

# *The Wincheap Society*

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30p.m. on Thursday, 26th June, 2014 at 53, Wincheap**

**Present:** John Osborne, Eddie Peake, Pat Marsh, Anne Foster, Spencer Hollands, Joe Passey

**1. Apologies for absence:** Paula Spencer, Debra Johnson, Sarah Walter, Gaurav Kathuria

### **2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 15th May and of the A.G.M. on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014**

The venue was changed in item 5 of the Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> May. It should read: "A.C.R.A. Meeting 5th June 2014 at Ashford Rd Community Centre Re Local Plan".

Both sets of Minutes were signed as otherwise correct accounts.

### **3. Matters Arising**

i. A.G.M.

The general opinion was that the A.G.M. went well. The talk from Viv Woods was interesting and much appreciated.

ii. A.C.R.A. Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Pat and Paula attended and put forward WinSoc's concerns about the Wincheap Traffic Management Scheme as contained in our submission on the Draft Local Plan, as well as our doubts about the benefits of the proposed A2 Dover-bound off slip-road.

Richard Moore, CCC Transportation Manager, stated that the tunnel idea brings inadequate benefits in relation to its high costs because most inbound traffic wants to turn right, not left onto Rheims Way. They are proposing a mini-gyratory system so that vehicles joining Wincheap from Simmonds Road will have more space than now to make the turn because Simmonds Road will be one-way only.

As for the idea of extending the pedestrian subway under Wincheap and possibly under Pin Hill, he stated that it had not yet been considered but "this is something we can look at".

Concerning the A2 off slip road, Richard said the Jacobs study indicates there are some benefits in relieving traffic on the ring road. What they need to show, however, is that it doesn't make anything worse in Wincheap. Once they have a developer lined

up for this, it will be possible to go into more detail. Current plans indicate that the money for this will be available.

Adrian Verrall, KCC Head of Planning, stated that the slip road goes hand in hand with the idea of an Eastern Bypass for Canterbury, something strongly supported by Thanet District Council.

#### **4. Lord Mayor's Award**

Last year we decided to nominate Paula Spencer for the Award but missed the deadline. We will nominate her this year for all her work at Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

**Action: John**

#### **5. Jubilee Hall (from A.G.M.)**

No one has yet given us any concrete information on the Hall closing despite Debra's enquiries. We will write to the Council and ask what will happen with the building. (The Council receives rent for it, so we assume it owns the Hall.) We are concerned that this amenity will be lost to the community even though there are volunteers willing to keep it open.

**Action: John**

#### **6. Obituaries**

Sir Jack Brabham – three times world champion Formula One racing driver; Prince Rupert Lowenstein – banker to the Rolling Stones; Eric Hill – author of *Spot, the Dog* books; Gerard Benson – poet, active with *Poems on the Underground*; Gerry Goffin – song writer initially with Carole King (*Will you still love me tomorrow?*); Eli Wallach – actor (*The Magnificent Seven, The Good, the Bad & the Ugly*); Francis Matthews – actor (*Paul Temple*); Casey Kasem – voice of Norville “Shaggy” Rogers in *Scooby Doo*.

#### **7. Any other business**

##### **i. Hop Garden Way**

On Sunday, 13th July at 10am volunteers to trim overhanging bushes should meet outside Wincheap Primary School. Martin will put us in touch with the KCC officer responsible for resurfacing, for which we have funds in our account.

##### **ii. Draft Local Plan**

The consultation is now open for the HMI but it was agreed that making a submission is too complex for us, as it requires some planning law knowledge.

##### **iii. Gasholder consultation**

It was agreed that the second consultation was probably held to make sure there were no legal grounds for objections to the procedure.

iv. Financial statement

Eddie and John haven't yet had time to produce a financial statement as promised at the A.G.M.

**Action: Eddie and John**

v. Problem student HMOs

Pat's neighbour at 17 Martyrs Field Rd appeals to WinSoc to take up the question of HMOs with the Council and Universities. Young working families in particular in the area say their lives are made a misery by some of these households. In spite of friendly approaches to them and polite requests to turn down music etc, the residents show little consideration for their neighbours, especially re noise and disturbance caused late at night. The other problem is leaving bins on the pavements instead of taking them back behind the houses after collection, causing obstacles for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Pat has liaised with Richard Norman of St Michael's Rd Area RA, who has been working on this. We understand students can lose their university place if they don't keep to the rules of living in the community. They are required to keep the property in good order according to their agreement.

Richard is discussing the idea of street marshals with UKC. We will do the same with CCCU.

**Action: Pat**

Pat has also looked at schemes in Lincoln and Oxford and suggests we might approach the Council with the idea of a special anti-social behaviour officer who would visit offending households and would have the power to impose ASBOs if necessary. This apparently works in Lincoln. Lincoln also has a Council officer who visits HMOs about refuse problems.

Oxford has a system of student wardens like the street marshals idea here. As they are the peers of the offending households, they seem to have more success in keeping the noise down.

Another Oxford idea is House Champions. A University officer goes to every student HMO and talks to them about refuse collections, noise etc and appoints one person in each house to be responsible for ensuring their housemates toe the line. This also apparently works.

Richard Norman is setting up a sub-group of ACRA to bring together those parts of Canterbury which have problems with student HMOs and to plan concerted action on this issue. Our first meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Pat will be attending and any other member of WinSoc is welcome to join her.

Spencer stressed the importance of keeping a record of incidents and taking photos which are then sent them to the appropriate letting agency, which is then charged for clearing up.

vi. Roger Britton

John has contacted the architect but had no reply. He will try and find out when work will start.

**Action: John**

vii. Street lamp out in Biggleswade Passage

There is a risk of burglary of the bungalows in the vicinity. Eddie will call the Highways Dept about replacing the bulb.

**Action: Eddie**

## **8. Date of next Meeting**

Thursday, 31st July at 7.30pm at Wincheap B&B (thanks to Joe)