



## Wirksworth Civic Society

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008

#### *Draft minutes*

#### **Present**

#### **Officers**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Colin Pidgeon   | Chair               |
| Janet Pidgeon   | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Graham Barfield | Events Secretary    |
| Paul Clarke     | Webmaster           |

#### **Committee**

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Ian Dare       | Chair Townscape Working Party    |
| Mike Ratcliffe | Representing the Town Council    |
| Marian Vaughan | Representing the Heritage Centre |

26 members

#### **Apologies**

Anna Williams, Celia Clout, Kenneth Gregory

#### **Minutes of previous AGM**

Approved

#### **Matters arising**

No matters arising

#### **Chair's report**

##### *Key points:*

- thanks to all committee for their work; special thanks to Secretary/Treasurer
- Committee has tried to deal with issues have been identified for action but has not always met with cooperation
- Townscape Working Party particularly focussed on issues & Ian Dare, Chair, deals with them
- we set up Church Walk Group with focus on NOW's identification of area as neglected jewel in centre of town; group has representatives of DCC, DDDC, Town Council, church NOW & CS; an Action Plan is evolving for improving & beautifying area; we are grateful to Irene Ratcliffe for her support in trying to identifying funding for lighting & CCTV because of vandalism; we hope DDDC will offer positive suggestions for surfacing, that a solution can be found for unsightly rubbish containers and that the railings can be restored but there are issues around responsibility
- new Town Map has been a focus; it illustrates various buildings and places in and around the town with Tony Holmes's excellent photos; a copy will be delivered to every household; we hope the Town trail will be revised

- An interesting range of events is planned for next year

### **Treasurer's report**

#### *Key points:*

- balance sheet presented and explained, distinguishing between CS income & expenditure & funding for Town Map; some speakers did not charge; CS has small surplus this year
- Charity Commission accepted change in Financial year, including not filing a return for 2006 as year ran from Jan 2006-March 2007; return for 2007 filed on-line with Charity Commission
- Treasurer authorised to seek interest-bearing account for Sculpture Account  
Proposer: Peter Gratton      Seconder: Marian Vaughan  
Agreed unanimously
- Subscription will remain at £8 for the next season  
Proposer: Graham Barfield      Seconder: Gerry Vaughan
- George Hornby thanked for checking accounts

### **Townscape Working Party report**

#### *Key points:*

- busy year –full team available to monitor & audit fabric of Town,
- buildings at risk -good working relationship established with Conservation Officer undertaken 'walk-round of buildings at risk & those causing concern, including Dale House; Paul Clarke produced excellent report on Old Coach House; he intends to extend this survey to other buildings as part of his studies, producing written & photographic records
- roads & pavements – historic surfaces are monitored & we liaise with appropriate officers; there are sometimes difficulties over establishing where responsibility lies; communications are often one way but we endeavour to get repairs done; it is easy to destroy historic surfaces eg by utility companies but statutory bodies have been notified about such surfaces; members are asked to let us know about areas causing concern
- survey of superfluous signing undertaken & list produced with officer of DDDC
- street cleaning – we have established good communication with relevant officer & have obtained the zoning map & new cleaning schedule; we have had success in getting changes made
- litter- is an on-going concern & some progress has been made in communication with relevant organisations & bodies
- bin bags – we are auditing & surveying the putting out of bin bags too early, potential mess from damage to bags & general unsightliness; some slipping back again, possibly due to number of holiday cottages & rented accommodation, particularly in The Dale, Greenhill & St Mary's Gate; not an easy problem to solve
- thanks to the secretary for hosting meetings, & producing notes & letters
- footnote from Chair – recent repainting of white lines in town resulted for meeting with officer; other bodies have picked up on the litter issue & the school seems to be coming on board  
*Chair thanked Chair of TWP for his diligence*
- Marian Vaughan, Heritage Centre representative, informed members of Anniversary of Wirksworth Project celebrations; a grant has been obtained to put on an exhibition of 'before & after' the project and current photos at the Carnival weekend in the Parish Rooms; CS is to have a display & copies of the Town Map there

## **Events Secretary**

- Paul Clarke is helping to put 2008/09 programme together & slots are provisionally pencilled in; it is more slanted towards civic interest, following suggestions made by a member
- Remaining meetings this season are visits:  
May 15th –Melbourne ( those not participating may wish to take advantage of open evening at Peak District Mining Museum)  
June 11th - Lincoln – places available  
July 17th – guided visit to Peak District Mining Museum

*Chair expressed appreciation for all Events Secretary has done*

## **Webmaster's report**

### *Key points:*

- took over from Andy Link earlier this year; set up more links with local groups & introduced synopses of events
- plans to revamp website over summer
- number of visits to monitored – 7,312 visits over 21/2 years; 2007 - 4095 visits; Jan 08 to date, 1661 visits, including 501 in March

*Chair said Paul has made his presence felt!*

## **Representative of Town Council**

### *Key points:*

- principal role is to liaise with Town Council & DDDC to monitor planning applications, particularly in Conservation Area where there are constraints & where setting & scale may have impact on town eg. Boulderflats Mine where planning permission is being sought for 35 lodged & has gone to appeal
- in town, we are closely watching the proposed building of 14 houses on Kingsfield pub site & car park
- we have responsibility in regard of Miners' Standard at Bolehill where permission to build was denied as it would have interfered with water courses; Miners' Standard is now Grade 2 listed
- general issues include number of applications beginning to arise where reducing carbon emissions & energy; are included, eg solar panels, but this conflicts with planning laws in conservation areas; technology needs to find a solution; roof lights are also contentious (point of information –English Heritage issues guidelines)
- Town Council is anxious to move forward with enhancing CCTV because of vandalism; there is a new camera in churchyard covering church & 'Red Square', one on Waltham House covering St John's Street is being refurbished & there is a camera on Red Lion covering Market Place; Camera Partnership with Town Council, police, & local traders has been set up is hoping to have mobile cameras.

*Chair emphasised how much this contact is valued.*

## **Amendment to the Constitution**

The Constitution states:

*'The Officers of the Society shall consist of:*

*Chairman*

*Vice Chairman*

*Honorary Secretary*

*Honorary Treasurer*

*all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.*

*Officers shall not, however, serve for more than three consecutive terms'.*

It was proposed by Paul Clarke that the final sentence be deleted from the Constitution and that officers continue to be elected annually.

Proposer: Marian Vaughan      Seconder: Gerry Vaughan

Agreed unanimously

## **Election of Officers**

- *Chair: Colin Pidgeon*  
Proposer: Ken McCleennon      Seconder: Ian Dare  
elected unanimously
- *Secretary/Treasurer : Janet Pidgeon*  
Proposer: Ken McCleennon      Seconder: Ian Dare  
elected unanimously
- *Events Secretary: Graham Barfield*  
Proposer: Ron Jones      Seconder: Kathy Jones  
elected unanimously
- *Membership Secretary: Anne Brawn*  
nominated by Janet Pidgeon, seconded by Peter Gratton  
elected unanimously
- *Committee re-elected en bloc*  
Proposer: Peter Gratton      Seconder: George Hornby

*Ian Dare, Adam Lathbury, Paul Clarke*

*Coopted members:*

*Barry Joyce(Design & Conservation, DCC), Mike Ratcliffe(Town Council, Marian Vaughan (Heritage Centre)*

## **AOB**

No other business

Chair thanked members for their attendance

## **Date & time of next AGM**

April 16th2009

AGM finished at 9.45pm