

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 2017 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the chair), Maureen Waugh, Peter Holmes, Val Beesley, Nicola Alexander, John and Yvonne Woodward, Colin Hames

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Roy Hughes, Helen Hay, Richard Carter (7.25pm)

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Colin Towell and May Hilton
2. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 5 July were approved and signed with two alterations: The date was amended to 5 July, and the report on hedges should have read Homestead Drive and not Hillside Av.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 Overhanging Hedges: The Chairman reported that hedges on Homestead Drive and Moat Street had been reported. Homestead Drive had been cut back but Moat Street had not been done.

3.2 Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: The Secretary had received a reply from Pride In The Borough, who said that they do not normally fund such things but asked for more details. The Chairman asked if everyone could have a look at the site, and perhaps Colin Hames could make out a schedule of work which would be helpful.

3.3 Society Poster: The Chairman reported he had worked on it and will consult with Colin Towell and present designs at the next meeting.

3.4 Traffic Warning Signs: The Newton Lane traffic light changes sign has not yet been reported.

3.5 WW1 Seat Funding: The Council's Armed Forces group has decided to purchase a seat for Wigston and South Wigston in a similar format to the one very recently installed at Oadby.

3.7 Litter: Helen Hay reported that she had attended a litter picking session on Chartwell Drive. It was reported that the lane behind Iceland is littered with bags of rubbish and concrete. John Woodward reported that the land at the railway bridge on Aylestone Lane was badly littered, but it is inside the Leicester area and not Wigston. Can we report this to the Railway authorities?

3.9 Articles for the Letterbox: Three articles have been submitted – pavement parking, the Annual Lecture and assets of Community Value.

3.10 Record Office listing/FWK Archive store: Things are moving slowly ahead in conjunction with the GWHS but nothing definite to report.

3.11 Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: Jelson's have responded to say wait until the planned totem pole is erected and then it is up to us to suggest a location which they will positively consider. CFT also suggested an information board to be erected on site.

4. Society Events

4.1 14 September Lecture: 50 flyers were handed out at the meeting and the Chairman asked that they could be distributed to friends and neighbours. The Chairman has sent details to the Leicester Mercury and will also get in touch with BBC Radio Leicester.

There will be an event at the Record Office in Wigston on 9 September for their 70th Anniversary.

5. Website/Facebook: The website is up to date.

6. Correspondence: The August 7 trip to Castor was reported as fully booked. Reminder of the 19 September meeting to Oxford with the Probus Club, £45 inc. lunch. Details on the website.

7. Planning Matters:

a) Pochins Bridge Road – no action and it was decided to remove this from future agendas

b) Newton Lane Estate: Nothing else known

c) Canal Street Hat & Cap Factory: – no action and it was decided to remove this from future agendas

d) Meadow Hill Cooks Lane: Fully approved and work has started on the site. Notice boards erected and the bungalow has been demolished.

e) Premier Drum Site: Fully approved but no movement yet on the site. The site has had the fences removed and looks dangerous. Can we find out (via Councillor Boulter) what is happening.

f) Glen Parva New Prison: Reported as approved in June 2017, the last prisoners have now left the current buildings.

g) Long Street Admiral Factory: No action on the site and nothing else known as yet.

h) Nautical William: Reported to have been refused planning consent. It was reported that there has been a lot of local opposition to the scheme.

i) Horse and Decking and Footpath: Approved in July 2017. The matter of moving the footpath was referred to the County Council, who maintain that it is not in their jurisdiction and the matter should be referred to the O&W Council. There was strong feeling at the meeting that we should make strong representations to the Council about this move.

Councillor Boulter had reported to the Secretary that public notices would be displayed about the footpath, and the Chairman asked all those present to keep an eye out for them. When notices posted we need to complain to the Council.

j) Garage on the corner of Dorset Avenue: work is ongoing, with the fuel tanks currently being removed to make way for new ones.

k) Trees at Menphys: Colin Hames has written to the Council stating that the action is not justified, no reply received yet.

46 Moat Street, the Old Crown: plan to erect 2 detached dwellings in the garden. Lots of discussion on this subject, together with printed plans being studied. It was the view of all attendees that we should object strongly due to vehicular access to the planned houses, and this being in the Lanes Conservation area.

Malcolm Glasse reported that no work had been started on the footpath to Brocks Hill approved at a planning meeting for a two-year trial period.

No objections to the Stanhope Road, Collaton Road and Manor House remaining items on the Agenda.

8. Borough Projects.

8.1 Pride in The Borough – The Pinfold: At a recent meeting on site the scheme including a seat, planting trough and info board was discussed. Cost would be well over £2000, with £1000 coming from PITB, some from the Residents Forum, £100 from the GWHS and a suggestion of £50 from the Civic Society. This was agreed by all at the meeting.

8.2 Greening the Borough – nothing to report

Colin Hames reported that one of the newly planted trees off Central Avenue had been vandalised, one has been broken in half.

9. Society Projects

9.1 History of Street Names: Helen Hay has started looking at this project which will be in conjunction with the GHWS.

9.2 Street Art – nothing to report.

10 Assets of Community Value

10.1 Central Wigston Shop: The Vice-chair Maureen Waugh reported on the discussions which had taken place with Billy Cox. It is understood that Duncan Lucas is endeavouring to further speak to Billy Cox. Duncan Lucas suggested trying to lease the premises.

10.2 Hayes Park: report from Helen Hay.

10.3 Library Land: Maureen Waugh to check out if they will be growing vegetables on this land as they did last year.

10.4 Chairman to contact Jamie Carr to ascertain of Significant Buildings review is to be put on to the O&W website. ***(Chairman emailed Monday 7 August)***

11 Forum Report- a long discussion took place detailing the proposed changes suggested for the format of the three forum meetings. Thanks to Roy Hughes for detailing all of the points in the forum questionnaire.

12 Moat Street Traffic: The traffic situation was discussed and it was reported by Richard Carter that Moat Street is to be closed at some point for a new water main. We will enquire at the Council about this as we have not heard anything about it. (***Chairman e-mailed Monday 7 August***)

13 AOB

13.1 Shop Closures – we discussed the closures of Store 21 and Tartan Café

13.2 Wigston Brochure -Colin Hames showed an out of date brochure for visitors to Wigston. Can we ascertain if the Council is to produce another one?

13.2 Wigston Voice – articles needed urgently for the September 1st Edition

13.3 Wigston Forums dates requested and Letterbox dates.

13.4 Check planning application for 34 Aylestone Lane which seems to be changing in to a shop premises. (***Chairman checked Council Planning application granted in 2010 for change of use from dwelling to shop (A1 Retail) and flat above***)

13.5 The 6 August army march through South Wigston had been cancelled.

14 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday 6 September 2017 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm

Meeting closed 8.45pm