

# *The Wincheap Society*

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 at 53 Wincheap (thanks to John)**

Present: John Osborne, Joe Passey, Sarah Walter, Pat Marsh

1. Apologies for absence: Debra Johnson, Eddie Peake, Dave Wilson, Anne Foster

2. Minutes of the last Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

The Minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising.

i. Wincheap Industrial Estate camp – CCC

John hasn't managed to speak to anyone at the Council about it. Dave took his Polish friend to see the people there. They are fruit pickers and there were no more than six of them at the camp. They were known to Catching Lives and were using the facilities there from time to time. Porchlight have an outreach worker who is in contact with them, and some Polish language support too, and the last update Dave had was that it was likely that the men would be leaving to begin farm work some time this month.

John will check if they are still there before writing to the Council.

**Action: John**

ii. Cycling on pavement

PCSO Daniel Groom was supposed to go to Wincheap outside Sarah's house on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March around 5pm to monitor people cycling on the pavement. He didn't turn up. Four aggressive cyclists riding abreast nearly knocked Sarah down the other day and two again today. Pat will contact Daniel and arrange another time for him to come.

**Action: Pat**

iii. Jubilee Hall

Sarah hasn't been contacted by the Council. Perhaps we should accept the Council is going to close the Hall and ask for them to replace it by establishing a Wincheap Community Centre at the former Imperial pub on Martyrs' Field Rd (see item 4. below).

iv. HMOs and Article Four Direction

Deputy Chief Executive Velia Coffey put the idea of a new Student Impact Review to

the outgoing Council Executive. It would be carried out through the Student Community Working Group, which she heads. Step one after the new administration has been formed will be to bring a report to the Community Working Group, probably in the July cycle, to formally kick off the review process.

iv. Beech Tree in leaf

Good news – the tree seems to be thriving.

v. York Road and Martyrs Field Road

John has lodged a complaint about the end of York Rd and the kerb on Martyrs' Field Rd but hasn't written to Martin Vye yet.

**Action: John**

vi. Affiliation subscriptions paid

John has paid the subscriptions owed and will get reimbursed by Eddie.

**Action: John/Eddie**

vii. Date of next meeting altered

The meeting was changed to 21st May from 14th.

4. Future of the Imperial Hotel

The owner of the former Imperial Hotel at 48, Martyrs' Field Rd was refused planning permission on 11<sup>th</sup> March to convert the ground floor into two flats and erect a two-storey side extension (Application No: CA/14/02703/FUL). The main reason given for refusal was that the proposal would result in the loss of a community facility.

Barney Parsons of 46, Martyrs' Field Rd has suggested to us that the ground floor would provide a good space for a Wincheap Community Centre, which could be a meeting place for older people, a space for performing arts groups to meet, a venue for hire, etc. Wincheap Society would be interested in holding Quiz Nights and meetings there.

Cllr Nick Eden-Green sent the following response to a letter to Barney about the idea of using the former Imperial Hotel as a community centre:

*It would be marvellous to be able to use it as a community centre. However, I think one has to be realistic about how hard this would be. Particularly when the owners have tried hard to keep it going as a local pub.*

*I am one of the trustees at the Thanington Resource Centre. Its continued existence is almost constantly under threat from lack of funds. The Jubilee Hall in Wincheap is all but closed as it is very difficult to find people or a community group which is prepared to take responsibility for it and to ensure the upkeep of the building is maintained. One of the major issues with the Imperial would be finding a capital*

*sum to buy it in the first place or finding a guaranteed rental stream to satisfy the owners.*

*I hate to throw up problems but I have to be realistic about money. The council is now under huge financial pressure as government grants have been slashed. Other grants for community groups are very difficult to come by as there is huge competition for dwindling resources.*

*I'd be happy to talk but I think that at an early stage there would need to be a business plan. This may sound out of keeping with ideas for a community centre but it is exactly what has had to be at the heart of recent new community centre initiatives like the Westgate Hall, Tower House and Whitstable Castle. It's also been the key to the success of Thanington Resource Centre.*

This correspondence took place in mid-March. In the meantime KCC has been looking for a space to provide nursery education for two-year-olds in the area. Perhaps this could be combined with the idea of a community centre on the ground floor of the former Imperial.

Pat has been advised to write to the Council's Community Development Team about possible sources of funding. She and John will compose a letter to them.

**Action: Pat/John**

5. WinSoc A.G.M. Membership Secretary?

John will ask Paul Bennett of Canterbury Archaeological Trust when he is free to speak to our AGM and then Joe will ask Mrs Andrews if we can have the Jubilee Hall on that day. We'll tell the papers and do some flyers to publicise the event.

We should find a Membership Secretary at the AGM to chase subs etc. We need to revive the website as well. We'll look for new blood on the committee.

**Action: John/Joe**

6. Autumn Quiz Night / Allotment Holders' Quiz Night

On balance we decided not to have another Quiz Night in the year.

The Allotment Holders are having a Quiz Night in June (the date is still provisional). We'll make up a team for it. John will send round information.

**Action: John**

7. Obituaries - Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Andy Fraser, rock musician and songwriter (*All Right Now*) and member of Free; Cynthia Lennon, first wife of John Lennon; Martin Goff, bookseller and steward of the Booker Prize; Sheila Kitzinger, natural birth guru and women's rights campaigner; Percy Sledge, soul singer (*When a Man Loves a Woman*); Keith Harris, ventriloquist (*Orville the duck*); Ben E. King, R&B and soul singer of The Drifters

(*Stand by Me*); Ruth Rendell, crime writer; Errol Brown, singer with Hot Chocolate; B. B. King, blues singer; Shaw Taylor, actor & television presenter (*Police 5*); Jackie Trent, singer & songwriter; James Best, actor (Rosco P. Coltrane in *Dukes of Hazzard*); Richie Benaud, cricketer and cricket commentator; Jack Ely, guitarist and singer with The Kingsmen (*Louie Louie*); Ronnie Carroll, singer (Eurovision); John Renbourn, guitarist, co-founder of Pentangle.

8. Any other business

i. Kent Federation of Amenity Societies A.G.M.

It's on Saturday - we have sent our apologies.

ii. Planning Applications

- The Maiden's Head planning application is being scrutinised by Canterbury Conservation Society so we will leave it to them to make their report.
- The Wincheap Butcher's application is for change of use to A3 (Italian restaurant). It was agreed it would be good to have a restaurant on Wincheap (open 12noon till 3pm and 6pm to 11.30pm or midnight for special occasions).

iii. Canterbury Society

AGM on 30th May with a walk round Canterbury first led by new President Ptolemy Dean. Members can book for this.

9. Date of next Meeting

Thursday, 18th June at 7.30pm at 94 Wincheap (thanks to Joe)