

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30 pm on Monday, 2nd October, 2017 at 46 Martyrs Field Road (Thanks to Barney)

Present: John Osborne (Chairman), Barney Parsons, Gillian Bull, Ed Craven, Nick Eden-Green, Pat Marsh

1. Apologies for absence: Eddie Peake
2. The minutes of the last meeting 4th September, 2017

The minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising
 - i. Playground

Ed had written to the Council's Rebecca Booth about matters outstanding from the refurbishment and received the following reply:

Path

The main central pathway and entrance area will be resurfaced in the next few weeks. Rebecca is awaiting a quotation having met the contractor there last week. If the quote is accepted, then the work will be scheduled in for as soon as the contractor can accommodate it. At the same time a physical chicane will be added to provide security from children running out of the gate.

The front area

It is our intention to plant more trees in the front part of the site and this will be done over the winter period. Please note that the two lime trees on the border with the motor garage have been recently inspected and unfortunately have to be removed as they are pushing the wall over and damaging neighbouring property. These will be replaced as it is a Conservation Area, but not in the same place. The choice and location of the trees is for the Council's Tree Officer to determine.

Entrance in Cogan's Terrace

A dedicated consultation will need to be undertaken by CCC on the proposal. As part of this they will get an approximate costing for the proposal. Following costing and consultation, they will look at the responses and decide if there is any scope to progress it. Rebecca reiterated that there is no identified budget for this proposal. Due to staff

resources and their identified service priorities in Environment, that piece of work will most likely take place in the New Year.

Wellingtonia

The remaining chunks of the Wellingtonia will not be left for children to play on. They are to be removed from site and will be used in the Council's Woodmiser project to make furniture. There is only the large trunk section left and this is to be cut into roundels by the tree surgeon on site very soon. However, Rebecca agreed that the Council could make a bench out of some the wood and then place it in the play area, providing a nice and fitting link to the lost tree.

The stump of the Wellingtonia will remain and will be smoothed off and slightly domed so that water runs off it. It is a very nice educational feature for children to be able to count the rings.

Replacing the tree with one which in time would be as majestic as the Wellingtonia needs to be carefully considered due to the emphasis of the open space now being a children's play area and the locations of the new play equipment, required clearance zones for the equipment and the impact of tree canopies, etc. However, no decision on this has been made.

Hedging to protect children from air pollution on Wincheap

Rebecca commented that the new tree planting to the front of the site is for two reasons: to help off-set the effects of pollution in an air quality monitoring zone, and to improve and create a more pleasing aspect to the entrance of the play area. She did not feel that a hedge is appropriate for the front of the site. Any hedge would have to be maintained at a manageable height of six feet and this would mean the value of the foliage in terms of absorbing pollution would be restricted. A number of trees planted would be more beneficial in absorbing larger amounts of pollution over the longer term. Additionally, hedges and iron railings do not make happy partners. Hedges which eventually grow into railings result in the maintenance of the railings, cleaning and painting being severely hampered. Therefore for these reasons, our preference is to plant trees and this is the Council's intention.

Birch Road play area, Homersham development

The play area at Birch Road is one that was put in by the developer of the housing estate and was part of a Section 106 agreement. It was what was required under this agreement in relation to the number of built units. After completion of the housing development, the open space which includes the play area, amenity and orchard area was legally transferred to the Council's ownership and management and is part of their

portfolio of play areas. Therefore it is incorporated into our Open Space Strategy - Play Priority List.

Future improvements and upgrades to the Council's portfolio of existing play areas is managed through the Play Priority List. The Play Priority List includes a process whereby all play areas are assessed according to a number of criteria and Play England Guidelines, and the result is a list of play areas in order of priority for improvement; this determines how the Council allocates their play funding and which play areas are selected (in order) for upgrade. Wincheap play area was top of the priority list. The next play priorities on the list have already been allocated funds (we get play area funding every other year), which takes us up to 2019/20. The play area at Birch Road will probably come up for upgrade after 2020.

Gillian raised the problem of Serco having forced a new entrance to the park. This apparent unauthorised access runs the risks of flytipping in the park and also the entry of travellers' caravans. Gillian will pass on the details to Ed, who will follow this up with Rebecca.

Action: Gillian, Ed

ii. Slip Road etc. Plus Policy and Resources Council Meeting

The Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Wednesday will consider the recommendation to gift the land for the slip road to Highways England and KCC. The plans presented to them for the slip road remain the same as the original 2009 ones, which we were assured were merely indicative. This has turned out to be disingenuous. We hope we can rely on Highways England to point out the flaws in the design. They have already said that KCC and CCC must do a safety audit, but this could happen after they have been gifted the land. KCC has long been determined to have the slip road. Hopefully, Highways England will note the impossibility of large lorries being able to get round the hairpin bends in the plans.

Barney will register to speak for WinSoc at the meeting, supporting Nick in saying that gifting the land is premature. Plans for the slip road first need to be approved by Highways England (unlikely in their present form) and plans for changes to the whole transport network in the Wincheap/Thanington area also need to be made before it would be appropriate to gift the land.

Action: Barney

iii. A.G.M. Balance Sheet (see Annexe 1)

We made £113.00 from subscriptions and the raffle and had no expenditure.

iv. Planning Application CA//17/01263 – 190 Wincheap

Amended plans have been submitted but John has not seen what the differences are with the original plans. If he finds anything major, he will submit comments.

Action: John

v. New Street problems

Double yellow lines have been painted along one side and now the refuse collection vehicles can get down the street.

vi. Hop Garden Way resurfacing

John phoned KCC and they gave him a case reference. He will contact Cllr Ida Linfield to follow it up.

Action: John

vii. Litter Roundtable 26th September, 2017

Pat reported back on this meeting.

Communication strategy

The Council will be displaying posters about fly tipping, litter and dog waste, together with the corresponding fines, in typical grot-spots. Other types of poster, especially humorous ones, will also be tried.

Enforcement

The £13 fee charged by the Council for collecting each item not suitable for bins, such as sofas, mattresses and electrical goods, was considered too high by attendees. It was thought to be the reason why fly-tipping has substantially increased in the District. £5 was mooted as a more realistic fee.

There are more enforcement officers now on our streets to fine people for littering but the point was made that businesses, such as the fast-food outlets, should be responsible for clearing up litter from their packaging. The Council is considering a variety of approaches, looking at best practice throughout the country.

Cooperation with Network Rail

Cleaning off graffiti on railway bridges is not the Council's responsibility. Cathy Sales of St Augustine's Rd RA has been instrumental in getting Network Rail to issue licences for RAs to undertake this cleaning and work has been done on various bridges. It will also take place on the St Dunstan's subway, where a mural will be painted. The Lansdown Rd footbridge has also been refurbished and there is also a competition for a mural there.

Cathy has given Pat the email of Eddie Burton of Network Rail to get a licence for cleaning graffiti off Wincheap railway bridge and Pat has written to him. We also have details of the kit required for cleaning graffiti off brickwork and where to source it (a special spray is required for brickwork). A sealant can also be applied to discourage further graffiti.

Graffiti-removal training

Cllr Terry Westgate will be arranging this training. He has given six graffiti safe wipes to WinSoc for our use. Graffiti Removal Ltd sells kits for £39 but these do not include the spray for brickwork. They do include rubber gloves and goggles required, however.

HMOs

We need a contact list for all owners, landlords and letting agents of HMOs (including student houses). When refuse collection bins are incorrectly sorted, or refuse is wrongly put out in black sacks and not collected, the uncollected refuse quickly becomes a major litter problem and a health hazard. Those responsible for HMOs need to be held to account when such issues are reported, and that requires a reliable contact list. It was also agreed at the meeting that it would be useful for the Council's Communications Team to put together a leaflet about the legal responsibilities of HMO owners.

It would help in tackling these problems if purple refuse sacks were more easily available to students. HMO landlords and the universities could all do more to help with this, and should be required to do so.

The end-of-year amnesty for refuse collection from student houses did not work well this year, particularly because of a lack of clarity about which streets were included and what the dates of the amnesty period were. Again, this resulted in large quantities of refuse being left uncollected. The arrangements for this year need to be reviewed, assessed, and improved for next year.

Furthermore, there is a need for a comprehensive official scheme to facilitate the recycling of items which students leave behind when they vacate their accommodation. Such schemes exist in some other university cities (Sheffield and Nottingham were mentioned), and Kathryn Hearnden agreed to research these for the Council.

viii. St Mary Bredin School Building

John went to the exhibition of plans. It seems it is assumed the building will be knocked down as it is in a bad state of repair. Design objections have been made and objections to the levelling of the Pin Hill mound. Palamon Court next door has only filled half their rooms and there are about a thousand empty student rooms in the city. It therefore

seems surplus to requirements to build nine student rooms with one kitchen as is planned. Such a building would be difficult to let to anyone other than students. John will offer our support to OHSCA and Canterbury Heritage Design Forum on this.

Action: John

4. Street Marshals

Longleys Taxis have set up a “safe taxi” scheme for UoK students. If they are stranded without cash or cards they can get a lift home and then receive an email on how to pay. CCCU is in discussion about a similar scheme for their students.

A landlords’ association talked about contributing to the street marshals scheme but most of the members are now getting cold feet. The steering committee will be writing to our KCC councillors about contributing to the scheme from their allowances.

5. A.C.R.A. Meeting – Address by Rosie Duffield, M.P

Pat reported back on this meeting.

Kent & Canterbury Hospital

Rosie is having meetings on the K & C. The hospital management are still saying they can’t recruit staff and the nurses have been told they are being relocated for at least a year. The medical school idea is still in play. She isn’t sure the proposal from a developer to build a hospital shell is a good idea.

On 29th September Rosie was having a meeting with other Kent MPs. She said there is almost a competition among them about where the super hospital will be. Kent is proposing to take £160m from the acute hospital budget and there is a slow privatisation of services.

Air pollution in Canterbury

Perhaps it should be made a crime to allow excess degrees of air pollution – this would be a dream come true but is unlikely. Rosie is a member of the Parliament environmental group and is much concerned with green issues.

Housing

Housing problems are mainly due to the demand for second homes and people buying homes for investment. Rosie suggested going for 100% tax on second homes and also building social housing. CCC should create a housing company as Croydon has.

Policing

Low-level crime is no longer reported and the police don’t respond even to 999 calls. As

a result crimes are getting more serious. The police themselves are desperate. 20,000 have been cut. We should finance recruitment from rebanding households for council tax. The police also have significant reserves and should use them now. Crimes are also not reported because of a lack of organization within the police force. Only 6 are on duty in Canterbury District at night.

General

The best way to get change from the Council is to set up groups to lobby them on particular issues, not as political parties.

6. Obituaries - Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Andrew Lyle, ex-Canterbury Cathedral chorister, Radio 3 presenter; **Don Williams**, American country singer; **Sir Peter Hall**, eminent English theatre, opera and film director, whose obituary in The Times declared him "the most important figure in British theatre for half a century"; **Teddy Taylor**, Conservative MP, arch Eurosceptic; **William G. Stewart**, English TV presenter (Channel 4's *Fifteen to One*); **Liliane Bettencourt**, L'Oréal heiress, richest woman in the world; **David Shepherd**, British artist (especially of wildlife and steam trains) and one of the world's most outspoken conservationists; **Edward Du Cann**, British Conservative politician and businessman; **Tony Booth**, English actor (*Till Death Us Do Part*) and father of Cherie Blair; **Liz Dawn**, *Coronation Street* actress (Vera Duckworth); **Hugh Hefner**, American businessman, founder of Playboy magazine; **Tom Petty**, American rock musician (Traveling Wilburys).

7. Any other business

- i. There will be more archive film screenings, not shown for 60 years or more, in the Powell Building at Christ Church University, on Saturday 3rd March and 23rd April, both at 2pm. Details to follow.
- ii. The Council is proposing a residents' parking scheme in some streets in the Wincheap area and asking residents to fill in an online survey. We will write to Richard Jenkins supporting it. Barney will write a draft for John's approval.
Action: Barney, John
- iii. CCCU is interviewing students to be community champions; they will be inviting Pat to attend the interviews and take part in the selection process. These champions will act as a bridge between residents and students when there are issues such as bins left on the street after emptying, overflowing bins, noise disturbance, etc.

8. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 13th November at 7.30pm at 18 Martyrs Field Rd (thanks to Pat)

Annexe 1

The Wincheap Society

Annual General Meeting

Balance Sheet

Income

Subscriptions	£90.00
Raffle	£23.00
Total	£113.00

Expenditure

No expenditure (see notes below)

Surplus income over expenditure **£113.00**

Paid into Lloyds Bank	£110.00	
Added to Cash in Hand	£3.00	£113.00

Notes:

- i. Food, drink and raffle prizes were all kindly donated by committee members, for which many thanks.
- ii. The hire of Jubille Hall was sponsored by an anonymous donor, for which, again, many thanks.