

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30p.m. on Thursday, 15th January, 2015 at 53 Wincheap

Present: John Osborne, James Wilford, Sarah Walter, Pat Marsh, Debra Johnson

1. Apologies for absence: Joe Passey, Spencer Hollands, Eddie Peake, Anne Foster
2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting 13th November 2015

The Minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising.

- i. Jubilee Hall

Debra has spoken to Dinah Andrews and been told that the Trinity Baptist Church is going to take over the Hall. As a result, Dinah thinks her group will stay on if someone else will pay the rent.

Cllr Nick Eden-Green had a meeting with Ian Barnes (Council) and the Church. It was noted that the Hall needs a lot of work, including repair of the roof, insulation and heating. If the Council does the work, the rent will need to be raised considerably and will probably be too high for the Church. However, the Council will be demolishing the Hall when the Wincheap Industrial Estate is developed, so it may have reached the end of its working life. At the time when Debra offered to run the Hall, a grant would probably have been available to refurbish the Hall and she would have taken it on as a community project. She might still be willing to do this if the Hall were given at least another 5-10 years before it is demolished.

John, Sarah & Nick will have a meeting with Ian Barnes about it. Nick is willing to join WinSoc and come to some meetings.

Action: Sarah to arrange meeting

- ii. HMOs flyers + connected topics.

Pat will deliver the flyers to the Martyrs Field area and Joe to Wincheap and the roads off Wincheap beyond Hollow Lane. If there are any left, we will decide where else to deliver them. James and John will deliver some if called upon.

Action: Pat, Joe

The Martyrs Field Road bin situation is much better since the Council put labels on all bins left on the pavement in November and Pat has talked to offending households about the problem. However, there is still a hard core of HMOs (where

nobody answers the door) which keep leaving their bins on the pavement so Pat will contact the Council about these.

Sarah had her paper insert box disappear and now has to pay to get a new one, although it appears to have been thrown into the truck by Serco refuse collectors.

Oaten Hill District Society had a meeting with Christ Church Strategic Director Andrew Ironside and Lee Soden, Director of Facilities Management. Members were disconcerted to hear that the University's Masterplan has a target objective of 20,000 students. They understand there are currently 18,000 and that the trend is towards younger full-time students from further afield, requiring accommodation in the city. They were also told that, although the accommodation being erected behind Augustine House was envisaged to take some students out of HMOs, that now looks unlikely. What's more, the CCCU representatives did not know how many of their students live in the community.

Pat wrote to Moira Helm at Christ Church to inform her that Canterbury residents' associations are more than alarmed at what they have learned from this meeting. The Council's Student Impact Scrutiny Review of 2006 acknowledged all the benefits for Canterbury of having the universities in our city but also warned about the negative impacts large numbers of students living in the community could have. Canterbury now has the second highest amount of privately rented accommodation in the country, the lowest proportion of owner occupiers (43%) and the lowest birth rate. In sum, it's a dying city where young families are increasingly forced out by the soaring house prices caused by the purchase of houses to rent out to students and by the unsuitability of living in communities where a student lifestyle predominates.

Moira Helm is arranging a meeting with the South Canterbury RAs to discuss this with herself, Andrew Ironside and Lee Soden.

Action: Pat to attend meeting

The Council's Article 4 Directive, which will restrict the proportion of HMOs in any designated area to 10%, is due to come in at the end of the month. There will then be 12 months before it comes into force. It also provides that in areas where there is an exceptionally high proportion of HMOs consideration will be given to permitting further conversions (so that a resident is able to sell a property).

- iii. Roger Britton - no further news.
- iv. Hop Garden Way – still no further news.
- v. Peugeot Garage site

The planning application for student accommodation has now been submitted. Nick Eden-Green thinks more should be said about eg the piecemeal management. Other RAs are concerned about the height of the development. Representations can be made until 30th January. Members' concerns that the developers are not local and

will be taking money out of the local community were expressed. Sarah will look at the plans and consider our response on this.

Action: Sarah

vi. Play Islands (former Printing House) Licence

The licence was granted in spite of Sarah's spirited and well-reasoned objections at the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting.

The site was very busy until New Year as entry was free. James is in full support of the venture: it is bringing families into the industrial estate and there is a friendly couple running the cafe.

They are going to apply for 10pm closing although the Planning Inspector insisted the business should open no later than 8pm.

vii. Stevens News Licence Variation

Joe will look into it.

Action: Joe

viii. Wincheap Subway

Murals for the subway are in the Council's plans. There will be a paper for consultation soon.

ix. Gas Holder

The holder's still standing, much to John's delight.

4. Club Chemistry Licence Variation

The application to have people in the queue able to enter after 2am was turned down.

5. Purple Beech Tree – Canon Appleton Court

A new one has been planted by the City Council. John will write to thank them.

Action: John

7. Obituaries - Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Andrew Johnson, chest physician and Director of Medical Education at Kent & Canterbury Hospital; **Ron Flaherty**, Herne Bay councillor, former Sheriff of Canterbury and magistrate; **Glen Larson**, American TV producer and writer (*Alias Smith and Jones*, *Magnum, P.I.*); **Dessie Hughes**, jockey turned racehorse trainer; **Jimmy Ruffin**, American soul singer (*What Becomes of the Brokenhearted?*); **Mike Nichols**, film director (*The Graduate*); **Paul Vaughan**, radio presenter; **Phil Hughes**, Australian cricketer; **P.D. James**, author (*the Adam Dalgliesh detective novels*); **Bobby Keys**, saxophonist with The Rolling Stones; **Joel Barnett**, Labour Minister who devised the formula for allocating public spending in the different

countries of the UK; **Sir Arthur Bonsall**, codebreaker and former head of G.C.H.Q.; **Billie Whitelaw**, English actor (foremost interpreter of female roles in Samuel Beckett's plays); **Joe Cocker**, English rock and blues musician (*With a Little Help from My Friends*); **Jeremy Lloyd**, actor and writer (co-writer of *Are You Being Served?* and *'Allo 'Allo!*); **Lance Percival**, actor, revue performer and writer (*That Was the Week That Was*); **Richard Meade**, Britain's most successful equestrian Olympian; **Ray McFall**, owner of The Cavern Club; **Jeremy Thorpe**, former leader of the Liberal Party; **Mandy Rice-Davies**, model involved in the Profumo Affair; **John Freeman**, diplomat and journalist (interviewer on BBC's *Face to Face*); **David Ryall**, English actor (*The Singing Detective*, *Outnumbered*); **Anita Ekberg**, Swedish actor (*La Dolce Vita*).

8. Any other business

- i. Quiz Night 27th February - We will have a meeting to finalise arrangements when Joe comes back.

Action: John to arrange meeting

- ii. Club Chemistry are using James's buses for early entry, paying for free trips to the night club from Parham Rd and UKC campus. This has been a successful venture.
- iii. The South Canterbury Alliance has again extended an invitation to the Wincheap Society to join their ranks as there is a substantial amount of South Canterbury-focussed business ahead of us and we need to be visibly united on those issues which don't get on the pan-Canterbury ACRA agenda. Pat agreed to represent WinSoc.

Action: Pat

- iv. The Slatters Hotel development brief will be on public display soon with a presentation from architects.

9. Date of next Meeting.

19th February at 7.30pm at 53 Wincheap (thanks to John)