

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT AGE UK, PADDOCK STREET

Present: Committee: Peter Cousins (in the Chair), Maureen Waugh, Val Beesley, Alan Kind, Colin Hames, Nicola Alexander, Colin Towell (7)

Other members: Doris and David Smalley, Pat Harper, Roy Pearce, Richard Carter (5)

Mary Essinger had advised the Secretary that she wished to resign from the Committee but remain as a member of the Society, she had moved house away from Wigston into the City. Members expressed their sincere thanks for the long service that Mary had given to the Society in several roles over the years. It was agreed that a gift should be arranged in appreciation of her service.

1. Apologies: Ken Beesley, Roy Hughes, Peter Holmes.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2015 were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 (3.1) Minute Secretary: There had been no further success in appointing a Minute Secretary.

3.2 (3.2) South Wigston Station plaque renewal: The County council had been asked to give approval to the fixing of the plaque to the bridge parapet but there had not been time for a reply to be received.

3.3 (3.4) School name changes: Members considered the response from the Secretary of State which they felt was inadequate. However it was agreed that the advice given should be followed and that the matter should again be taken up with the Academy expressing disappointment that no reply had been received following the Society's original letter.

3.4 (3.7) Customer Service Shop Bell Street: It was reported that the shop would open in mid October.

3.5 (3.8) J Hoots Chemist Wall: No reply to the Society's letter had been received and a reminder is to be sent.

3.6 (12.0) Litter advertising campaign: This suggestion is to be raised at the next South Wigston residents' meeting.

3.7 (13.0) South Leicestershire College: The College had advised that it would not be able to provide a conducted tour on a Tuesday evening and it was agreed that a Thursday evening should be suggested.

3.8 (16.3) Road signs: this matter had not yet been reported to the County.

3.9 (16.3) Food Banks: This matter had been resolved.

4 Society Events

4.1 29 September: Annual Public Lecture: As bookings are coming in well it was agreed that there was not a need to advertise in the Mercury or on Radio Leicester. (*as at 6 September there are 44 reservations, the maximum is 60*). Refreshments will be dealt with by Val and Nicola with Sue Towell helping if needed. Pat Harper will be on the door.

4.2 31 October: WWI Commemoration events: The Mayor had confirmed his attendance. Advertising was going well and The Chairman will contact Radio Leicester and Mr Leicester at the Mercury. The event is advertised in the Family History magazine and will be in local church magazines. (*Ticket sales as at 6 September were 31.*)

4.3 1 June 2016: Two Steeples Walk relaunch: There was nothing further to report but the walk is now well displayed on the Society website.

4.4 2016 WWI Commemoration Parade: there was nothing further to report on this matter.

4.5 Annual skittles match with Leicester CS: A date of Friday 29 January 2016 had been suggested by Leicester who are organising this year's event, this was agreed

5 Website and Facebook

There were 153 hits in the last month making a total of 3320. The site content had been brought up to date and a small amount of work in this respect remained to be done. Search engines were now attached to each page. There was minimal activity on the Facebook page.

6 Correspondence

The items quoted on the agenda support page were highlighted. In addition there was to be talk at Oadby CS AGM on 29 September about the history of the driving licence. (same date as Wigston CS Annual Lecture)

7 Planning Matters

7.1 Land off Pochins Bridge Road: There was nothing new to report .

7.2 Newton Lane: There was nothing new to report.

7.3 Dorset Avenue: There was nothing new to report.

7.4 Heating Elements site: There was nothing new to report.

7.5 Canal Street: There was nothing new to report.

7.6 Kirkdale Road: There was nothing new to report.

7.7 Solar Farm, Leicester Road, Countesthorpe: The farm would be well hidden behind Rose Farm office park and no comment was to be made.

7.8 3 Canal Street CoU to retail and takeaway with flats over: Apart from the rubbish impact from the takeaway, no comment was made.

7.9 Central Avenue, new dwelling next to park entrance: This site was in the conservation area but no formal notification had been received by the Society or the neighbours. This was to be brought to the attention of the Council. It was considered that this was an overdevelopment of a very tight site and that a short completion date should be imposed if approval was to be given.

7.10 Bullhead Street car wash advertising signs: It was noted that only some of the signs had received approval with those fronting the site being turned down.

7.11 Heard's Butchers Shop Bell Street: It was noted that Heard's butchers shop had recently closed because of, according to a notice in the window, a lack of custom.

8 Borough projects

8.1 Pride in the Borough: There was nothing new to report.

8.2 Greening the Borough: It was noted that there was to be a presentation on Greening the Borough at the next round of Residents' Meetings.

9 Society Projects:

9.1 Jubilee Plaque/ Bell Street: There had been no further action to report.

9.2 Street Art: There was no further action to report

9.3 Significant buildings review: Following a query on progress from the Chairman of Wigston Historical Society, the Council officer dealing with the project had indicated that as the Oadby element was still far from complete he proposed issuing the three areas as separate lists. This meant that there was an urgent need to update the Wigston element as there were several outstanding issues from the draft received some time ago.

10 The Elms Social Club

The reply received from the Club's Secretary in response to the concerns raised by the Society had been circulated and was discussed. The reply did not go to the root of the problem of the poor external condition of the property, particularly the front elevation. It was agreed that a further letter be sent suggesting Lottery funding and acknowledging the possible development of the car park which may provide funds for building maintenance. It was noted that permission may not be given for a development which reduces the size of the car park which is very full at times when events are in progress.

11 The Legacy

The following items were suggested; all including VAT

Top board for existing display boards	82.80
Deluxe roll up banner	95.00
Display banner	45.50

It was agreed that these items should be purchased from the legacy.

Members were reminded that they should make suggestions for the use of the legacy as and when such suggestions came to mind. One such idea is the cost of rewriting and printing the Society's leaflet.

12 Wigstons' Voice

The new Autumn edition had been enveloped for distribution at the start of the meeting. An A4 version is on the website. 50 copies had been printed leaving some spare over and above those needed for the membership. The Editor was thanked for all his hard work as were those who had contributed items for publication. The attention of members was drawn to the mystery photograph competition.

13 Any Other Business

13.1 Bus shelters and timetables: New timetables had been fixed on Launceston Road and at the Royal Oak. No action appears to have been taken over renewing bus shelters on Paddock Street as decided by the Residents Meeting, the whole position regarding bus shelters needs to be recorded and monitored.

13.2 49A bus route: It was reported that the 49A route continued to terminate at Cornwall Road rather than proceed, as before the summer holiday, to the Tesco roundabout. A letter to be sent to Arriva expressing the Society's concerns and reminding them that they had indicated that the Society would be involved in any review of the 49 routes following its proposals for a cross borough bus service.

13.3 Residents Forum Meetings: Members expressed concern about the poor sound quality at meetings and the Council is to be asked to ensure that the hearing loop system is used at both meetings. The Vice Chair agreed to attend the next Wigston meeting and Roy Pearce will attend the next South Wigston meeting. The Secretary will prepare a briefing note including weed spraying which had not been done on all streets and pavement parking (the latter while the police are present) and the position regarding relocation of the post office which it had been reported is due to close at the Co op in January 2016.

13.4 20mph Speed Limits: This matter is to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

13.4 Away day Actions: the following actions are outstanding:

- 2.4 create welcome booklet
- 5.4 investigate pop up poster (see minute 11 above)
- 5.7 rewrite/update the Society leaflet (see item 11 above)
- 8.1 write article on external cladding for publication
- 10.1 discuss develop the Society's vision for Wigston

14 Next Meeting

The next Open Executive Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 7 October at 7.00 for 7.15.

The Annual Public Lecture is on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at 7.30pm

The next Residents meeting is: South Wigston 9 September

Wigston Magna 16 September at 7.00pm