

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30pm on Thursday, 25th June, 2015 at 94 Wincheap (thanks to Joe)

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

1. Apologies for absence: Eddie Peake, James Wilford
2. Minutes of the last Meeting 21st May, 2015

The Minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising

- i. Wincheap Industrial Estate Camp

The site has now been vacated but will probably be used again when seasonal agricultural workers are out of work in late autumn. (The government no longer subsidises farmers to keep seasonal workers on their premises over the winter.) Canterbury has 38 homeless on the streets, the second highest number in England after Manchester, and many are out-of-work seasonal workers. Porchlight has had substantial cuts to their staff and cannot address the problem properly. Dave will raise the issue at CAMP.

Action: Dave

- ii. Cycling on Pavements

Pat wrote to PCSO Daniel Groom but has received no reply. The problem is getting worse; there is a group of four who cycle abreast down the pavement at high speed every day. Pat will write to the PCSOs again.

Action: Pat

- iii. Jubilee Hall / Imperial

Sarah still hasn't received any date for a meeting about Jubilee Hall.

There is a new planning application CA//15/01198 for 48 Martyrs Field Rd (former Imperial Hotel), validated 29th May. The consultation ends on 3rd July (next Friday). It will probably come up at the next planning committee meeting on Tuesday, 21st July. There is one comment so far from CAMRA saying it could still be a going concern as a pub and the current owners have kept it vacant, hoping it will become an eyesore and planning permission will be granted. John will send our comments.

The latest plans are not substantially different from the previously rejected plans. The main difference is that there is no passageway for the movement of rubbish bins

now and that purple sacks will need to be used for the entire building. Of course, parking will be a problem. The building with extension will still be out of character for a conservation area.

There is still access to all parts of the building from the main entrance. Barney Parsons (46 Martyrs Field Rd) believes that the property will become a large HMO with up to 10 bedrooms.

The current owner is trying to cover the alleged breach in the unauthorised conversion of a Public House for the top floor by submitting a planning application for another part of the building. The current developer needs to get permission for the top floor as well as the two ground floor “flats”.

The CAMRA objector has spotted that the owner stated to the council (reported in a letter to Barney Parsons) that the current owner wanted to continue using the building as a pub; now in the accompanying submission to the plans there is the damning revelation that the current owner never intended to have the building in use as a pub.

There is no back-up to the assertion that the premises could not be run as a going concern – no financial figures etc.

To use the objections to an application extension of opening hours (in 2009) as proof that the pub was a detriment to the neighbourhood is devious. Those people who made the objections would perhaps not appreciate them being used to make a completely different case several years later. Also, there could be data protection issues as all the letters and comments are given in facsimile with names and addresses clearly shown.

We could make the case that the Imperial could be used for other community use, with the downstairs being used as an extension to City View nursery, who have expanded into the scout hut; this could free things up for other evening uses such as reading groups, drama groups, art classes, dance classes, film screenings, etc.

Action: John

iv. York Road / Martyrs Field Road

Martin Vye has promised to look into these pending highway repairs when he gets back from holiday, as well as Hop Garden Way (we're still holding the money for the resurfacing in our bank account).

v. A.G.M.

John hasn't heard back from Paul Bennett yet. We'll postpone the A.G.M. until we have a distinguished speaker like Paul to increase attendance (September/October?).

vi. Quiz Nights

St Mildred's is tomorrow night at the Scout Hall – we won't have a team but will send our apologies and a donation. 10th July is the Allotment Holders' Quiz Night – we will have a team of 5.

vii. Canterbury Society Walk

Ptolemy Dean & Clive Bowley led the walk together and provided some new and fascinating views of Canterbury streets, drawing particular attention to street lines and the way the Cathedral appears and disappears as you walk up St Margaret's Street.

4. Canterbury District Local Plan

The Public Examination Hearings with the Inspector are starting on 14th July at the Franciscan Study Centre. ACRA representatives will be presenting their views on our behalf.

5. Thanington Park

Pat went to the exhibition and showed the plans to the meeting. We were impressed by the provision of free bus passes for residents for a year on the Park & Ride and the plans for a new primary school and hospice. However, there were absolutely no commitments about the amount of affordable housing to be provided. Furthermore, a new development on Cockerling Rd can only exacerbate the traffic problem in getting out onto Wincheap from the Thanington estate and the congestion along the A28, especially at the bottleneck at the Wincheap roundabout. We decided not to fill in the Pentland Homes questionnaire as the questions are very general and not specific to the plans.

6. Obituaries - Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Lynn Ripley, aka Twinkle, Sixties singer-songwriter (*Terry and Golden Lights*); Terry Sue-Patt, British actor, Benny Green in BBC series *Grange Hill*; John Nash, American mathematician, the inspiration for the film *A Beautiful Mind*; Johnny Keating, trombonist / arranger (*Z Cars* theme tune); Charles Kennedy, former LibDem leader; Marguerite Patten, food writer; James Last, German composer and big band leader; Christopher Lee, English actor (Count Dracula and Saruman in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy); Ron Moody, British actor (Fagin in *Oliver!*); Ornette Coleman, jazz saxophonist, one of the major innovators of the free jazz movement; John Busby, wildlife artist; Horst Brandstätter, Playmobil inventor; Jack King, NASA PR chief, voice of launch control for Apollo 11 moon landing; Sir Chris Woodhead, HM Chief Inspector of Schools in England 1994-2000; James Horner, American composer of film scores (*Titanic*, *Avatar*, *Braveheart*); Pat Morley, senior nurse at K & C Hospital; Patrick Macnee, English-American actor (John Steed in TV series *The Avengers*).

7. Any other business

i. Housing Needs Review Document

The updated version has been added to the CCC documents library.

ii. New look for city subways - Wincheap is not included at present but we will ask for a commitment for the future. KCC has published new designs for St George's St and Riding Gate subways. Some thought it was a pity the Canterbury history mural was to be replaced. John will write to KCC with our views.

Action: John

iii. The former Roger Britton site was up for auction again and sold for £395,000. John will ask the auctioneers to forward a letter on to the new owner about their intentions for development.

Action: John

iv. Dave said that when he was campaigning in the local elections some residents on Martyrs Field Road asked him why there was no residents' parking permit system on their street. He will ask the Council whether a resident will have to get up a petition again (as happened a few years ago but failed to get the required number of signatures) or what action should be taken.

Action: Dave

v. John reminded the committee about the public meeting on Thanington Park to be held on Thursday evening, 2nd July, at 7pm in the Thanington Resource Centre. Pentland Homes will not be present; this is an opportunity for residents to discuss their views on the development.

8. Date of next Meeting

Thursday, 27th August at 7.30pm at 53 Wincheap (thanks to John)