

The Wincheap Society

Minutes of The Wincheap Society Annual General Meeting **at 7.30 pm on Friday, 14th July, 2017, at Jubilee Hall, Cow Lane**

1. Apologies for absence: Michael Rundell, Maggie Hendry, Cllr Charlotte MacCaul, Cllr Ida Linfield, Eddie Peake, Hilary Osborne, Cllr Nick Eden-Green
2. Welcome and Chairman's Report

John welcomed members and said it didn't seem possible that yet another year had passed and we were in the Jubilee Hall again for another AGM.

He reported that our small but dedicated Committee had again worked very hard monitoring planning applications, highway proposals, etc. John drew attention to the fact that one of our founder members and a stalwart of The Wincheap Society was missing that evening. Sadly, Ena Blake died at the end of last year. She is greatly missed by all of those who knew her. On the other hand, we welcomed Ed Craven, Barney Parsons and Glenda Shephard, who have been co-opted to the Committee during the year.

As members can see from the Financial Statement, we are still holding on trust four thousand five hundred pounds for the resurfacing of Hop Garden Way. Martin Vye, who arranged this, has retired as our county councillor and, despite contacting Chris Maw, the person responsible at KCC, we have heard nothing. We are still pursuing this, but may redirect the funds if nothing happens.

The Wincheap Society has been very involved with the Student Impact Review, renamed The Higher Education / Further Education Impact Review. Pat has done a great deal of work on our behalf. She now represents us on the HE/FE Community Working Group set up by the Council to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Review. There is now greater co-operation between the Universities and Residents' Associations with contact being much easier. The Street Marshals and Student Champions schemes seem to be working well and reducing the disturbance and friction that some students cause. The latter scheme is not yet fully implemented in Wincheap. There is far more to this than I can say in this brief address, so if you want to know more, have a chat to Pat.

The Wincheap Society has been involved from the start of the consultation over the refurbishment of the Wincheap Playground. Ed has been our go-between with the Council over this. A representative of the Council told us that the public consultation

held in the Jubilee Hall on 26th March this year was the best event of its kind they had ever organised, with fifty-seven people responding to the questionnaire. Refurbishment is now underway, but the issues of an entrance from Cogans Terrace and toilet facilities remain unresolved. Again, if you require any further information, speak to Ed. The official re-opening is next Wednesday, 26th July, at 9.30 am.

We responded to the consultation on the merger of East Kent District Councils. There were pros and cons to the proposals, but when Ashford Council withdrew from the scheme and then Shepway later voted against, it was no longer viable and was dropped.

We entered a team in the Wincheap and District Allotment Association Quiz Night. This time we came third – one up from last year. We held our own Quiz Night on 30th September, 2016, which made a profit of ninety three pounds after expenses. A splendid time was had by all who attended.

The Local Plan has now been signed off by the Inspector with some amendments. Our representations on this were mainly through The Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations (ACRA), as they had members far more qualified than us to make objections. However, we did stress the need to sort out the transport infrastructure before any of the development takes place. Unfortunately, this seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

With regard to the various developments in the area, there is much concern over the Pentland Homes plans. They are building on the land off Hollow Lane behind Wincheap School. The plans which were originally submitted were not too bad. Consultation on a revised plan showed a lack of wildlife protection and hedging. The right of way over the site had been ignored and was blocked. It has recently been cleared, by whom it is not certain. The style of houses was changed and there was a lack of visitor parking spaces and a cycle path. We must keep an eye on the Thanington Park development as it is being done by the same developer and may thus be totally altered from the original plans – no hospice, no affordable housing, no school or community centre.

Throughout the year we have had ongoing meetings with Quinn Estates, who are doing the extra development of four hundred and fifty homes in Thanington. They seem to be very keen to engage with the community over this. Our, and other residents' groups, are mainly concerned over the traffic that will be generated by this and other developments. While Quinn have come up with various proposals, KCC and CCC are not interested in listening. In fact, CCC has been conspicuous by their absence. Gillian has been attending these meetings. There is, again, much more involved than I can mention here, so for more information speak to Gillian. She is also spearheading our campaign regarding the poor design of the fourth slip road, a plan for which appeared on the KCC website and which we were alerted to by Cllr Nick Eden-Green. Gillian unpicked the design and sent detailed questions to KCC, who denied any knowledge of it! When it was pointed out

exactly where the plan could be viewed on their website, KCC apologised and explained that it was actually a CCC plan. CCC eventually came back to us to say that the drawing on the website was one resulting from a commission to a consultant back in 2009, long before the Thanington developments were dreamt of. The details of how KCC's left-hand didn't seem to know what the right-hand was doing are on our website.

Gillian has also put together a report regarding access to the city for bicycles, mobility scooters, wheelchairs, etc., entitled "Non-motorised Wheeled Access to Canterbury City from A28 / Wincheap Corridor". This highlights the difficulties of getting to the city centre from Thanington and Wincheap, as well as the proposed developments, by bike etc. This can be viewed on the website.

The Society is participating in the Council-led "Litter Roundtable". This group consists of most residents' associations with Council representatives and others. It is making progress in attempting to deal with the city's litter problems. Many litter bins now have lids to prevent the seagulls pulling out food remains. The group encourages groups to arrange litter picks in local "grot spots". We had a litter pick in our area on 21st January, organised by Cllr Nick Eden-Green. Over forty sacks of rubbish were collected. Station Road East looked wonderful for a couple of weeks but, unfortunately, it is reverting very quickly to its former state.

The new owners of the former Lotus House Chinese Take Away applied for a licence covering opening hours from 10 am to 6 am. The Wincheap Society and other residents objected to this. The application was withdrawn but resubmitted with slightly different hours. We objected again and the application was declined.

The former Roger Britton Carpets site (190 Wincheap) is still a problem. Demolition started and was then stopped as some of the conditions of the planning permission had not been met. An application to vary these was submitted and granted, but still nothing happened. Apparently, the site was sold again last year and a new application has now been submitted, this time for student accommodation. After much discussion, the Committee decided not to object to the actual plan for student accommodation but to make comment on aspects of the design. For example, the proposed dormer windows are very "chunky" in comparison to ones on nearby properties. There is a roller shutter closing off the bin store which dominates the visible wall when travelling towards Ashford – not a good street scene. There do not appear to be any recycling bins. This site has been an eyesore for so long we think that it will be good to get something there, but we do want it to be a fitting design.

Another recent application has been lodged, this time for a variation of Condition 06 granted to The Printing House on Simmonds Road (now Play Islands). The present closing time is 8 pm and the application is requesting opening to 10.30 pm on Sunday, 11 pm on Monday to Wednesday and 11.30 pm on Thursday to Saturday. Although this

is for “opening”, it is to be assumed that a request for a Drinks Licence over the same hours will follow. We are looking into this further and have until next Friday to submit our representation.

John concluded by saying that we are working very hard to try to make a difference to the neighbourhood, although not always succeeding.

3. Financial Statement

1st June, 2017 to 31st May, 2017

01/06/16 Opening Balance, being made up of:-

Cash in Hand	46.71	
Balance at Bank	60.29	
Held in Trust (at Bank) *	<u>4500.00</u>	
	<u>4607.00</u>	4607.00

INCOME:-

24/06/16	Subscriptions at A.G.M.	102.00	
30/09/16	Quiz Night Surplus	<u>93.00</u>	
		<u>195.00</u>	195.00

EXPENDITURE:-

24/06/16	A.G.M. Expenses:		
	Hire of Hall	20.00	
	Refreshments	<u>25.59</u>	
		<u>45.59</u>	
20/03/17	ID Consultants Website Domain		
	Hosting Fee	25.00	
20/03/17	A.C.R.A. Subscription	20.00	
15/05/17	K.F.A.S. Subscription	25.00	
15/05/17	Canterbury Society Subscription	<u>20.00</u>	
		<u>90.00</u>	
		<u>135.59</u>	<u>135.59</u>
31/05/17	Surplus Income over Expenditure		<u>4666.41</u>

Represented by :-	Balance at Bank	4610.29
	Cash in Hand	56.12

*Surplus includes £4500 held in trust for resurfacing Hop Garden Way.

4. Proposed changes to the Constitution (in **bold**):
 2. The area covered by the Society is **the main Wincheap Road and its environs**. (*The existing Constitution has particular streets specified.*)
 5. The membership subscription shall be £5.00 (full rate) or **£3.50 (£2.00)** (concessions) per year. The membership year runs from 1st June to 31st May.
 6. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each **June/July** (*spring*), at which the following office holders shall be elected:
 - a) Chair
 - b) Vice-Chair
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) **Minute and/or Membership Secretary** (*Secretary and Membership Secretary*)
 - e) Up to eight committee members
 7. A quorum shall be **four** (*five*) committee members including the Chair (or, if absent, the Vice-Chair), who shall have the casting vote in the event of a deadlock on any decision.
 9. The committee shall act in the interests of the Society as necessary and shall be instructed on general policy by **the membership** (*by members at ordinary meetings*).

All proposed changes were accepted and have been made to the Constitution published on the website.

5. Election of Committee

All committee members were re-elected unanimously by a show of hands.

Chairman: John Osborne

Treasurer: Eddie Peake

Minutes/Membership Secretary: Pat Marsh

Committee members: Joe Passey, Gillian Bull, Ed Craven, Barney Parsons, Debra Johnson, Glenda Shephard

6. Any Other Business

- i. The Wincheap Playground will be officially re-opened by the Mayor on Wednesday 26th July at 9.30am. All are welcome.
 - ii. There was a question about the future of the Jubilee Hall. It is still being hired out for events and regular clubs, although last year we were informed it would be closed imminently. Alternatives are the Scout Hut on Heaton Rd, and in Thanington the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre, St Faith's Hall on New House Lane and the Ashford Rd Community Centre.
 - iii. The website www.winsoc.org.uk has now been updated and graphics etc. which cannot be uploaded to the site are available on a blog set up by Gillian: <https://wincheapcampaigns.wordpress.com>. Members are invited to visit the website and send in any contributions for it to Pat (email: patmarshis@gmail.com).
 - iv. There will be a tea party at Canon Appleton Court tomorrow from 1pm to 4pm. £3 entrance fee and bring a bottle.
 - v. The issue was raised about developers seeming to have the freedom to vary the conditions of their planning permission. John replied that permission is often outline and the details are frequently not adhered to, with the excuse of lack of funds.
7. Talk by Guest Speaker, David Sharma, on Howfield Manor and its fascinating history
8. The meeting closed at 9pm.