

THTC/1/2011 - 2012

WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN HALL AND TRUST CHARITY

Minutes of the meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Hall and Trust Charity held on Thursday 14th July 2011 at 9.45pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Jon Booth, Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Sue Hughes, Peter Roberts, William Roberts, Jenny Stratton and Steve Walls

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk,
Michelle Temple, Administrative
Team Leader and Emily Maiden,
Administrative Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Leighfield, Ernie Taylor, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were made.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLVED to note that no announcements were made.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Hall and Trust Charity held on Thursday 17th February 2010 (THTC/2/2010-2011). Copy previously circulated.

5. WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN HALL & TRUST CHARITY, TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011.

The above accounts were made available and must be confirmed by the Trust in order that they can be signed off and sent to the Charity Commission.

The Trust was asked to confirm the accounts and authorise that these be signed off on behalf of the Charity for submission to the Charity Commission. Copy of the Accounts was attached.

RESOLVED to adopt the accounts.

It was noted that the income from the Wednesday Market has risen in the past year, and that the increase in stalls is visibly noticeable in the High Street on Market day.

The Trust thanked Ralph White, Head Groundsman, and Owen Collier, Town Crier, for their hard work in publicising the Market and for making it more popular.

6. WOOTTON BASSETT MUSEUM & HERITAGE GROUP

To receive a report from Mr David Thompson, Chairman of the Wootton Bassett Museum & Heritage Group about the work of that organisation since the last meeting.

David Thompson introduced himself as the new Chairman of this group, having recently taken over from Councillor Steve Walls. His report covered the following points:-

- Mr Thompson informed the Trust of visitor numbers in the six months from January 2011. The Museum has had 258 visitors from 26 different counties in Britain. 43 visitors have come from 15 different countries, including Sweden and South America.
- The Museum is run by a team of 18 volunteers, and is open twice a week, usually on a Wednesday and Saturday, although it will stay open for special events such as the Ride of Respect.
- Currently the Museum is host to two displays, one celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Museum's opening, including photographs, and the other commemorates 90 years of the Royal British Legion.
- In August, the Museum will host a special exhibition to mark 150 years of St Bartholomew's Primary School.
- A computer and projector have been bought using funds from an Area Board grant. This means that the Museum and Heritage Centre can now give mobile presentations to those who cannot access the Town Hall. Examples what can be displayed in a mobile presentation are photographs and videos, such as footage of the final flight of the Hercules.
- The Museum and Heritage Group are hoping to involve Wootton Bassett School with website design. Confirmation of the school involvement is currently awaited, it is hoped that this project can be started in the autumn.
- Mr Thompson informed the group that spot lights have been fitted in the building this week.

- There is some concern over the condition of the pillars, especially around the bases where Market traders often park their vehicles. A discussion followed over how best to tackle this issue so that the Town Hall can be presented in a smart fashion, especially considering the heavy press coverage expected of the Commemorative Event on October 16th 2011. It was felt that some people are abusing the area surrounding the pillars by parking their vehicles on the Town Trust land. Possible suggestions for conservation are the use of chain, steel pins or bollards. Signs advising of parking restrictions in the area were successful in the past, and were subsequently removed. If these were replaced, this could be enforced with the use of CCTV.

RESOLVED to replace the original parking restrictions signs, and encourage Wiltshire Council to enforce the offence. Further RESOLVED to investigate the use of chains and bollards in the Conservation Area.

- Mr Thompson informed the Trust of some issues regarding provision of heating in the Town Hall. The lack of heating is causing several problems including:-
 - a) Damp affecting artefacts such as photographs and newspaper clippings during the winter months,
 - b) Unpleasant conditions for volunteers and visitors alike, sometimes forcing early closure of the Museum. Many of the volunteers are elderly, which is causing some concern.

The issue of heating has been looked at before, and it is therefore recommended that this be investigated further.

RESOLVED to re-examine the issue of providing heating for the Town Hall.

- Finally, David Thompson reported on a piece of good news for the Museum. A plaque once removed from the cannon in Wootton Bassett which disappeared circa 1941 has resurfaced in a house in

Highbridge. This has been offered back to the town. Mr Thompson asked the Mayor, Councillor Paul Heaphy, if he would be willing to receive the plaque on behalf of the town.

RESOLVED for Councillor Heaphy to accept the plaque, provisionally a date is set for August 10th 2011, sometime between 12-1pm. Mr Thompson to arrange details nearer the date.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thompson for his presentation, on behalf of the Trust.

Meeting closed 10.06 pm