

AGM Minutes Wychwood Community Group
29th April 2018
Wychwood Village Hall 2pm – 2.30pm

Apologies: Jeremy Edwards; John Cornell;

1. Chairman Trevor Sandry Opened the meeting with a welcome and accepted apologies.

2. Trevor Introduced the committee members and read the Chairman's Report.

3. Tom Applegarth took us through the Treasurers Report and confirmed that the Community Group have spent £2,106.38 in the last year on legal advice and website domain costs, leaving a balance of £3275.78. Legal advice sought was gained at a competitive rate, at greatly reduced cost and monies spent were done so diligently. Free advice was sought where possible. Currently the account is set up as a charge free business account but enquiries are underway to find an interest baring savings account. The Chairman suggested that following community feedback, the balance be left on account to be used should Haddon re-apply for planning. A vote was held and all were in favour of keeping the balance for that purpose.

4. The Chairman suggested that under the constitutional rules the Committee would be suspended with the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer retained. Should another planning application be made the Committee would reform, perhaps with new members at the time if needed. A vote was held and all were in favour of suspending the Committee.

5. The Chairman once again congratulated the community on winning the battle against Haddon and on the community spirit that it had fostered. He made special mention to Andy Bailey for his contribution to the legal fight, including preparation for the Planning Enquiry.

6. The formal AGM finished and the floor opened for questions.

It was mentioned that Betley Football Club had approached Haddon re purchase of some land but were told he was biding his time and considering his options... no further approach was made.

Andy Bailey requested copies of any photos people had of the well-maintained Country Park from the days pre Haddon's purchase – he is coordinating efforts to ensure the maintenance is done to an acceptable level.

Andy Bailey talked of the 'temporary' bus turning circle and promises made by Cheshire East (CE) nearly 3 years ago of its temporary nature. Still no resolution and cars park daily on the verges lining the entrance road churning up mud and causing obstruction.

Discussions centred around the feeling that CE should be doing more to ensure maintenance is upheld and making sure Haddon are meeting their obligations.

Trevor Gill Parish Councillor took the floor and congratulated the committee and residents on their well-coordinated and knowledgeable fight against Haddon, he shared his admiration for the actions taken and battle won. He explained the Parish Council (PC) have no funding to either maintain the Country Park or to force Haddon to. The PC will keep pushing CE to take action, however he explained that there had been a slipup when the Country Park sale was set up, the level of maintenance was not detailed within the documents, therefore no clarity in what maintenance means, it is now difficult for CE to get Haddon to do any more than the bare minimum.

A discussion then took place re the clubhouse which is out of planning by several years. Residents expressed how unsafe it now is with children and young people seen climbing on the roof. It was voiced that the only answer was for CE to take Haddon to court to have it removed but that they would be reluctant to spend money enforcing their planning regulations.

Trevor Gill outlined the CE local plan strength and said that although the local Plan context may have changed a little due to HS2 etc and possible increased demand for further housing, the Plan was ongoing and had considered housing needs through to 2030. Wychwood is confirmed NOT to be a selected site and the 5 year housing supply has recently been tested and found secure. Haddon could put in an application again at any time, but the Local Plan and accepted Neighbourhood Plan are in place. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision of Weston and surrounding area which does not include any more large scale developments. The PC hope even a reduced Haddon plan would be refused. The PC are also working on having Wychwood and surrounding area designated Green Gap.

Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month for anyone interested in attending.

A last question regarding the 'Open Access' signs that had appeared close to some footpaths on the Park was not fully answered as it is unknown if Haddon or CE had put them up, Janet Clowes may know if they originated from CE.

The Committee were once again thanked for their efforts.

Trevor Sandry closed the meeting thanking everyone in the room for attending and suggesting we all meet for a celebratory drink in the not too distant future.