

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2016 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

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

Other members: Doris and David Smalley, Pat Harper, Roy Pearce and Helen Hay, (5)

Members were advised that the retirement gift had been delivered to Alan Kind who had expressed his sincere thanks and said that he looked forward to being kept advised about the Society and its work and to occasionally attending meetings on light nights.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies from Committee Members.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 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 draft layout of wording for the replacement plaque and the Civic Society plaque to go with it had been received from Bowers and Freeman and was approved. A site meeting to decide on the actual location and method of fixing was arranged for 2pm on Wednesday 20 January. Pam Ward and Alan kind are to be invited.

3.3 (3.4) School name changes: The Head Teacher, Mr Green, who is retiring in the summer had indicated that a decision on house names was unlikely to be made until later in the year. This item is to be transferred to 'items to be kept under review'.

3.4 (3.4) Hardware Shop in Bell Street: The shopkeeper continued to leave trolleys on the pavement in front of the pocket park. This was again to be reported to the Council and to the County in strong terms for urgent action. It appeared that he was being more careful about stacking items for sale on the pavement.

3.5 (3.4) Recycling bags: Following a query to the Council there had been a prompt reply that the problem with the 'new bag required' notice being printed on brown and green bags was known and when current stocks were used there would be a return to yellow stickers.

3.6 (3.5) J Hoots Chemist Wall: The Secretary had written to the Head Office but there had been no reply.

3.7 (3.6) Litter advertising campaign: Written details of the campaign being led by Pride of the Borough had been received and would be circulated with these minutes. Enquiries would be made as to how the Society could be more involved.

3.8 (3.7) Road signs: A report to the County about the Saffron Road the central keep left signs had been made, there had been no response and the no work had been undertaken. A further report to be made. It was pointed out that the positioning of roundabout warning signs at mini roundabouts

was the law as the positioning of signs on all similar roundabouts was the same. Further examples of street sign problems should be brought to future meetings.

3.9 (3.8) Post Office/Co Op closure: The formal date for closure on 23 January was now displayed. It was reported that the rumoured occupant of the store was not now moving in. There was a report of the need for a 14 week consultation period for the location for a new post office. *There was a report in the Mercury on 9 January which stated that the Post Office was trying to find a new provider.*

3.10 (12.0) Bus shelters and routes: No new reports of permanent route changes had been received. The turn round route for 49A service at Gloucester Crescent varied with different drivers and was a cause for concern.

3.11 (3.10) Bell Street Pedestrianisation: The pedestrianisation appeared to be working well with no problems reported with cyclists who can continue to use the Street. The black blocks had not yet been fixed.

3.12 (12.1) County Council Ward Changes: A response had been submitted relating to the combination of certain Oadby and Wigston wards into one large ward which was not supported.

3.13 (12.2) Alleyway between Boots and the Co Op: Clarification of ownership had not yet been received but it was believed to be Boots judging by boundary walls. It was suggested that contact should be made with the new Manager at Boots.

3.14 (12.3) Blue Plaques booklet relaunch: It was suggested that the booklet be advertised on the digital display boards, the library noticeboard and council notice boards. The Chair will devise a poster and send an article to Mr Leicester.

4 Society Events

4.1 29 January 2016: Skittles match with LCS: Bookings with cash of £7.95 to The Treasurer by 16 January at the latest. An invitation to a skittles match with Oadby CS had been received but it clashed with another event. An Autumn date to be suggested to Oadby.

4.2 11 February 2016, Away day: The Fire Station community room had been booked from 10.00 to 12.30, a donation will be required. Say £20. Individual members were encouraged to take the lead on agenda items.

4.3 11 February 2016 lunch: Lunch at the Horse and Trumpet had been booked for all members and partners. Nicola will obtain menu and choices to be advised at the Committee on 3 February.

4.4 4 May 2016 AGM: Details to be discussed at the Awayday.

4.5 1 June 2016: Two Steeples Walk relaunch: A sub group of Colin H, Colin T and Helen Hay to meet at Colin Hames house at 2.30 on 28 January. Event could be advertised on the digital display.

4.6 14 July 2016 Sgt W E Boulter VC memorial stone laying ceremony: There was nothing further to report.

4.7 Annual lecture 2016: The Chairman will book John Stevenson for either 20/27 September or 4 October. Venue at Blaby Road church or Salvation Army.

4.8 2017 WWI Commemoration Parade: There was nothing further to report.

5 Website and Facebook

The Webmaster had completely refreshed the Website and members were urged to visit it and comment.

6 Correspondence

The Chairman would place the Orchestra poster for the Golden Anniversary concert on 6 February on Streetlife.

Members will be advised of the date for the Polish airman memorial when it is known.

7 Planning Matters

7.1 Land off Pochins Bridge Road: The issues of the pavilion and the footpath with Tansley Avenue have not yet been taken up with Planners, this will be done after a site visit.

7.2 Newton Lane: Despite a reminder, there was no news on the changes to traffic lights.

7.3 Heating Elements site: Work appears to be progressing.

7.4 Canal Street: There was nothing to report.

7.5 Kirkdale Road: Site clearance work was proceeding.

7.6 Abington House/Birkett House relocation: Unfortunately, a notice had been received stating that the application for Heritage England to list the property had been refused because, nationally, the building type was quite common and there were no outstanding features for Abington House. A new planning application for the site had not yet been received.

7.7 10 Long Street: An amended application had been received involving changes to the external layout, no comment to be made. *A notice that the application would be heard at the Development Committee on Thursday 21 January at 7pm was subsequently received.*

8 Borough projects

8.1 Pride of the Borough: There was nothing to report except see 3.7 above about the litter campaign.

8.2 Greening the Borough: Concern was expressed about the lack of trees being planted in the Borough. It was suggested that an application for funding be made to the Residents Forum for 4 trees at £50 to be replanted on the approach to Willow Park from Central Avenue and a query be raised about the placing of trees in Holmden Avenue.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Bell Street Information Boards: A meeting had taken place with Jamie Carr at the Council and he is preparing templates for the boards. The Civic and Historical Societies will then provide details.

9.2 Street Art: A sub group meeting has been arranged for 7 January at 2.30 at the Record Office.

9.3 Significant buildings review: Following the meeting with Jamie Carr before Christmas, the review is moving forward and a final draft is expected soon.

10 Local Development Order

Complaints were made about the poor presentation of this document both in print and at the Customer Service Shop. The proposals have been drawn up by consultants appointed by the Council. The comment was made that this is in effect an outline planning application. The Society's comments to be submitted as soon as possible on both Wigston and South Wigston Orders.

11 Wigstons' Voice

The Chairman appealed for items for the next issue by 14 March. A member made the point that co-ordination of item content would be assisted by early submission.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 LRFHS AGM 13 March 2016 Grace Road 10.00 to 4.30: It was agreed that a table should be taken by the Society in conjunction with the Historical Society and the FWK.

12.2 Litter in Two Steeples pub: There was a report of a litter problem around the Two Steeples pub.

13 Next Meeting

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 7.00 for 7pm