

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 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, Roy Hughes, Colin Towell, (10)

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Gaynor Johnson. (4)

1 Apologies: There were no apologies.

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August were approved and signed an alterations: Roy Hughes' name was added to the list of Committee Members in attendance.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Overhanging Hedges: Moat Street remained as before and a new case on Meadow Way was reported, details to the Chairman to report.

3.2 Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool (3.2): Colin Hames reported that he had inspected the site which he said was in a dreadful mess and that the Manager at the pool was very concerned about the image portrayed and considered that it is a disgrace to Wigston. There were several elements: a gas substation (reasonable); an electricity sub station (a very bad state); the area of trees (mature poplars and undergrowth. The iron railing fence was in a very poor condition, it is propped up and needs painting. A letter to be sent to O&WBC and copied to PitB and the Academy Trustees. An all agency meeting and action plan is needed.

3.3 Society Poster (3.3): The Chairman tabled an amended poster which he had designed. One or two amendments were suggested after which the poster is to be laminated for display. Actual display places to be agreed.

3.4 Traffic Warning Signs (3.4): The Newton Lane traffic light changes sign has not yet been reported. Flood signs had been left out at Crow Mill. It was reported that the Wakes Road Roundabout signs had been removed after they were previously reported.

3.5 Litter (3.7): It was suggested that the boundary at the Stonesby Avenue railway bridge was on the city side. (*later confirmed*). Therefore any litter not on the railway itself is O&WBC responsibility. Helen will follow up as appropriate.

3.6 Record Office listing/FWK Archive store (3.10): The listing application is progressing slowly and a large scale plan/Google earth picture has been obtained. Discussions are going ahead with various interested parties

3.7 Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque (3.11): It was confirmed that Jelsons had not yet erected their planned totem pole.

3.8 Significant Buildings Review/Local Plan/Council Website (10.0): It was confirmed that the Significant Buildings list will be on the Council's website when the consultation of the Local Plan commences, this is planned for November.

3.9 Moat Street Traffic and Closure (12.0): Some closures of Moat Street were planned for water main works but these were for two periods of three days only. A website www.roadworks.org gives this data.

3.10 Forum and Letterbox dates (13.0):

Letterbox: copy deadline is 21 October and publication is on 4 December, 2018 dates to be advised.

Wigston Residents Forum dates are 29 November and 14 March 2018

South Wigston residents Forum dates are 8 November and 7 March 2018

4 Society Events

4.1 14 September Lecture: To date 55 tickets were sold with the event to be announced on Radio Leicester and in the Mercury. Val, Nicola and Yvonne will provide refreshments. Ann Cousins and Sue T or Sue will be on the door. Jamie Carr and Ed Morgan from the Council had been invited (*unable to attend*). Details of the U3A newsletter contact to be given to the Chair for future events.

4.2 Skittles Matches: The Secretary will to approach Oadby CS to ascertain if they are interested in a match which Wigston would host. The Chair to approach Stuart Bailey of Leicester CS. (*Subsequently confirmed that he will host in spring 2018*).

5. Website/Facebook: The website is up to date. Some rearrangement of the site to be discussed.

6. Correspondence:

The Record Office event on 9 September is 10am to 3pm not 4pm.

The Wigston Show at Cross Street is also on 9 September 2-5, as is the FWK Sock Ceremony at 10.30am.

The Secretary will reply to a request from the Rotary Club asking for suggestions for tree planting sites. Willow Park to be put forward with a reference to the imminent arrival of the new Tree Officer at the Council.

7. Planning Matters:

a) **Newton Lane Estate:** Nothing to report.

b) Meadow Hill Cooks Lane: After a request from Building Control the following road names were put forward: Cooks Close; Delph View; Mason's Close; Margaret Moss Way; Ada Wright Close; Welford Close. (Meadow Hill Close omitted in error)

c) Premier Drum Site: On site activity reported but still no fence. Report to Forum.

d) Glen Parva New Prison: See Mercury article concerning final closure. *Later notification of a meeting about the new prison called by the Council on Tuesday 19 September at 7pm at Fairfield School.*

e) Long Street Admiral Factory: No action on the site and nothing to report.

f) Horse Trumpet Decking and Footpath: Approved in July 2017. Work has commenced on building the decking on 24 August. This had been reported to the Council and in subsequent emails and phone calls it emerged that there was confusion between the Borough and County as to if the footpath diversion order had been issued and if an application had been made to divert it. To be raised at the Forum.

g) Garage on the corner of Dorset Avenue: An application had been submitted to change the layout at the garage including a car wash. The old petrol tanks were still in situ.

2 (9 on agenda) Unit A Magna Road, demolish pie factory and create 20 industrial units: There was much concern about the traffic implications on Station Road/The Kop opposite the soon to be built Wickes and Lidl. It was suggested that Sec 106 money should be requested to pay for works to alleviate problems. No comment to be made concerning design.

3 (10 on agenda) 26-28 Station Road, former probation office/police station: Strong concern was expressed about the size of the rooms. It was reported that at a meeting on 21 June 2017 officers were to review room sizes for new dwellings in the Borough, to be followed up.

4 Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge: Members were advised that notification had been received from the Developers about a consultation meeting concerning their proposals to be held at SLRFC on Monday 18 September from 4pm to 7pm

No comments were made about items 2 to 8 on the planning matters item in the agenda.

8 Residents Forum report and items for Forum agenda

There were several issues in relation to the Forum. Firstly, at the last meeting of the Forum interested members had been asked to complete a questionnaire about the effectiveness of the Forums. The Society had submitted its responses, these are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Secondly, the full Council had recently considered its own review of the Forums at which the responses referred to above were not reported. Most of this report concerned the arrangements for making grants which the Society considers are over bureaucratic but a late agreement was that they should not apply to on the night grant requests of up to to £200. The Council had agreed not to

combine South and Magna Forums and that Forums could be chaired by any Councillor appointed by the Council.

Thirdly a number of questions were agreed for the next Forum. See appendix to these minutes.

9 Parklands, Council Budget Strategy

The Vice Chair gave a presentation (see notes attached as an appendix to these minutes) about the issues at Brocks Hill which the Council had at its recent meeting decided to lease to SLM, the company currently managing Parklands, in order to save £77k per year in running costs. This was at the expense of a planned capital spend of £1.2m. There was to be a presentation at the Forum meeting. *(subsequently cancelled as it was deemed to be too time consuming).*

10. Borough Projects. Pride in The Borough – The Pinfold: It had been confirmed by P i t B that a funding proposal was to be put to the Forum meeting, the Society would support this bid.

11 Society Projects: History of Street Names: Helen Hay reported on progress on this project in conjunction with the GWHS.

12 Assets of Community Value

12.1 Central Wigston Shop: Members of the Society and Duncan Lucas continue to discuss possibilities for the shop and land owned by Billy Cox, see 3.6 above.

12.2 Hayes Park: There was nothing further to report but in view of this land being owned by the Council it is suggested that there is no requirement for it to be registered. Delete from the agenda.

12.3 Library Land: There was nothing further to report.

13 AOB

13.1 Shops: It was reported that the former Branded shop was now Affordable Leicester and sold food that was nearly out of date, it was a franchise based in Cornwall. Wiggies Café had changed its name to Mrs T's Pantry.

13.2 Wigston Voice – The Chair and contributors were thanked for their work. The latest edition had been copied by Hamilton Forms at reasonable cost. 70 copies were provided and distribution was dealt with.

13.3 Gas Lane verge maintenance: Cllr Boulter has asked for volunteers to assist with cutting the verge of this unadopted lane.

14 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday 4 October 2017 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm

Annual Lecture: Thursday 14 September at 7pm for 7.30pm

Wigston Residents Meeting: Monday 11 September at 7pm

South Wigston Residents Meeting: Wednesday 13 September at Fairfield School

Meeting closed 9.00pm