

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 May 2021 By Zoom

Note: there was no AGM in 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions

Present:

Colin Towell	Sue Towell	Peter Cousins
Ann Cousins	Val Beesley	Nicola Alexander
Pat Glasse	Malcolm Glasse	Helen Hay
Gaynor Johnson	Mike Forryan	Brenda Kind
Colin Hames	Judith Proctor	Joy Heskins

Peter Holmes (16 members present, no members of the public)

1. Welcome

Peter Cousins, in the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Alan Kind, Maureen Waugh (proxy given to the Secretary), John and Yvonne Woodward, Roy Hughes (given by email during the meeting).

3. Approval of minutes of the 2019AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2019 having been previously circulated were taken as read. An error was pointed out in item 8 in so far as the name quoted should be Colin Towell, not Colin Hames, this was amended. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that they be approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

It was noted that waste collections were possibly to change to fortnightly in the near future (not yet decided by the Council) and that the Bell Street shop storage of trollies on the pavement continued to be an occasional problem. The Belvoir House flats on Paddock Street which in 2019 had been given a certificate of commendation were being spoilt by lower ground floor residents erecting unsightly screens so that passers-by could not see into their flats. In future situations like this developers should be made to provide a uniform and acceptable solution as part of planning conditions.

5. Annual Report

The Chairman's comprehensive report on the activities of the committee in its area of operation during the last two years (2019/20 and 2020/21) had been circulated in advance and was taken as read. This is attached. The Secretary, offered thanks to the Chairman for his work on maintaining the website and editing Wigstons' Voice and, of course, for continuing as Chairman for a further year. In response to a

question it was confirmed that the Historic Shop Fronts exhibition in South Wigston did take place and one display was still on show in the Co Op. The deaths of former Chair, Mary Essinger and former committee member Reg Dickson were acknowledged.

6. Treasurer's report for 2019/20 and 2020/21

The accounts for the two years and the reports thereon had been previously circulated and are attached. The reports were taken as read. The accounts for 2019/20 had been examined by Val Beesley but those for 2020/21 had yet to be signed off.

It was proposed by Pat Glasse and seconded by Malcolm Glasse that the accounts for both years be accepted. This was agreed.

Val Beesley had agreed to carry on as Examiner.

7. Subscriptions for 2021/22 and 2022/23

The Chairman and Secretary, in the absence of an AGM last year, had decided that the subscription for 2021/22 should be set at £5.00 being 50% of the rate for the previous year in view of the restrictions on the Society's activities during the lockdown.

In view of the reasonable financial position that the Society was now in it was proposed by Peter Cousins and seconded by Val Beesley and agreed that the subscriptions return to the rates of £10/£5 for 2022/23.

8. Election of officers and committee members

The Secretary announced that he had been advised by John and Yvonne Woodward that, due to health issues, they wished to stand down from the committee but remain as members.

All other existing Committee members had agreed to continue to serve. It was proposed by Sue Towell and seconded by Brenda Kind that the remaining Committee members be re-elected en bloc.

Last year, Peter Cousins had indicated that he wished to step down as Chairman but to allow the Society to make arrangements for a replacement to be identified he agreed to stay on for a further year. He had now agreed that this arrangement should start from the date of this AGM.

In the meantime Val Beesley had agreed to take on this role and to help prepare her, she would become Vice Chairman for 2021/22 and take the Chair in May 2022. To accommodate this move, Maureen Waugh will stand down as Vice Chairman in 2021/22 and resume that role in May 2022.

Nicola Alexander will step down from her role Publicity and Events Officer with Ann Cousins taking on the role of Publicity, Events Organiser and ticket sales. All other officers had agreed to continue as before.

All those stepping down were thanked for their contributions.

9 Appointments to the Planning Working Group. (PWG)

The three formal members of the PWG, Pat and Malcolm Glasse and Helen Hay had indicated that they wished to stand down but that they would when possible continue to comment on applications. Maureen Waugh also comments on applications as does Colin Towell occasionally. New appointments to the PWG were asked for but there were no volunteers. That part of the role of circulating the weekly lists and identifying applications to be examined is essential and the Officers will need to find a solution to this issue. Subsequently the PWG agreed to continue until 31 May in their role. Malcolm said that there was some satisfaction when the Council agrees with the Society's comments and objections.

Pat, Malcolm and Helen were thanked for their work, especially that involved in establishing this group so successfully.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Future meetings: The next scheduled meeting would be 4 August which may take place (depending on business) on Zoom. But it was suggested that an actual face to face meeting could (depending on regulations) take place on 8 September and this would be in the Heritage Centre.

10.2 Age UK Oadby and Wigston: A member asked if there was any news about the future of the building on Paddock Street, there was no information to pass on.

10.3 St Wistans Church: Concern was being expressed on Facebook pages about the dilapidated state of the church and its future use. Copies of two posts from the Vicar were circulated prior to the meeting. It was understood that the local MP and the local council are involved in discussions. There is concern that early action is needed because the building may not survive another winter. Uses by the community were discussed and members asked to submit ideas and questions to the Secretary for onward transmission to the Vicar. Members were reminded about the open morning at All Saints on 22 May from 10am to 12.30pm.

10.4 Closure of the Council's Customer Service Shop in Bell Street: This was noted with regret and members were told that the lease was up for renewal. The

question was asked as to how much money had been spent to set this shop up only a few years ago, The Secretary will ask a councillor for details.

10.5 S106 Concept Projects: Prior to the meeting the Secretary had circulated a report to a Council's Policy, Finance and Development Committee on 16 March 2021 item 11, titled 'S106 Concept Projects'. This listed a number of public realm projects that could be funded from S106 receipts. There were a number of ideas in which the Society would be interested in being involved in the planning process. These involve tree planting, historical information boards, paths and tracks in parks and other environmental schemes. The Secretary will contact the Chief Executive to express our interest.

10.6 Greggs: It was reported that a recent planning application indicated that Greggs were to move from their existing shop on the corner of Leicester Road/Frederick Street to the former CR Kitchens show room further along Leicester Road towards the Arcade.

11 Discussion on the Way Forward for the Society and issues to concentrate on.

During the previous two years, the latter twelve months in lockdown, the Society had concentrated on its core activity, as agreed at the 2019 AGM, This involved responding to planning applications, particularly in or near the conservation areas; developments of two or more units; town centre applications and other over development of sites including private dwellings.

It was suggested that the Society needs to clarify and identify what its role is and then agree its priorities. This could be helped by contacting other Societies to identify their key activities, the Chairman agreed to take this action. It was further suggested that there could be closer co-operation between local interest groups such as GWHS and the FWK Museum. Another point was made that the word 'Civic' in the name of our organisation could be a deterrent to new and younger members.

It was suggested that a Facebook page should be established to try to reach a wider audience, however this would need to be closely controlled. The view was expressed that with all the new housing being built in Wigston there was a real need to contact the occupiers, probably in the 40-50 age group, to make them more aware of our existence. Use could be made of Council notice boards and those in shops and cafes to advertise our existence.

The Chairman said that he was hoping to organise a History Show in 2022 which the Society could, as before, exhibit at, He also suggested that to raise our profile we could organise an Annual Lecture late this year when conditions allow.

The meeting closed at approx. 9pm

The Committee for 2021/22 is as follows:

Officers

Chair	Peter Cousins
Vice Chair	Val Beesley
Secretary	Colin Towell
Treasurer	Joy Heskins
Membership Secretary	Joy Heskins
Wigstons' Voice Editor	Peter Cousins
Web Master	Peter Cousins
Examiner	Val Beesley

Members

Colin Hames
Roy Hughes
Peter Holmes
Nicola Alexander
Maureen Waugh

Publicity, Events organisation and ticket sales: Ann Cousins (non-committee member)