



Wirksworth Civic Society

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 25^h April 2006

Draft minutes

Officers

Colin Pidgeon	Chair
Graham Barfield	Secretary
Janet Pidgeon	Treasurer/Minuting Secretary

Committee

Barry Joyce	Conservation Officer, DCC
Mike Ratcliffe	Representing the Town Council
Marian Vaughan	Representing the Heritage Centre
Ian Dare	
Adam Lathbury	

16 members present

Apologies

Ken Acons, Pauline Barfield, Anne Brawn, Tony Holmes, Kathy & Ron Jones, Carol & Rob Mumford, Marian & Gerry Vaughan

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved & signed

Matters arising

No matters arising

Chair's report

Key points:

- Thanks to Committee for all their work
- 2 parts of Society have come into their own
 - Graham Barfield set up series of successful lectures
 - Townscape Working Party set up with Ian Dare as Chair to deal with areas of concern in the Town
- Market Charter Celebration-
 - Secretary was the driving force with NOW
 - copy of Charter presented by Duchy of Lancaster to Chair ; to be displayed in Toby's window for celebrations then kept in Heritage Centre
 - commemorative plaque to be fixed on wall of Toby's
- Liaison with Town Council through Mike Ratcliffe
- Victoria County History Project has begun to chronicle history of Wirksworth with volunteers as part of national project; paperback will be published as well as full version
- Civic Society & Heritage Centre promoted at Lady Hilton's D-Day Celebration event

Secretary's report

Key points:

- Programme for year organised
- Working with group on Market Charter Celebrations; draft programme was available for information; some expenditure to be incurred including Public Liability Cover, hire of Community bus, Morris Dancers; donations totalling £3000 so far from Rolls Royce; Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust & Duke of Devonshire 's Charitable Trust; Duchy of Lancaster is contributing in kind; Harrington International is loaning a generator for Market traders; members are invited to make suggestions of other possible donors.

The Chair stated that Secretary is tremendously hard working & the Society owes him a debt of gratitude.

Treasurer's report

Key points:

- Year of 3 treasurers, current one on a learning curve
- Membership database built this year
- Proposal that, in future, all membership subscriptions are sent to Treasurer to ensure greater degree of accuracy in membership list
- Increase use of email for cost & efficiency; all documents posted on Civic Society website
- Proposed that financial report is brought into line with AGM (rather than calendar year)
- Sculpture account still in a current account –agreement from original donors that it would be used for the purpose for which it was set up; proposal that the Committee will bear this in mind when considering proposal for community space in churchyard
- Accounts for 2005 accepted

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her work

Townscape Working Party report

Key points:

- Subcommittee of Committee set up to monitor & audit fabric of Town, particularly Conservation Area.
- Audits undertaken to note what needs to be brought to attention of relevant local authority; volunteers invited to participate
- Example of one-off survey of blocked & damaged drains resulted in rapid response & cleaning
- Adam Lathbury's pilot audit of Greenhill & the Dale presented to local authority & meeting with Conservation officers took place, mutually beneficial liaison developing with information packs being produced by then to support our work
- Survey of superfluous signing undertaken
- Communication with Highways to be set up to raise their awareness of conservation & condition issues
- Over the year, information has been logged; next year the Working Party will be more proactive

Webmaster's report

Key points:

- Website has been running for over a year & is live & evolving
- Work of Committee is recorded on the website with copies of minutes, reports, Newsletters, Town audit, etc , calendar of events & brief history of Civic Society
- Discussion forum introduced & feedback invited
- Query on number of visits to site – method of recording to be investigated
- Query on facility for archiving earlier paper material – to be investigated

The Chair expressed appreciation of Webmaster's achievements with the website

Representative of Town Council

Key points:

- Representation set up several years ago & representative enjoys the role
- He has access to beneficial information, including the Conservation Forum & can feed back to the Civic Society , particularly in relation to planning applications
- It is a useful & fruitful working partnership

Chair emphasised how much this contact is valued.

New Subscription

In view of costs for speakers & communication, it was proposed to increase the annual subscription to £7.50.

Agreed

Election of Officers

Chair: Colin Pidgeon nominated & seconded by Ron & Kathy Jones; elected unanimously

Events Secretary: Graham Barfield nominated & seconded by Colin & Janet Pidgeon; elected unanimously

Secretary/Treasurer : Janet Pidgeon nominated & seconded by Maureen & Philip Sandler; elected unanimously

The Town Council representative complimented the Chair on how well he had carried out his post this year; he has been very proactive & has the concerns of the community at heart; he is pleased that the Chair is to carry on.

In response, the Chair explained that this is a way of thanking the Town for the welcome he received over the years of bringing school parties to Wirksworth

Election of Committee

Committee re-elected en bloc

Paul Clarke was also elected to join the Committee

The Chair thanked the Committee for its work & its strength as a team

AOB

- The Events Secretary in voted suggestions for speakers
- It was suggested that previous topics be revisited & this was welcomed

Date & time of next AGM

April 2007, Committee to fix date

Meeting finished at 8.45pm