

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2018 AT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY ROOMS, PADDOCK STREET

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

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Gaynor Johnson, Helen Hay, Ann Cousins, Richard Carter. (6)

Ann Cousins was welcomed to her first meeting.

Members expressed their sadness on hearing that Stuart Bailey, Chair of Leicester Civic Society, had recently died.

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

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2018 were approved and signed. The minutes of the AGM on 9 May 2018 were noted.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: There had been no further response from the Council on this matter.

3.2 (3.2) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: Contact had been established with Lindsay Jelly who had designed the Totem at Peacock Place. She was assisting the Society and GWHS in obtaining approval from Jelsons for the stone and an information board. A quotation had been obtained for the board on which work was progressing with the wording. The quote from Fitzpatrick Woolmer (same as for the Pinfold) was in the sum of £867.24. Jelsons had agreed to pay half and the GWHS had agreed to pay £100. Members were asked to agree to fund a further £50 (Agreed) and a bid will be made to the Wigston Residents Forum for the balance of £283.62. An unveiling ceremony was planned for later in the summer. It was agreed that the order for the board should be placed by the Society as soon as possible so as not to delay the delivery date. It is hoped that Jelsons will fix the plaque and board free of charge. *It had been confirmed after the meeting that planning permission is not required.*

3.3 (8.0) Definitive Paths: An update was given on the need to register rights of way by 2026. Helen Hay agreed to work on the possible path over the land to the west of the A5199 on which outline PP had recently been given. Members were urged to check that footpaths were registered in their entirety and to bring forward stretches of footpath which may not be registered.

3.4 (14.2) Eyesores of Wigston: There had been no further action and a consolidated list will be produced for the next meeting. It was reported that the property on Newton Lane had been compulsorily purchased by the Council.

3.5 (14.0) Council Committees allocation: The list of Council Committees was circulated for members to indicate that they would monitor agendas and minutes as agreed at the last awayday. Only one further Committee was allocated and it is hoped that other members will volunteer at the next meeting for the remaining five Committees.

3.6 (15.1) Farmers Market Display: No action had yet been taken on this matter.

4 Society Events

4.1 Awayday: Work is continuing on dealing with the action list from the awayday on 6 February. It was agreed to carry out a patch walk prior to the next meeting. The walk will commence at 6.30pm from Age UK and the normal meeting will commence following completion of the walk. The Secretary will devise a route.

4.2 South Wigston walk, 6 May: This had been very successful with 27 people attending with a profit of £77.00

4.3 AGM, 9 May: No strong opinions on the event were expressed by Members. However the format will be reviewed prior to the next AGM. It was stressed that commendations should be to the architect/builder/owner and not to the people inside. (there was some misunderstanding as the explanation for the award read out at the meeting clearly mentioned the owner and architect and not the occupiers although it was not practically possible to have these people present at the meeting to receive the award) . It was suggested that more should be made of the Chairman's report with a power point display and that a formal quiz on Wigston be arranged and possibly not have a speaker.

4.4 Heritage Fair with Leicester CS 26 May: This event was not well attended and it may not be worth taking part in future if it is repeated.

4.5 Annual Lecture: It was agreed to include the words '40th Anniversary Lecture' on the poster and advertising to be stepped up.

4.6.1 40th Anniversary reception and banner: It was agreed not to have a special pop up banner. The draft programme for the reception was circulated and generally agreed. Sadly, a new speaker would be needed and consideration to be given to this after Stuart's funeral. Ideas to the Secretary please. It was suggested that a choir was not suitable for background music and that violin/harp would be better.

4.6.2 Anniversary Quiz: After discussion it was agreed that each member would be asked to buy £5 worth of quiz sheets to resell to family and friends, other distribution would be by the originator. It was emphasised that this is a major fund raiser for the Society this year.

4.6.3 Anniversary edition of Wigstons' Voice: It was agreed that the September edition would be a 'special' with anniversary articles. Members were urged to start writing.

5. Website/Facebook:

The Webmaster reported that there were some minutes to be uploaded but otherwise the site was up to date. Members on Facebook were asked to try to obtain more 'Friends'.

6. Correspondence:

These are as stated on the agenda backing sheet.

7. Planning Matters:

a) Newton Lane Estate: The site marketing name of Wigston Meadows to be queried with Barratts.

b) Premier Drum Site: It was noted that the road works associated with the site were commencing, these would require pathway and road closures.

c) Glen Parva New Prison: An application for full consent had been submitted with a comment by date of 15 June. No comments to be made.

d) Long Street Admiral Factory: Nothing new to report.

e) Horse and Trumpet Decking and Footpath: The footpath diversion order had been published and the Society had submitted strong objections.

f) Barrack Yard, Moat Street: Nothing to report.

g) Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge: There was nothing further to report. But see 3.4 above regarding a possible footpath across the site.

h) WMC Long Street: As at 6 June 2018 there had been no decision on this application.

i) Hat and Cap factory 41-43 Canal Street: No further information was available.

7.2 52 Blaby Road, divide into 3 units; One unit was already occupied.

7.3 52 Park Road erect pair of semis: now refused.

7.4 29A Central Av: Noted, now approved and site up for auction.

7.5 49 Long Street, loft conversion: Now approved.

7.6 9 Newgate End: now approved.

7.7 2C Bushloe End: no comment.

7.8 Sth Leics Co Op Blaby Road: no comment.

7.9 66 Central Av, loft conversion: No comment.

7.10 Nautical William: new application favourable comments made.

7.11 The Grange install CCTV: No comment.

7.12 Former Lords Shop Bell Street: no comment.

7.13 Stoughton Road Oadby: Not in the Society's area but of interest, members were urged to look at the application online.

7.14 Disposal of former Birkett House School site: Not an application but of interest to the Society.

7.15 2 Albion Street: CoU from vets to flats: no comment.

8 General Data Processing Regulations

The Secretary will check that all members have returned their authorisation slips.

9 Residents' Forum Debrief

Neither the Chairman or Secretary are able to attend the next Forum meeting on 27 June, Helen agreed to attend. Matters to be raised will be summarised by the Secretary, but the main item is to speak in support of the Society's bid for a grant for the Peacock Place information board. Also the position on Social Housing provision by the Borough to be updated. Verge cutting and recycling to be raised.

10. Borough Projects.

10.1 The Pinfold: No further information available. The Society had been contacted by P o t B regarding possible bulb planting around Two Steeples medical centre and at the top of Holmden Avenue.

10.2 Holmden Avenue Trees: There had been no further action and this matter to be raised again at the Forum.

11 Society Projects: Welcome to Wigston Project

It was clarified by the Chairman that this was not a Society project and so could not be linked to the 40th anniversary.

12 Assets of Community Value

12.1 Central Wigston Shop: A draft letter to the shop owner was circulated. Although members felt that the letter set out the options well, it was not appropriate that it be sent. However it could be used as an internal advice document and it was agreed that an application to have the property listed as an Asset of Community value be processed. It was agreed that such a registration would be a way of preserving the owner's name and that he should be involved t all stages.

13 Business Membership and Co Option onto the Committee.

The Chairman put forward a proposal to introduce a Business Membership grade of membership. This would increase the Society's income and attract a bigger voice on applications for planning permission. Business members would have free advertising in the Wigstons' Voice and through website links. The fee was initially proposed as £10 *but after the meeting increased to £20.*

The idea was generally accepted but there was also some opposition as it was envisaged that there could be many conflicts of interest. It was pointed out that the Society had previously tried to attract business members but the possibility of advertising had not then been available.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed not to put the matter to a vote but for interest to be canvassed before the next meeting when a firm decision will be made.

It was proposed and agreed that Ann Cousins be co-opted onto the Committee to lead in this matter.

14 Meres Walk.

Time did not allow a discussion on this matter but a memory stick of collected evidence was handed by the members concerned to the Chairman and Secretary. The Secretary had not yet raised the matter with the Council.

15 Any Other Business

There was insufficient time to deal with the following items of any other business;Waste and recycling (see Mercury 18/6/18); change of voting station to South Leicester Rugby Club; Insurance; proposal to give new members a free disc about the Society.

16 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 4 July 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm

Wigston Residents' Forum: Wednesday 27 June at 7pm

South Wigston Residents' Forum: 11 July