

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of The Wincheap Society at 7.30 pm on Monday, 21st October 2019 at 53 Wincheap (thanks to John)

Present: John Osborne (Chairman), Cllr Derek Maslin, Pat Marsh, Gillian Bull, Cllr Nick Eden-Green, Barney Parsons

1. Apologies for absence: Ed Craven
2. Minutes of the last meeting 23rd September, 2019

The minutes were signed as a correct account.

3. Matters Arising

- i. Bus Stop

The Tripartite Meeting will not now take place until the end of the month.

- ii. Website

No news as yet.

- iii. Adopt-a-phone-box

The phone box at the bottom of Wincheap is in fact fully listed. John will contact the Council and try to get it restored. We could then apply to adopt it after restoration.

Action: John

- iv. Quiz Night

We had to cancel the Quiz Night as we still had only one team by Friday 11th October, the day before it was to take place. Many members who regularly field teams for our quiz nights were otherwise engaged or didn't want to come out on dark nights. We'll try organising one again in the summer when the evenings are light.

Caroline Galbraith, the Scout Hut manager, kindly allowed us to cancel without having to pay the hire fee for the Hall.

- v. Former St Mary Bredin Church Planning Appeal

A new date was set for the Appeal and then cancelled again. It will probably be rescheduled for 10th/11th December.

- vi. Park and Ride Extension Planning Application (See item 5.)

- vii. Christmas Window Display (See item 4.)

- viii. Castle Street Bollards

The bollards have been put back.

ix. New Committee Members

Barney has met two people who may be persuaded to join us.

4. Christmas Window Display Competition

John has done the same posters and A5 fliers as last year. We'll distribute them to businesses on Wincheap in late November. The committee will judge entries on Friday 20th December. There will be a trophy for the winners and a box of shortbread for the runners-up. Barney has been in touch with the firm which made the trophy last year and they have agreed to make the same trophy at the same cost of £30.

5. Park and Ride Extension Planning Application

Pat reported back on the tumultuous meetings of the Planning Committee on 15th October and the Full Council two days later, dealing with the Wincheap P&R Extension, both attended by large numbers of the public.

She had made a presentation to the Planning Committee on behalf of WinSoc, focussing on the two key planning issues around this application which mean it should not be approved: highway safety issues of the approved plans for the coastbound A2 offslip, cutting across the P&R site; and the loss of important trees. There were four other public speakers, all opposing approval, and a presentation from Derek as ward councillor, also opposing.

The Planning Committee approved the application by 7 votes to 6 on Tuesday night despite all the evidence from speakers and councillors that it was in direct contravention of several of their policies.

The Policy & Resources Committee on 9th October had referred discussion of the Extension to Full Council for final approval, so it was on the agenda for Thursday evening's Council Meeting. Nick had prepared a series of points of order before the item was discussed and, after a 20-minute adjournment for officers to consider the points, the item was deferred to another Council meeting.

This now gives us time to think how best to address the Council before their next meeting. Pat presented a suggested letter to Colin Carmichael, focussing on Nick's point of order about the absence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the application in spite of the Council's declaration of a climate emergency now requiring every report to Council to include one. It was agreed to send the letter with a few cuts and to copy it to the Kentish Gazette.

Action: Pat

6. Obituaries – Deaths Recorded Since Our Last Meeting

Peter Nichols, English playwright (*A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *Privates on*

Parade); **Peter Lindbergh**, German fashion photographer and film director; **Terrance Dicks**, English TV screenwriter (*Dr Who*); **Sir Michael Edwardes**, British-South African business executive, former Chairman of British Leyland; **“Ginger” Baker**, English drummer and co-founder of the rock band Cream; **Peter Sissons**, English journalist and broadcaster, newsreader for ITN and BBC; **Jacques Chirac**, former French President; **Juliette Kaplan**, British actress (Pearl in *Last of the Summer Wine*); **Leah Bracknell**, English actress (Zoe Tate in *Emmerdale*); **Deborah Orr**, Scottish journalist for The Guardian and The Independent.

7. Any other business

- i. Nick and Derek talked about the inappropriate lighting of Club Chemistry at night; it is very bright and garish, merging from one colour to another. The Council has a lighting guide and doesn't allow certain lighting schemes. They wonder if it has planning consent. John and Barney will have a look at the lighting and report back at the next meeting.

Action: John and Barney

- ii. Nick and Derek have received a communique from Connect 2, a charity in London which works with Brewers, offering free paint for community projects to improve the urban environment. We will think about a possible project in our ward.
- iii. Barney brought up the lighting in the Martyrs Field area and on Castle St. eg the street lights in York Rd don't come on until 9pm. He wrote to the Council and was informed that they were having communication problems, a widespread problem in East Kent. They have started working on it and it should soon be resolved.

The question of lighting on the unadopted road leading to the Scout Hall from Heaton Rd was raised. As it also functions as a polling station, it should have lighting. Derek will be writing to the Council on this.

Action: Derek

- iv. Neither John nor Pat is receiving the Council's weekly list of planning applications. Apparently, action was required from them at the end of July to stay on the list but neither of them was aware of this.

Action: John

- v. There will be a heritage walk of St Dunstan's on Sunday, 3rd November, 10.30am-12pm led by Clive Bowley. Tickets at £12.50 need to be booked in advance and places are limited.

8. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 25th November 2019 at 7.30pm at 53 Wincheap