

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 27th November 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chris and Sangita Tebbatt, Mike Lockwood, Richard Brooks, Raymond Bray, Graham and Gina Handsley, Roger & Margaret Jones, Peter and Mary Thornton, Martin Guiver, Mike Smith, Brian Eales, Cllr James Hallam, Cllr Rani Mahal, Julie Guiver (Chair), Julie Firth (Treasurer), Celia Bates (Clerk)

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Diane Taylor, Maggie and Graham Spendlove-Mason, Anthony Goddard, Pam Smith, Jo Mansfield and Chris Firth.

2. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on April 24th, 2023

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.

At the previous meeting there had been a discussion about trees of interest in the area that had not got a Tree Preservation Order. Julie is still going to do a survey and will allocate a 'What3words' location marker to identify and locate some of our beautiful and significant trees.

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

- **Diseased trees on Kissing Gate.** Local residents met with Jason Peach (tree officer from LCC) and David Rose (Network Rail) following a report about dead/diseased trees on Kissinggate. Recommendations were made, based on professional opinions, and the result hasn't had such a negative impact as was first thought. Potentially dangerous branches have been removed.
- **An official complaint to Network Rail was made after an oak tree at the end of Kissing Gate and Wistow Road was felled.** This had been planted by a local resident approximately 12 years ago. Ian Bellamy, Community Relations Manager has assured us that the tree will be replaced when works to the railway bridge are completed.
- **A Network Rail meeting was held on 26th June 2023** where all agencies involved in the new bridge construction were on hand to answer questions from residents. Minutes were circulated to all residents.
- **Road closures. Some of the signage for road closures due to Network Rail's major bridge building works have been very confusing.**
Confusion too about the date when Wistow Road will be opened to traffic again. There are concerns about the road opening before the Newton Lane/Fleckney Road bridge is finished because of it being single track and having a narrow bridge.
One.network tells us, at the moment, that Wistow Road will open on 15th March 2024 and Newton Lane/Fleckney Rd will open on 1st March 2023.
Questions have also been put to the Network Coordinator for Major Works at Leicestershire County Council about whether articulated lorries can be prevented from using Wistow Road in the future. SAT NAV directions seem to be guiding lorries to Wistow Rural Centre via Wistow Road on occasions, using signage at the Glen Road / Wistow Road junction. Also removing the National Speed Limit signs at the same spot due to the nature of the narrow bending lane. A Highways inspector agreed verbally that a weight limit sign should be put up on Wistow Road but said that this should be requested after the Wistow Bridge is finished.

- **Police Beat Surgery Meeting on Friday December 8th at 10.15, The Reading Room.**
Coffee/Tea and Mince pies plus some Christmas crafting (optional)
See flier attached.
- **D-Day Landings 80th Anniversary June 6th 2024.**
To think about a way of commemorating the occasion.
- **Thank you to Gina and Graham Handsley** for sharing flood warning information in October. And also for all their volunteering within the village over the last 18 years.
- **Thank you to Sohail Ashraf** for his communications regarding speeding traffic on Glen Road process again. (Please see the report sent out last week.)
- **Thank you to the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles** who regularly come to tidy Wistow and Newton Harcourt. Please get in touch if you wish to litter pick in our neighbourhood. We have 'donated' litter picking kit ready for use.
- **Thank you to residents who contribute to our social media platforms.** Lots of photographs, useful information, alerts and missing parcels are regularly shared!

This link tells you how to add **What3words** address to your online shopping

<https://support.what3words.com/en/articles/6127245-using-what3words-for-deliveries>

Please ask us if you need help using this.

- **Thank you to everyone who gives their time to improve the look and feel of the village for the good of everyone else.**

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.

Currently we have a balance of **£9851.59**

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 full report attached.

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer's report be noted.

6. To receive and note reports from village groups.

Reading Room:

BIG thanks were attributed to Jo Mansfield as she resigned her post as Committee Chair after 30 years of service. Thank you to Chris Tebbatt who is taking on the role. Report noted.

Parochial Church Council (PCC): Report noted.

Friends of Newton Harcourt (FNH): Report noted.

Poor's Land Charity: Report noted.

Speeding Traffic on Glen Road: Report noted.

Reports were sent prior to meeting.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

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

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

<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications>

Please see report attached.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8.To consider any other business:

- A question was raised about whether Wistow Road could be opened to pedestrians before the road opens to traffic? As the metal fencing is padlocked either side of the compound to keep it secure, it is doubted this will be an option.
- **The Canal and River Trust** have improved the muddy bend on the tow path between Newton Harcourt and Wistow. Brian Eales of CRT, thanked the many volunteers for doing an excellent job constructing the tow path. This was a joint project with Story and Network Rail.

The Canal and River Trust volunteers have been lock painting between Kibworth and Top Half Mile as well as vegetation management and litter picking. Thank you to the volunteers.

Also CRT will be re-building a new culvert, on the canal, between the bridges near Wistow Church. This will commence in January 2024.

- A concern was raised about the parking of a horsebox across a public footpath at the end of Post Office Lane. The verge is being churned up.
- A discussion was held about the future responsibility of the **upkeep of the defibrillator** located outside the Reading Room. To date, The Reading Room Committee has taken financial responsibility for purchasing new defibrillator pads every two years. The Chair asked the meeting, that as the defibrillator is there for us all, could the Parish Meeting now pay for the replacement pads going forward. It was unanimously agreed that it should from now on.
- Cllr Rani Mahal reported that there is a **Rural Property Fund** which can award funds for worthwhile community Projects. She stated that maybe the Reading Room roof repairs could be a potential project for funding.
- Cllr James Hallam reported that the HDC were holding a meeting on 11th December 2023 to discuss and decide about the **Statement of Common Ground** in Harborough district. Councillors will vote whether to accept the share of Leicester's 'unmet housing need' in Harborough. HDC Council Leader, Cllr Phil Knowles has said *"The next Full Council meeting will be for debate and decision. We must make a decision that will ultimately protect the local plan as to do otherwise could put the district at risk of speculative development in our rural district."*

To find out more about what this might mean for local planning, see Harborough District Council's website.

James Hallam suggests that if you want to have your say about this you should contact our MP, Neil O'Brien asap, before 11th December.

The link below will take you to media statement published on 7th November:

- Richard Brooks shared plans and photos of **5 'meadow fields'** which will be planted between the two churches in Newton Harcourt and Wistow. This will embrace **Nature Recovery** within the area and is part of the Biodiversity Net Gain scheme.

The Wistow and Newton Harcourt plan is to develop scrubland and ponds as well as promoting the grass meadows and keep areas undisturbed by visitors.

The scheme will start in January 2024 with signage explaining the plans. Stock fencing will be erected in the Spring to ensure that walkers still have a wide path, whilst protecting the wild space within the meadows.

9. Date of next meeting

AGM - Monday, April 29th, 2024, 7.30pm at the Reading Room.