

# WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

### WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY 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 (7)

Members: Malcolm and Pat Glasse, Helen Hay, Gaynor Johnson, May Hilton, Sue Howard (6)

**1 Apologies:** Apologies were received from: Roy Hughes, Peter Holmes and Colin Hames

**2 The Minutes** of the meeting held on 6 December 2017 were approved and signed.

### **3 Matters Arising**

**3.1 (3.1) Overhanging Hedges:** As a result of the item in Letterbox, there had been more than 7 responses all of which had been reported to County. Members were advised that they can now report matters direct to the County by using a link on the Civic Society's own website

**3.2 (3.2) Land Adjacent to the Swimming Pool:** There had been a holding response from Martin Hone at the Council and a full reply was awaited.

**3.3 (3.3) Traffic Warning Signs:** No further action had yet been taken but it was reported that the direction sign near the Horse and Trumpet had been replaced.

**3.4 (3.4) Peacock Place, Davenport Plaque:** Details of the Society's proposals had been emailed to Steve Meyrick at Jelsons but he had now retired and a new contact was being established. The totem pole had been erected and was reported to be an excellent piece of artwork. *After the meeting contact was made with Mike Spencer at Jelsons who advised that seats and more planting were soon to be installed, a site meeting would be arranged when this work had been completed. Contact had been established with Lindsay Jelley, the artist and Peter Leadbeater who had carved the totem.*

**3.5 (3.5) Meres Walk:** A member reported that the Council had issued 14 day notices to perpetrators at the end of November and some action had been taken by them. The name of the Council's Enforcement Officer had been established in relation to another matter and the Secretary will forward details to the member. Due to the unclear way in which this matter has been dealt with by the Borough a report to the Ombudsman is being considered.

**3.6 (9.0) Bassett Street Centre/ Registrar's Office:** There was no new firm news on this matter but it was later noticed that the Community Centre was not taking bookings beyond April 2018 when the current management arrangements will cease and the building will be handed back to the County.

**3.7 (14.2) Library Notice Board:** It was reported that the notice board was not easily seen by library users. But a site meeting is to take place to be attended by representatives of each of the cultural organisations.

## **4 Society Events**

**4.1 Awayday:** It was agreed that the date for this event be moved to Thursday 8 February from 10.00 to 12.00 to be followed by lunch, probably at the Fairfield. Basset Street and the Elliott Hall to be followed up as possible venues although the Fire Station if still available could be used. The programme to include: public involvement in the local plan; the statement of community involvement; the situation at Brocks Hill, Record Office and Bassett Street. The Secretary to work up a programme.

**4.2 History Fair:** This will take place on Saturday 10 March at Age UK in Paddock Street, 10.00 -4.30. It is being organised by the Chairman in a private capacity. The Society will have its display, a rota to be devised.

**4.3 Skittles match with Leicester CS:** The proposed date is Good Friday. *After the meeting the date was changed to the following week, Friday 6 April at a venue to be decided by Leicester CS.*

**4.4 AGM:** It was agreed that the meeting be put back by one week to Wednesday, 9 May in the Maple Room. Programme and times to be agreed. Commendations may include: Peacock Place, Amberwood, Newton Lane house and new house behind former All Saints Vicarage. Members were urged to make further suggestions. A Blue Plaque for Oldershaw's Yard was suggested. A decision is to be made on the inclusion of a wall quiz. A speaker to be arranged. *After the meeting Mike Bates agreed to give his talk on 'Ancient Trackways and Roads and the Mere Track'*

**4.5 Annual Lecture:** The suggested speaker was not able to give his talk on the GCR. *After the meeting, a new speaker, Malcolm Riddle, was booked to speak on the 'Origins and Decline of the Great Central Railway through Leicestershire' on Thursday 13 September at 7.30pm in the dining room at Age UK. The room to be booked by the Secretary, his fee will be £40.00, the ticket price to be agreed.*

**4.6 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event:** for later in the year a self funding lunch/dinner with a speaker was suggested. A suitable journalist or Stuart Bailey to be asked to speak. In the meantime the following to be brought together in an exhibition: key achievements, launch of the street names project, founder and former members to be identified, looking forward, a quiz on local matters ( Brenda Kind to be asked), how we work, involve schools, involve other organisations we work with. Minute books in Record Office to be consulted by the Chairman.

**4.7 South Wigston walk:** to include Blue Plaques, Conservation areas and Significant Buildings. Date to be Sunday 6 May in the afternoon, possibly finishing with tea at Blaby Road Methodist Church (Secretary to contact). The Chairman to devise a route.

**5. Website/Facebook:** The website has now been reshaped. The last two years issues of Letterbox were now on our site. Facebook is being used more and now advertises the website.

## **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, but a query was raised as to the number of accesses from Welford Road, also to check if the approved plans contain 2.5 storey houses.

**c) Premier Drum Site:** Nothing new to report. However 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:** The Council had now responded to the Society's questions. The change from a timber decking surface to a slabbed hard surface had been approved by a variation to the original approval. County had confirmed that as the Borough had not approved the footpath diversion at the same time as it had approved the decking application (which it should have done or refused both) and the work has been completed, the applicant must now submit a footpath diversion application to the County which it had recently done. This will now be formally advertised in the new year when objections can be made.

**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) Elms Social Club:** The Council Development Control Committee report now confirmed that no S106 had been imposed but the Club had committed to use proceeds from the development to improve its existing building.

**j) Land to the north of Denby Dale:** There was still confusion about whether this land is in the green wedge or not and it was stated that the Council's housing need has been met elsewhere. Agendas for the Development Control Committee to be monitored.

**k) WMC Long Street:** No further news was available on this application, agendas for the Development Control Committee to be monitored.

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

**2 29A Central Avenue, 7 units:** An objection to be made.

## **8. Borough Projects.**

**8.1 The Pinfold:** A planning application had been made and it was expected to be decided at a meeting by 18 January.

**8.2 Holmden Avenue Trees:** There was no further information to report. To be followed up with the Tree Officer.

## **9 Society Projects: History of Street Names:**

A lot of work is being done by the project leader. Members and the public are encouraged to supply information. There had been one response from the Letterbox article. Cross referencing streets to a map was suggested.

## **10 Assets of Community Value**

**10.1 Central Wigston Shop:** It was reported that a conversation had taken place with Mr Cox by a third party and options had been put to him. There was no response at the date of this meeting and this is to be followed up by the Vice Chair. The newspaper article on Snibston is to be included with the minutes. It was confirmed that the application for listing for the Record Office was proceeding slowly.

## **11 Any Other Business**

**11.1 Letterbox:** The deadline for the spring issue of Letterbox is 12 January, the following articles were suggested; PC: overhanging hedges; South Wigston Walk; GWHS/CS archived items, CT: AGM; library notice board; parking generally, MW: library changes.

**11.2 Missed Rubbish Collections:** In response to a query following the cancellation of rubbish collections due to bad weather, it was confirmed that the Council publishes revised arrangements on its website on the day in question.

**11.3 Bell Street, Pennywise trollies:** The Secretary had reported the trollies being parked in front of the park to the trader and to the customer service shop. The latter was confirmed by email, which was referred to County. After complaining that this is not a County matter the Borough enforcement officer then took up the matter.

**11.4 Library Day Exhibition:** The Chairman will arrange a date with the library.

**11.5 Wigstons' Voice Spring issue:** The Editor announced the deadline for articles is 14 March. The following articles were suggested: PC: 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; South Wigston walk, CT: Library notice board, MW: Possible new access arrangements and hours for Wigston library. Others to be agreed and members were urged to put pen to paper.

## **12 Next Meeting:**

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