

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2016 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

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

Other members: Doris and David Smalley, Pat Harper, Roy Pearce, May Hilton, Malcolm and Pat Glasse (7)

Malcolm and Pat Glasse were welcomed to their first meeting.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Minute Secretary: There had been no further success in appointing a Minute Secretary. The Chairman will place the vacancy on Street Life.

3.2 (3.2) Display of goods on footpaths: This problem now affected Pennywise, the newsagent opposite, the new sweet shop (food and drink), Wigston Bargain Shop, the pet shop and the mobility shop. The County had indicated that shopkeepers had been told that they would need licences to display goods on the footpaths. Pennywise continued to park trollies against the park railings but would move them when asked. The new Cheescake shop had tables outside but the previous occupant, the florist, had displayed good outside.

3.3 (3.3) J Hoots Chemist Wall: Roy H will find out if the building is owned or rented by J Hoots. The matter had been reported to the Council which had responded that it was doubtful if there was any action that it could take.

3.4 (3.4) Road signs: This matter is to be reported again to the County. (Greg)

3.5 (3.5) Post Office closure: A letter of complaint had been sent to the Post Office. A reply was received after the meeting but it contained no new information, a copy will be circulated. It was reported that the Co Op building had been sold and that the Post Office was interviewing four possible operators. It was reported that the new Post Office in South Wigston was restricted in the type of transactions that could be carried out. (*after the meeting a letter was received from the Post Office, it would be circulated to members*)

3.6 (3.8) Assets of Community Value: No members had followed up on this matter with their own research

3.8 (3.8) Bus routes: The new timetable and extended 49A route into South Wigston was to commence on 10 April. *There was a very good letter in the Mercury on 28 April about the much reduced service.*

3.9 (10.0) Working with Leicester C S: A meeting is to be arranged with Stuart Bailey.

4 Society Events

4.1 4 May 2016, Wednesday, Society AGM: It was agreed that there will not be a quiz this year. It was agreed that the final list of commendations will be Wigston College (Guthlaxton) entrance area; Gambles Factory Canal Street, Grand Hotel. Contact will be made with these organisations to be present to receive the award. All Officers and Committee Members agreed to offer themselves for re-election. A presentation will be made by Chris Matthews of the 20 C Society, a donation of £20 will be made. Two items of AOB identified to date are: Wheelie bins or bags and Bell Street pedestrianisation comments. *Val B subsequently agreed to provide refreshments. Furthermore it was subsequently agreed by the Treasurer and Secretary that a proposal will be made at the AGM to increase subscriptions from £7.50 to £8.00 (6.6%) from 1 May 2017.*

4.2 10 May, Tuesday, South Wigston Station plaque unveiling: Mr Noel Oldershaw had agreed to fix the plaques. Curtains could not be obtained from the S A, therefore May H will provide material to cover the plaques and be unveiled by the Mayor. Neither the Chairman nor Vice Chair are able to be present. After the ceremony the Fairfield Pub will be open for drinks/coffee. Invitations will be sent to local councillors, all Committee members the South Wigston Traders and Friends of the Station.

4.3 1 June 2016, Wednesday, Two Steeples Walk relaunch: The sub group had met and detailed arrangements are now in place for a 10am start. Both the Mayor, Cllr Rob Eaton and the Rector, Revd Trevor Thurston Smith had agreed to send the walkers on the way. Advertising was well in hand. New waymarking signs were being fixed. *A further meeting was arranged for 26 April.*

4.4 14 July 2016, Thursday, Sgt W E Boulter VC memorial stone laying ceremony: There was nothing further to report. An email had been sent to the Chief Executive asking for more information.

4.5 27 September 2016, Tuesday, Annual Lecture 2016: It had been clarified that the Society could serve refreshments at the school. It was suggested that an article be submitted for the school newsletter.

4.6 7 October, Friday, Skittles Match with Oadby CS: There was nothing new to report.

4.7 2017 WWI Commemoration Parade: There was nothing further to report.

5 Website and Facebook

There was nothing to report.

6 Correspondence

Members were referred to the agenda support sheet. In addition the Oadby and Wigston Civic Orchestra concert on 9 April was announced.

7 Planning Matters

7.1 Land off Pochins Bridge Road: The issues of the pavilion and the footpath with Tansley Avenue have not yet been taken up with Planners, this will be done after a site visit.

7.2 Newton Lane: Despite being previously assured that the traffic light sequence would not be changed, this work had now been done. Longer queues had resulted but right turns were much safer.

7.3 Heating Elements site: Work is progressing well, the road appeared to have been named as Peacock Close.

7.4 Canal Street: Work is finished to the former Oldershaw's yard. A commendation for this site was suggested. There was no new information on the Hat and Cap factory.

7.5 Kirkdale Road: Work is proceeding. A list of the road names submitted was read out.

7.6 Abington House/Birkett House relocation: *After the meeting it was noted that contractors had moved onto site and a number of trees had been cut down. It was not known if the contractor was for the school extension and/or the new Birkett House School. Abington House was now far more visible.*

7.7 14-18 Dunton Street, CoU to residential. No comment.

7.8 The Bungalow, 52 Park Road, demolish and replace with detached dwelling. No comment.

7.9 Local Development Orders, Paddock Street and Station Street. It was reported that submissions had been made in respect of these applications. It was reported that Lords electrical shop was to close. *(it was later announced that these LDOs will be discussed by the Development Control Committee on 12 May at 7pm)*

8 Borough projects

8.1 Pride of the Borough: It was reported that the PotB site meeting at the Pinfold to discuss the information board had not yet been held. *Subsequently arranged for 24 April when there as a good attendance and the project would be taken forward by PotB with help from the Historical Society. The CS advised that the Borough was erecting a similar board in Bell Street and may be able to offer advice.*

8.2 Greening the Borough: The bid for £450 for trees had been successful but it had been decided to defer the planting until the autumn. It had been agreed that Hornbeam trees at £42.50 each including stakes would be appropriate.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Bell Street Information Boards: *After the meeting a second draft was received for comment.*

9.2 Street Art: There was nothing new to report.

9.3 Significant buildings review: The review is moving forward and a final draft is expected soon.

9.4 Blue Plaques Booklet Relaunch: This project is being worked on.

10 Awayday Actions

A schedule of the up to date position on away day actions is attached to these minutes.

11 Wigstons' Voice

Several very complimentary comments had been received about the Spring 2016 edition. An appeal was made for more articles by members and a suggestion was made that there should be an 'amusing signs' photo.

12 Commendations

The following were agreed as the final list: Guthlaxton College main entrance (CT); Gambles Factory, (PC); Grand Hotel, (CT). the Two Steeples Medical Centre , the new building at the rear of the old All Saints Vicarage and the new swimming pool and Oldershaw's yard and Bates Factory are to left for awards in the future.

13 EMACHS

Members were advised of the new approach to EMACHS contact, that is, by email and the website. Members were asked to agree to have their email addresses given to EMACHS so that all communications could be sent direct to them by EMACHS. Only PH did not agree to this.

14 Residents Forum Feedback

Members were advised of the main items discussed at the Wigston Residents Forum not already mentioned in these minutes. These included: bus shelters, Customer Services Shop notice board (not for use by the public but normal notice board may be erected in Bell Street), the lanes plaque. Aylestone lane traffic calming to be carried out

15 Any Other Business

15.1 New Contact List: The Secretary will prepare a revised list.

15.2 New pop up Banner: The new pop up banner was displayed.

15.3 Photos of events: The Secretary asked for those who held photos of events on their cameras and computers to print off copies for use on the display board.

15.4 County Council ward boundary changes: the secretary informed members of the decision on the boundaries that took into account the Society's comments on the draft proposals.

15.5 Speed limit signs results: The item in Focus Magazine about the results of the speed monitoring signs was briefly discussed.

13 Next Meeting

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 1 June 2016 at 7.00 for 7pm
The AGM will be on Wednesday 4 May 2016 at 7.30pm