

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017 AT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY HUB, PADDOCK STREET

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

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Gaynor Johnson (4)

Visitor: Sue Howard who was welcomed to her first meeting.

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

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2017 were approved and signed subject to amending the word Close to Road in 3.1

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Overhanging Hedges: The hedges at 56 and 60 Willow Park Drive were later reported to the Chairman with the comment that 56 had been cut back but not sufficiently.

3.2 (3.2) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: A site meeting had been held, attended by the Chair, Secretary and a member along with Martin Hone and Brian Kew from the Council and the Executive Head Teacher. It was accepted that the land was untidy and that the iron railings were unsightly and in parts dangerous. This led the Council Officers to advise that they would need to take urgent action and they would first need to ascertain ownership of the land. The Chair subsequently identified a map of British Rail land ownership showing that they did not own the land in question. Some cutting back of tree branches had taken place by persons unknown but thought to be the school.

3.3 (3.4) Traffic Warning Signs: No further action had yet been taken.

3.4 (3.6) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: Jelsons had indicated that they had not yet installed the totem pole but suggested that the Society makes plans for its own installation. A meeting with the Historical Society to be arranged.

3.5 (13.4) Meres Walk: A member had sent emails to the local Councillor but there had been no response. More rubbish was reported but Council officers appeared reluctant to take action. Another case near to the home of the Vice Chair was discussed where police had become involved over fly tipping on that site. Further email to be sent to ward Councillor

4 Society Events

4.1 Skittles Matches: Friday 17 November at 7.30 at the Conservative Club, table skittles, £10 including a free raffle ticket. There were 19 bookings to date (max 30). Members were asked to bring raffle prizes. Members were asked to identify further ticket sales.

5. Website/Facebook: The website is up to date. A link to the demolition of the Premier Drum factory photos on the Historical website had been inserted.

6. Correspondence:

Members were reminded that there had been a change of speaker at the November Historical Society meeting, the subject is now 'A Right Royal Christmas'

There is to be a remembrance event at the record office on Tuesday 14 November, booking required.

7. Planning Matters:

- a) **Newton Lane Estate:** Nothing to report.
- b) **Meadow Hill Cooks Lane:** House superstructures now well advanced.
- c) **Premier Drum Site:** demolition now complete. Photographic record made for GWHS website.
- d) **Glen Parva New Prison:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Long Street Admiral Factory:** Rubble from former shop cleared, no other action to report.
- f) **Horse Trumpet Decking and Footpath:** No response to email, reminder to be sent.
- g) **26-28 Station Road, former probation office/police station:** Decision deferred, room sizes standard in local plan. See note on agenda and last minutes.
- h) **Barrack Yard Moat Street:** This property remained for sale.
- i) **Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge:** Concerns submitted. *After the meeting a telephone acknowledgment was received by the Secretary.*
- J) **52 Blaby Road, 7 dwellings in roof space:** Email response from planning officer that these dwellings were in addition to existing approval at first floor level. Now too late to object.
- k) **Tartan Café:** Some disappointment was expressed but no comment.
- l) **Elms Social Club:** Comment by Councillor noted that plans for houses in car park approved but subject to S106 for receipts to be spent by the Club on repairs to the original property.
- m) **124A Countesthorpe Road:** Supported.
- n) **53 Central Avenue:** no comment.
- o) **49 Canal Street:** Plan to be printed and room sizes and height to be checked, comment if necessary.
- p) **Apple House:** No comment, not visible from the road.

8 Brocks Hill

An update of the situation at Brocks Hill was given, this had been prompted by misleading reports in the local Focus newsletter. It was pointed out the SLM will be running only the former visitor centre and not the park which will continue to be under the supervision of the Ranger now based at the Depot, not on the park itself. Therefore there will be no Council Officer based on site to deal with emergencies and controlling the work of volunteers. The Friends of Brocks Hill had not been consulted on the changes. It would seem that some Councillors were not aware of all the changes and the implications. There was a query as to whether there needed to be a Change of Use for Brocks Hill. It was suggested that a judicial review of the decision on the changes could be considered. Individuals were asked to complain to their councillors but it was agreed that no action be taken by the Society at this point. After the meeting an application for the extension to the car park was notified, number 17/00468.

9 Record Office

An update was given on the position of the Record Office. This was far from clear although the Friends were very concerned and were not being involved in discussions. It was stated that public access to the Office was good which may not be the case if it was relocated to County Hall. Although the current facilities are full there is room for expansion at the rear of the building. Members asked if the Record Office could be registered as a Community asset. This to be looked into.

10. Borough Projects.

10.1 The Pinfold: There was no further information at the meeting. *It was later reported that the neighbours had been consulted by PotB and that a planning application was being prepared.*

10.2 Holmden Avenue Trees: There was no further information to report.

10.3 Willow Park Trees: It was reported that there had been no further damage.

11 Society Projects: History of Street Names:

This project is proceeding and Helen will send an update to members by email.

12 Assets of Community Value

12.1 Central Wigston Shop: There has been no further progress on this project.

12.2 Library Land: Incredible Edible had not been able to recruit volunteers for this project this year.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 SEMCAS Forum: All members agreed that their email addresses could be given to the SEMCAS webmaster in order that they could receive emails direct. The Chair will make these arrangements.

13.2 Dropped curbs: A newspaper article was tabled explaining that it was illegal to cross the pavement to get access to a driveway unless the curb is dropped and that planning permission is needed for this work to be done. In itself, it is not illegal to park on the pavement itself. This was noted.

13.3 Newspaper article on South Wigston: An article in the Mercury property guide on South Wigston was tabled for information, it was noted.

13.4 Bus Routes Working Party: The Society had been asked by one of its Members in South Wigston if it would be interested in joining a bus routes working party. After discussion it was decided not to pursue this proposal. Members were advised of an article in the Focus newsletter about bus routes which could be misleading.

13.5 Possible changes at Wigston library: The Vice Chair gave a presentation on the County Council survey of the changes that had been made for access at Syston Library and the fact that these could be extended to the 15 hub libraries including Wigston and Oadby. The report is attached to these minutes and would be emailed to Members by the Secretary. Concerns raised by Members are added to the report and are to form the basis of a letter to local Borough and County Councillors.

13.6 Christmas Card: It was agreed that the Society should send a Christmas card again this year. The Chairman will select a photo from the Historical Society archive (with the Society's permission) and write a letter to go with it. It was suggested that the cards be circulated outside the membership and to Councillors in particular. Circulation will be dealt with at the December committee meeting.

13.7 Land next to Iceland: This work had been left by the contractor uncompleted and was rubbish strewn.

13.8 Central Avenue House: Concern was expressed about the construction of a canopy apparently without planning consent

14 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm in the **Maple Room**

The next South Wigston Residents meeting will be on 8 November, check position concerning Elliott Hall spend by Council of £40k

The next Wigston residents meeting will be on 29 November

