

WISTOW CUM NEWTON HARCOURT PARISH MEETING

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Facebook Page - Newton Harcourt and Wistow. WhatsApp groups: E-mail for more details.

Minutes of the Parish Meeting 25th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Richard Brooks, Raymond Bray, Graham Spendlove-Mason, Roger & Margaret Jones, Chris Firth, Martin Guiver, Pam and Mike Smith, Cllr James Hallam, Cllr Rani Mahal, Julie Guiver (chair), Celia Bates (clerk) Julie Firth (Treasurer)

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Maggie Spendlove Mason, Chris and Sangita Tebbatt and Peter and Mary Thornton.

2. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on

RESOLVED: The minutes were signed by the Chair as a correct record of the meeting.

3. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only.

- The Village Fete at the Manor House on 22nd June 2024 was a great success. Thank you to all those involved.
- The Reading Room Committee asked for suggestions of ideas/activities for the Reading Room to be used more regularly. This Friday, 29th November 2024 a Pop-Up Sergeant pub has been organised. (At the time of writing the minutes ... it is confirmed that this was very well attended and everyone who went would like another, maybe in January 2025.)

4. To receive and note the Chair's report:

- Our condolences to the families of the Honourable Lady Ann Brooks of Wistow, Betty Cross, from Newton Lodge, Lynn Hall, who left the village last year and Josie Cartwright, from Poplars Yard.
- TPO's for three oak trees on the bridleway...TPO's are unlikely.
- Story have replaced the Lutyens bench on Wistow Road and have planted two oak trees at the top end of Kissinggate.
- Thank you to volunteers who conducted Speedwatch in June, and to Sohail for coordinating it.
- Highways were written to in August about weight limit signs, as well as suggesting a 'Not Suitable for HGVs' being installed each end of Wistow Road. According to the reply, additional signs will not be erected. (see the reply from Highways in Chairs Report.)
- An enquiry about a perceived right of way at the end of Long Row has been researched and apparently Long Row wasn't identified as a public right of way in 1952. It has never been included on a definitive map of public rights of way.
- Free water butts from Severn Trent, are still available. You can order through the website <https://www.stwater.co.uk/wonderful-on-tap/save-water/water-butts-checker/>
- Thank you to the team who cleaned up Kissinggate last month. It looks neat, tidy and cared for again.
- Kevin Sinfield Challenge. On Friday 6th December, Kevin Sinfield will be running by the village as part of his Northampton to Leicester day of his 7-Day Challenge, raising money for MND.
- Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the village tidy, 'alive' and welcoming.

Please see Chair's full report attached.

RESOLVED: That the Chair's report be noted.

5. To receive and note the Treasurer's report including the Precept Application.

(See attached report.)

Currently we have a balance of £8747.19

The accounts were audited by Raymond Bray and the AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return) submitted to PKF Littlejohn. Accounts have been approved.

Lloyds Bank have informed us that from 14th January 2025 we will incur a payment of £4.25 a month because our bank account is changing from a Treasurer's account to a Community account.

Between now and 14th January a different account, with no payments due, will be researched.

It was proposed that no request for a precept would be made for 23/24 with full agreement from those attending the Parish Meeting.

Please see Treasurer's report attached.

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer's report be noted.

6. To receive and note reports from village groups.

Parochial Church Council (PCC): Richard Brooks stated that they were looking for a volunteer to become a church warden at St. Lukes. This would involve checking on the maintenance of the church every 3 weeks, going to a church service at least once a year and attending meetings 4 times per year. Please contact Richard directly if you are interested. Report noted.

Friends of Newton Harcourt (FNH): Report noted.

Poor's Land Charity: Report noted.

Jubilee committee: Report noted.

Reading Room: Report noted.

Reports were sent with agenda previously.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

7. To note any planning applications and decisions since the last parish meeting.

Planning applications approved since April 2024

- Ivy Cottage 9 Long Row : discharge of conditions
- The Coppice Glen Rd : Remove dead trees/ Crown reduction of oak tree.
- Diamond Cottage, Glen Rd : Works to trees (fell)
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Planning applications awaiting decision, pending

- Land at Wistow Rd: Creation of three ponds
- Wistow Lodge Farm Fleckney Rd Wistow : Highway remedial survey for Solar Farm

All planning applications and decisions can be viewed at: Harborough District Council Planning.
<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications>

Report sent out previously- Nov 24.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. To consider any other business.

- Richard Brooks gave an update on the progress of the planned Solar Farm at Wistow. The developers are now Severn Trent. They are involved with another 3 proposed Solar Farms elsewhere.) The start will hopefully be in May/June 2025 and it should take about a year to get it up and running.
- Cllr James Hallam reported that HDC has said that it would not be viable to repurpose The Symmington Building in Market Harborough and that it may become a carpark.
- The HDC budget is in later stages and will be agreed in February 2025.
- Roman's Way, currently affordable housing for the homeless, is to be sold.
- James stated that any 'New' Town Planning queries could not be dealt with by him as he has a pecuniary interest in the planning.
- If anyone wants to ask about the planning process re the upcoming planning of new homes in the area, they should contact Cllr Rani Mahal or our local MP.
- Richard Brooks has kindly volunteered to understudy Roger's role as chair of the Poor's Land Charity, because Roger would like to stand down in a years' time.
- Canal and River Trust; The locks from Kibworth to Turnover bridge have all been repainted, apart from Bottom Half Mile which will be completed in the Spring. Graffiti is being removed from lock beams promptly after it appears! Thanks to CRT volunteers.
- A request was made for Remembrance Day to be marked somehow in the Parish. A short discussion was held about possible crafting opportunities held in the Reading Room. Someone will be needed to coordinate/organise this. If anyone wants to volunteer, please make it known before the next Parish Meeting next April 2025.

9. Date of next meeting

AGM - Monday, April 14th, 2025, 7.30pm at the Reading Room.