

Minutes of the meeting for Wigston Civic Society Wednesday 7th November 2012

Present: Colin Towell, Peter cousins, Ken and Val Beasley, Peter Holmes, Devasish Goswami, Colin Hames, Alan Kind, Maureen Waugh.

1. Apologies: Reg Dickson, Bridget Carter

2. The minutes from October's meeting were amended as follows:

- The third sentence from section 5 was amended to 'These ideas had been raised at South Wigston Residents Meetings in the past but the Chair **from those meetings** had not been aware of them.'
- Section 14 should contain the sentence 'One proposal is that a bus operated by the same company should connect all three parts of the borough including on Sundays'.

3. Matters Arising

3a) Blaby Road Park

There was nothing to report other than Bill Boulter managed to get Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to get the leaves cleared.

3b) Commendations for Police Station and Ritz Cinema (item 3c from October's meeting)

It was agreed that South Wigston meeting on 13th December and Wigston meeting at the Council Offices on 17th December represented a good opportunity to present certificates.

3c) Waste Facility Magna Road (item 3d from October's meeting)

It was agreed to keep asking questions concerning the trucks going in and out of the waste facility.

3d) Kwik Save Store, Blaby Road (item 12 from October's meeting)

Alan Kind believes that the property has already been sold and that there is nothing that can be done about it.

3e) Bus Services (New item)

It was agreed that Colin Towell will send a letter to the council concerning the prospect of bus services between Oadby and the council offices.

3f) Subscriptions and Finance (New item)

The next skittles match represented an opportunity for people to pay their subscriptions. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to those individuals who have not submitted their subscriptions.

4. Town Council Action Plan

An article concerning the new planning blueprint has appeared in last Monday's *Leicester Mercury* (see <http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/Controversial-planning-blueprint-Oadby-Wigston/story-17196315-detail/story.html>). The general consensus was that the last meeting about this was a waste of time and that the Civic Society will wait for the first application.

5. Social Housing

Sandra Parker from Oadby and Wigston Borough Council had given some information concerning social housing to the minute secretary. As of April 2012, there are 1260 social houses. As of 1st January 2012 1500 people were on the waiting list. It was agreed that the minutes secretary would get information concerning the breakdown of social housing (i.e.,

what proportion are council houses and what proportion are leased from housing associations) as well as the current criteria for building council and social housing, the distribution of vacant council housing and whether there are any empty properties.

6. Website Nothing further to report.

7. Correspondence and Announcements Nothing further to report.

Friday 30 November 7.30pm: Skittles match with Leicester Civic Society at Horse and Trumpet £7.50.

Saturday 1 December 2012 7.30 pm: Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra at Guthlaxton College. Pay at door.

8. Planning Matters

1. 49 Canal Street – Replacement windows and installation of shutters (24th October)

No objections were raised.

2. Cooks Lane – installation of footbridge over railway. Colin Hames voiced his approval for this because of the safety benefits.

3. Central Avenue Church Erection of porch extension and metal fencing and gates (26th October) – Colin Towell will council tomorrow because the plans seem confusing.

9. Christmas Cards

Designs mooted included the new South Leicestershire College and a 'before-after' snapshot of an area of Wigston. It was agreed to get this sorted out by the next meeting.

10. Pride in the Borough

There was nothing further to report.

11. Project Updates

Jubilee Plaque – it was agreed that the Civic Society would rather have the council take on the liability.

Street Art – it was agreed that the Civic Society would explore other areas in Leicestershire to see examples of street art and also examine the portfolios of the twelve artists who had seen the advert on the council website.

Street Clutter – there was nothing further to report.

Open Spaces – there was nothing further to report.

12. Town Cryer

There was nothing further to report.

13. Newsletter distribution

Mary Essinger will organise the distribution of the newsletter.

14 Any other business

It was agreed that there will be a joint meeting with Oadby Civic Society but it will take place at the Stage pub instead on 9th January 2013.

Council meeting – there are issues to do with the way information is presented. It was agreed that getting some paper copies into libraries for a nominal fee would be preferable.

EMACHS Conference at Derby – according to Colin Towell this was a very good day.

15. Next meeting

Wednesday 5th December 2012 at Age Concern at 7 pm.