



**Wirksworth Civic Society  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 26<sup>h</sup> April 2007**

***Draft minutes***

**Present**

**Officers**

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

**Committee**

Mike Ratcliffe	Representing the Town Council
Marian Vaughan	Representing the Heritage Centre
Ian Dare	Andy Link

Adam Lathbury

**Members present: 8**

**Apologies**

Barry Joyce, Pauline Barfield, Jeremy & Christie Taylor, Kathy & Ron Jones, Carol & Rob Mumford, Anna Williams, Diane & Tony Briggs

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Approved & signed

**Matters arising**

No matters arising

**Chair's report**

*Key points:*

- Drop in membership over 2 years
- Market Charter Celebration-major achievement with community coming together
- Future of markets-Colin & Graham met with representative of Council; question of 'use it or lose it'; representative loath to see end of market; important socially, will do what he can to save it, including advertising in Community Fayre
- Churchyard –Adam developed & presented illustrations of possible design for community space; hope Civic Society can spearhead focus on churchyard, working with Parish Council(PC), Creative Futures etc; initial contact made with PC who are interested
- Town Trail & Town Map –work proceeding on each with Marian leading Trail group & Graham leading Map group; joint bid for funding from 'Awards for All' being prepared
- Speakers-Graham's planned superb group of speakers
- Planning applications- responses made on behalf of Civic Society, including Waste Management Development consultation
- Links with other organisations- Town Council via Mike Ratcliffe, working in partnership, Conservation Officers, Heritage Centre via Marian Vaughan, Victoria History project up & running; clean-ups of Town organised with Mike
- Hope to develop links with Anthony Gell to discuss partnership relating to civic pride
- Communication –members kept informed of activities through Newsletter, Town notice boards, email, website

- Graham nominated by Colin as Chair of CS & Mike for Community Award from Derbyshire Dales District Council, particularly in relation to Market Charter Celebration; presentation took place last Monday at Town Hall in Matlock
- Priorities for new year-Town trail & Map & churchyard
- Thanks to Committee & members for all their work & support.

### **Treasurer's report**

#### *Key points:*

- Financial report is brought into line with AGM ( rather than calendar year) so statement covers 15 month period
- Accounts show income & expenditure for Civic Society & also for greater part of finances for Market Charter Celebrations, balance of which is to provide share of cost of commemorative plaque
- 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 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2007 accepted

*The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her work*

### **Townscape Working Party (TWP) report-Ian Dare, Chair of TWP**

#### *Key points:*

- Adam Lathbury's pilot survey of Greenhill & the Dale received with enthusiasm by Dales Council
- Buildings at risk monitored quarterly & report sent to Conservation Officer
- Monitoring & auditing of fabric of Town, particularly Conservation Area continues & issues raised with relevant authorities
- Some difficulty in establishing who owns what but partnership & points of contact set up with the County Council in particular
- DDCC wrote to statutory undertakers to advise them of historic features which require care when work is undertaken
- TWP to provide article for Community Fayre explaining what we do; possibility of putting on an exhibition to be explored; also possibility of buying tabards for members to wear when carrying out monitoring activities & clean ups
- Ian thanked Adam for his work; as he has now resigned from the Committee & TWP, there is a vacancy; anyone interested in joining TWP to contact Ian

*Chair thanked Ian & TWP for their work*

### **Programme Secretary's report**

#### *Key points:*

- Graham intends to retire at end of year so a successor will be needed
- Programme organised for 2007/8 & 2008/9 will be planned by next AGM
- Focus has been on local matters but could move to civic matters in future
- Revised Town Trail & new Town Map-an application for funding is to be made to Awards for All; work is well underway; comments & suggestions are invited

*The Chair expressed gratitude for the work of the Events Secretary*

### **Webmaster's report**

#### *Key points:*

- 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
- Visitor counter introduced; over 700 visits recorded
- Website linked to Wirksworthnet & Heritage Centre & John Palmer's history of Town site

*Chair noted that communication with members easier with many on email & he expressed appreciation of Webmaster's achievements with the website*

### **Representative of Town Council**

*Key points:*

- Representation set up several years ago & Mike enjoys role; Town Council appreciates work of CS; there are inter-connections with other organisations
- 2 issues are coming up:
  - concern ethos generated by a small but significant number of young people; a meeting is planned to promote working in partnership to try to stem tide & to encourage civic pride in the Town
  - major project proposed by Creative Futures in which creative industries will become primary industry in the Town; CS wishes to become involved as part of partnership

*Chair emphasised the importance of the relationship with the Town Council & thanked Mike for his input & support*

### **Election of Officers**

*Chair:* Colin Pidgeon proposed by Ron Jones seconded by Mike Ratcliffe; elected unanimously

*Secretary/Treasurer :* Janet Pidgeon proposed by Ron Jones, seconded by Marian Vaughan; elected unanimously

*Programme Secretary :* Graham Barfield proposed by Colin Pidgeon; seconded by Ann Brawn; elected unanimously

*Note:* Chair's 3 year term of office comes to an end in April 2008 so a new Chair has to be elected at the next AGM; Events Secretary will also retire next year, as will Secretary/ Treasurer; replacements will be needed

### **Election of Committee**

Committee re-elected en bloc, apart from Adam Lathbury who resigned from Committee for family reasons

### **New Subscription**

unanimously agreed to increase the annual subscription to £8.00 2008/9

### **AOB**

-Constitution-needs to be amended to broaden its scope & include the History Society- to be included on AGM Agenda 2008

-Adam Lathbury explained the background to his design for a possible development of 'Red Square'; Chair congratulated Adam on the plan; he explained that he has contacted the Rector & the PCC who are interested in a project to develop the churchyard & its environs as a unity; contact will now be made with NOW as the AGM has given a brief to the Committee to enter the debate & play a part; views would be sought from the community & children could be involved in the project

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

April 2007, Committee to fix date

Meeting finished at 8.45pm