

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018 AT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY ROOMS, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the chair), Maureen Waugh, Colin Towell, Val Beesley, Nicola Alexander, John and Yvonne Woodward, Peter Holmes, Roy Hughes, Colin Hames. (10)

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Tony Sumpter (4)

1 Apologies: There were no apologies from Committee members.

2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2018 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.2) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool: A full reply from the Council had not yet been received and Mr Hone is to be reminded.

3.2 (3.4) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque: A further site meeting with Mike Spencer at Jelsons is to be arranged when the final planting and seating had been installed. *After the meeting it was noted that this work had been done.*

3.3 (3.5) Meres Walk: It was reported that there had been some contact with the Council Officer concerned in whose hands the matter now rests. Some rubbish had been cleared but not that for which a charge is made for its disposal at the tip. A ward political newsletter mentioned Public Space Protection Orders and these are to be followed up.

3.4 (9.0) Bassett Street Centre/ Registrar's Office: It was confirmed that the Registrar's Office was not in the former school part of the site but was situated in the modern building and was not in danger of closing at the present time. The organisation operating the community hub in the old school building had got into financial difficulties and was closing down. This means that the library will close and there will be a loss of computer facilities affecting job seekers. The library was already one which the County had recently transferred to a community run facility. This matter to be raised at the next South Wigston Forum. *It was later confirmed that the former school is not listed but is on the Significant Buildings list.*

3.5 (14.2) Library Notice Board: Rather than a site meeting individuals had visited the library and there was general approval of the new arrangements. Mike Forryan was thanked for his work on setting out the contents of the noticeboard.

3.6 (11.3) Pennywise, Bell Street: The shop owned continued to leave his trollies on the public part of Bell Street blocking the view of the park and plaque. He had been spoken to many times by members and the matter had repeatedly been reported by email with photos to the Enforcement Officer at the Council. The public liability insurance implications were raised. The Chairman will report the matter to County and ask Cllr Boulter what action the Borough Council is taking. *It was later confirmed that an enforcement notice had been/is to be issued.*

4 Society Events

4.1 Awayday: Following a visit by the Chairman and Secretary to view Elliott Hall in Albion Street, this had been booked for 8 February 10am to 12 noon at £15 per hour. A programme incorporating the items discussed at the last meeting had been circulated to members. Lunch had been booked for the Fairfield at 12.30.

4.2 Library Display: The Chairman had booked a slot for the Society to have a display table at the library on Tuesday, 27 February, 10.30am to 2.00pm. The Chairman and Secretary will update the display board and take the first session from 10.30 to 12.30. John and Yvonne will take the 12.30 to 2.00 session and the Secretary will return at 2pm to dismantle the display.

4.3 History Fair: This will take place on Saturday 10 March at Age UK in Paddock Street, 9.30 -4.30. It is being organised by the Chairman in a private capacity. The Society will have its display. John, Yvonne, Val, Colin H and Colin T volunteered for the rota which will be firmed up by the Secretary.

4.4 Skittles match with Leicester CS: The date had been confirmed as Friday 6 April at The Black Horse, Aylestone, time and prices to be advised by Leicester CS.

4.5 South Wigston walk: The date was fixed for Sunday 6 May starting at 2pm outside the college and finishing at the Methodist church on Blaby Road at about 3.30pm for tea and biscuits. Price to be £4 including refreshments.

4.6 AGM: This will be one week later than usual on Wednesday, 9 May in the Maple Room. The final timings and commendations to be confirmed but it was agreed not to continue with a blue plaque for Oldershaw's yard. The proposal for a commendation for a house on Newton Lane to be followed up as it was not clear which house is nominated.

4.7 Annual Lecture: It was agreed that the ticket price should be £4 and that as Age UK had been booked this is confirmed as the venue.

4.8 40th Anniversary event: Rather than a dinner it was suggested that a tea be arranged for a Saturday/Sunday and the Conservative Club was suggested as a venue, Nicola will follow up. Speaker suggestions were EMCAS, Civic Voice, Caroline Roberts, Stuart Bailey. Other ideas in last minutes are to be followed up. *It was later confirmed that Brenda Kind will devise a quiz in her usual format for later in the year.* A special pop up banner was suggested.

5. Website/Facebook: These are now up to date with new links and searches and the website is well used and is first on the list when Googled.

6. Correspondence:

These are as stated on the agenda backing sheet.

7. Planning Matters:

a) Newton Lane Estate: Nothing to report.

b) Meadow Hill, Cooks Lane: Nothing new to report. It was confirmed that the second entrance nearer to Kilby Bridge is for the pumping station only and not for the houses. A check to be made if the approved plans contain 2.5 storey houses. Then delete from the agenda.

c) Premier Drum Site: steel work is currently being erected. The site is to be called Wigston Business Park!! A check to be made on changes to the access arrangements on the Kop.

d) Glen Parva New Prison: Nothing to report.

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

f) Horse and Trumpet Decking and Footpath: Nothing to report. Members to keep a look out for footpath diversion notices to be published.

g) Barrack Yard, Moat Street: It appeared that this property remained for sale.

h) Proposed new site on west of A5199 approaching Kilby Bridge: Nothing new to report.

i) Land to the north of Denby Dale: This application had been refused at the Development Control Committee on 18 January.

j) WMC Long Street: No further news was available.

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

2 9 Newgate End, demolish wall and rebuild: no comment.

3 Alpha House, renewal of lapsed rebuild: no comment.

4 49 Long Street, dormer style loft conversion: Objection to be submitted on basis of too big an impact on view from the street and park.

5 71 Blaby Road, extension of opening hours to 3am: Objection to be made.

8. Borough Projects.

8.1 The Pinfold: Planning permission had been given and it was hoped that a start would soon be made in order that the project was complete in time for the Britain in Bloom judging.

8.2 Holmden Avenue Trees: Following a full council report on tree planting in which Holmden Avenue had not been mentioned, this matter had been followed up with the Tree Officer and the Head of Planning. There had been no reply at the time of the meeting.

9 Society Projects: History of Street Names:

It was reported that this project is nearing conclusion but in essence it would remain open for further suggestions which can be inputted on to the lists at any time. Helen is to meet Mike Forryan to agree the final format of the report.

10 Assets of Community Value

10.1 Central Wigston Shop: This matter will be on the Awayday agenda for a more detailed discussion.

11 Wigstons' Voice Articles

Members were reminded that the deadline for articles for the Spring edition is 14 March. Members were urged to put pen to paper for one off special articles.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 The Record Office: There continues to be concern about the possible closure of the Record Office. If it moves to County Hall there will be difficulties for some people in accessing it. It was suggested that if there was to be a move it should be to the City Centre area. But currently footfall is reducing. A report to the County Council is expected in April. There was little that the Society could do to influence any decisions on this matter. The application for listing for the building is proceeding slowly.

12.2 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): The Secretary will make further enquiries about the effect of the new regulations, which come into force on 25 May 2018, on the Society.

12.3 Footpath Registration: There are regulations that will come into force in 2020 regarding the registration of footpaths onto the definitive map. A further report will be made by the Secretary to a future meeting.

13 Next Meeting:

Open Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.15pm

South Wigston Residents Forum, 7 March 2018

Wigston Residents Forum, 14 March 2018 at 7pm