

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2015 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the Chair), Colin Hames, Colin Towell, Roy Hughes, Maureen Waugh. (5)

Other members: Barry and May Hilton, Doris and David Smalley, Pat Harper, Roy Pearce, Richard Carter, (7)

A small gift of painted plant pot and tray set had been purchased with the money collected for Alan Kind. This would be presented to him in due course.

During the meeting news was received that Phyllis Holmes had passed away. Members paused for a few moments of reflection.

In the week following the meeting Members were saddened to hear that Ken Beesley had passed away on 10 November.

1. Apologies: Peter Holmes, Nicola Alexander, Val and Ken Beesley.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Minute Secretary: There had been no further success in appointing a Minute Secretary. The Chairman will place the vacancy on Street Life.

3.2 (3.2) South Wigston Station plaque renewal: A photo of the former plaque had been provided by Pam Ward, this gave the wording and it was suggested by Alan Kind that the replacement should be A4 size. The photo to be emailed to Roy Hughes and Barry Hilton.

3.3 (3.4) School name changes: The suggested names had been submitted to Mr Green, the decision on which were chosen is awaited. It was reported that there is confusion between South Leicestershire College and Wigston College with each receiving the others post.

3.4 (3.4) Customer Service Shop Bell Street: It was reported that the shop was now open. It was possible to look up planning applications on the computer. Notice boards for advertising events had been fixed in the porch. Concerns remained about the next door hardware shop displaying goods on the pavements and that the shop itself was so full of goods that there could be a fire hazard. This matter to be raised at the residents Meeting.

3.5 (3.5) J Hoots Chemist Wall: Roy Pearce had spoken to the manageress and she reported that our letters had been sent on the Head Office. The Secretary will now take the matter up with the Head Office.

3.6 (3.6) Litter advertising campaign: This suggestion is to be raised at the next South Wigston residents' meeting.

3.7 (3.8) Road signs: It was reported that on Saffron Road the central keep left signs were often knocked over immediately after they had been replaced. This is extremely dangerous and to be reported to County. It was reported that the speed signs erected on Horsewell Lane were too close to the park to be effective. Further examples of street sign problems are to be raised in future.

3.8 (11.0) Legacy: It was reported that a banner had been purchased at £26.25 and that a top board for the display stand had been purchased at £31.58.

3.9 (14.4) Away Day actions: The Chairman would start to redesign the leaflet. It was agreed that a special meeting should be held about the Society's vision for Wigston for which a lead can be taken from the Local Plan review. The item on external cladding would be further investigated by Maureen Waugh and Colin Hames.

3.10 (10.0) The Elms Club: There had been no response to the Society's second letter, it was agreed that members would keep a watching brief.

3.11 (11.0) Post Office/Co Op closure: There was no new information and this matter is to be raised at the residents' Meeting.

3.12 (12.0) Bus shelters and routes: There had been no further response from Arriva regarding the 49A route, a reminder to be sent. There appeared to be no action on replacement bus shelters, this to be raised at the Residents' Meeting.

3.13 (15.1) E W Boulter WWI Plaque: The Council now appeared to be accepting the proposal by Derek Seaton and the Society to place the plaque in the new Bell Street pocket park alongside the Jubilee plaque. The Secretary was to meet Mr Seaton on site to agree an actual placing and advise the Council.

3.14 Lunch Organiser: A second appeal was made for a volunteer to organise lunches, there was no response. This role was left open pending a volunteer coming forward.

4 Society Events

4.1 29 October, tour of SLC: The tour had been interesting and informative. The meeting room would hold about 80 people but rates would need to be negotiated. Catering and car parking was available.

4.2 31 October: WWI Commemoration event: This event had been extremely successful with 121 tickets sold. There had been some very complimentary comments. Currently the profit was about £450. There was a suggestion that this be split equally four ways and this would be put to the other partners.

4.3 29 January 2016: Skittles match with LCC: This is an advance date details to be announced later.

4.4 1 June 2016: Two Steeples Walk relaunch: Helen Hay had volunteered to lead the relaunch walk. There was a suggestion that participants could obtain sponsorship. No further leaflets are to be handed out at Brocks Hill.

4.5 2016 WWI Commemoration Parade: there was nothing further to report. This matter is to be brought up at the Residents' Meeting

5 Website and Facebook

There were 107 hits in the last month making a total of 3544. A small amount of work remains to be done on the update.

6 Correspondence

The items quoted on the agenda support page were highlighted. In addition the following were announced:

10 November at the Record Office: 1915 remembered. £5 booking needed

9 December at the Record Office: Christmas in the Trenches. £5 booking needed.

Tony Danvers new book: Wigston Now and Then: £10

Tuesday 1 December at 7pm: Oadby C S: Peter Liddle on the Archaeology of Oadby and Wigston at St Peters Church Hall. £2

DMU Local research Festival.

7 Planning Matters

7.1 Land off Pochins Bridge Road: Position regarding the planned pavilion to be raised at the Residents' Meeting, then delete from agenda.

7.2 Newton Lane: There was no further information on planning applications or the changes to Newton lane traffic lights, this latter issue to be raised at the residents' meeting.

7.3 Dorset Avenue: There were no further issues to report. This item to be deleted from the agenda.

7.4 Heating Elements site: There was nothing new to report but this item is to remain on the agenda. It could be raised at the Residents' meeting

7.5 Canal Street: There was nothing new to report.

7.6 Kirkdale Road: Demolition is in progress.

7.7 4 Spa Lane, CoU: the actual location was clarified and involved the conversion of a former office to a dwelling next to an existing dwelling in the old FWK block on the left entering from Bull Head Street.

7.8 Abington House/Birkett House relocation: It was reported that an application for listing had been submitted to Heritage England. This had been supported by new photographs and older slide photos which had been digitised by Mike Forryan with thanks.

7.9 10 Long Street, CoU to flats: It was noted that the plan involved the taking out of a TPO tree, there was no objection to this. Also that there was no parking and it was pointed out that this could cause problems in the area but this should not cause an objection to be made. The Chairman will print out some A3 copies of the plans. This property is in the conservation area and a comment should be submitted in time. *After the meeting the Secretary asked Helen Hay to prepare some observations which she did, with thanks, and these along with the foregoing were submitted to the Council. In general there were no objections.*

7.10 House next to 69 Central Ave: This application, in a conservation area, had been approved subject to the requirement for timber windows and 'U' shaped rainwater guttering.

8 Borough projects

8.1 Pride in the Borough: All those taking part in the bulb planting outside Curtis Weston House were thanked.

8.2 Greening the Borough: The strategy had been relaunched the previous week. Cllr Carter is continuing as the lead Councillor. A grant of £45K had been received from the National Lottery and a new volunteer organiser had been appointed. Also a new electric buggy had been purchased. There were five areas to be concentrated on: Chicken Alley, Fludes Lane, Pochins Bridge, Clifton Bridge and Brocks Hill.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Jubilee Plaque/ Bell Street: *After the meeting the Council's forward plans officer reported that he had been given the go ahead to create these boards and was seeking the help of the Society along with the Historical Society. It was agreed that support should be given. There was suggestion that the Societys' assistance should be acknowledged on the boards.*

9.2 Street Art: It was agreed that the sub group should be relaunched to try to take this project forward and to try to overcome objections and/or deal with any outstanding charges from the artist.

9.3 Significant buildings review: *After the meeting the Council's forward plans officer reported that he was proceeding with the Wigston and South Wigston versions and he had asked for comments on the draft.*

10 20 MPH Speed Limits

It was decided not to take this matter forward and to delete it from the agenda.

11 Residents Forum Debriefs.

The report on discussions at the last meeting was now out of date. Several issues had been identified in these minutes and would be raised at the next meeting on 11 November.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 Fire Brigade Review: It was agreed that a response to the consultation should be made by the Society. The Secretary and Maureen will meet to prepare the response.

12.2 Bell Street Pedestrianisation: No formal announcement of the results of the consultation had been issued, it was expected that an update will be given at the Residents' meeting.

12.3 Local Plan Review: The Council is reviewing its local plan. A special meeting to discuss a response to the consultation was agreed for 18 December at a place to be decided.

13 Next Meeting

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 2 December at 7.00 for 7.15. The next Wigston residents meeting is on 11 December at 7pm and the South Wigston meeting is on 10 November at 7pm at Fairfield School.