Long Street Admiral factory and Hall's Shop: Members were dismayed to see that Hall's shop had had to be demolished because it was unsafe. It was made clear that the shop was not part of the Admiral factory site. Although it appeared that there had been some activity in the factory this was not ongoing.

7.8 Nautical William Aylestone Lane, 29 flats: A letter generally supporting the application had been submitted, however, it included criticism of the three storey corner element. *It was later noted that this application was considered by the Development Control Committee on 15 June and the report included the Society's comments. There was a recommendation to grant but the decision is not known.*

7.9 Horse and Trumpet decking and footpath relocation: A letter had been submitted strongly objecting to this application.

7.10 30 Granville Road side extension: No comment as the development does not have an adverse effect on the street scene or the property.

7.11 80 Granville Road, new front boundary treatment: No Comment as this proposal did not appear to be unrealistic.

7.12 134 Station Road: convert existing flats to multi occupancy hostel: No comment as this application did not involve exterior changes. *It was later noted that this application was considered at the Development Control Committee on 15 June with a recommendation to grant but the outcome is not known.*

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, *it was later confirmed by P o t B that 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. Following the departure of Mr Pearson from the Council this matter to be taken up also with Adrian Thorpe. It was reported that Greening the Borough had been disbanded with money left in its budget. A proposal to plant more trees in Willow Park was suggested.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Street Art: There was nothing new to report.

9.2 Significant buildings review: The full document had been handed over to the Forward Plans Manager at the AGM for inclusion in the next stage of the Local Plan consultation in August.

9.3 History of Street names: There was nothing further to report.

10 Article 4 Directives

Little information was known about Article 4 Directives and the Secretary will report back.

11 Assets of Community Interest

11.1 Central Wigston shop: The group known as Incredible Edible considered that the land behind the shop and also fronting onto Aylestone Lane was appropriate for creating an allotment but there would need to be major clearance of undergrowth and cultivation with a five year agreement for use. M Waugh, H Hay and D Lucas to meet with the owner to discuss possibilities. A bid to the Forum for funds was a possibility.

11.2 Library land: The I E Group was also looking at land behind the library.

11.3 Hayes Park: The Secretary would make further enquiries about the need to register Council owned land as a Community Interest as Hayes Park should be protected. If necessary should all parks be registered.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 Articles for Letterbox: The closing date for articles for the next edition of Letterbox is 28 July. Items on Assets of Community Value and Pavement Parking were suggested.

12.2 Record Office Listing: Members were advised that the Society had agreed to take the lead on a submission for listing of the Record Office.

12.3 Grass Verges: A suggestion was made that although some residents had taken it on themselves to cut verges at the front/side of their houses (and this is to be commended) does this indicate to the Council that it need not cut verges at all?

12.4 Archives Building at FWK Museum: a suggestion had been made that the existing portacabin should be replaced by an archives building for archives of the FWK, GWHS and CS. The Secretary has indicated support.

12.5 Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: The Society had been asked by D Lucas to suggest that a stone plaque (now held by CT) be displayed at Jelson's Peacock Place development. A request had been made to Jelsons with no response at the present time.

12.6 Bus Stop Seats: it was suggested that more seats are required at local bus stops especially on the Centrebus circle route, to be reported to the Forum.

12.7 Recycling: There was a discussion about recycling material actually being recycled or is it dumped. Question to be asked at Forum and to be on agenda for next meeting.

13 Next Meeting

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 5 July 2017 at 7.00 for 7.15pm.

The next South Wigston Residents meeting is on Wednesday 28 June

The next Wigston residents meeting is on Wednesday 12 July