

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 Annual General Meeting, 29th April 2024.

Present: Raymond Bray, Richard Brooks, Brian Eales, Margaret Jones, Peter & Mary Thornton, Martin Guiver, Marion and Steven, Cllr James Hallam, Julie Guiver (Chair) and Celia Bates (Clerk) Julie Firth (Treasurer) Pam and Mike Smith,

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Graham and Maggie Spendlove–Mason, Anthony and Annette Goddard, Di Taylor, Cllr Rani Mahal, Roger Jones, Chris Firth

2. To receive and approve for signature the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed by the Chair as a correct record of the meeting. (signed)

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

- Contractors are still working along Wistow Road but we are keeping in mind the replacement of the oak tree, bench and gate at the end of Kissingate.
- Reading Room committee members looked at the Rural Property Fund but they didn't meet the criteria for applying for roof funding. See the Reading Room Chair's report for the update.
- The Statement of Common Ground – HDC Full Council met in December and have voted to accept the share of Leicester's unmet housing need.
- Progress of the Wistow Restoration Project. The weather and discussions with various bodies has delayed things somewhat. Half of the fencing is planned to start in June 2024 and the other half in the Autumn of 2024. The plan is that there will be no livestock on the fields and the hay/silage will be cut a couple of times per year.
- The request to look at the oak trees on the bridleway, with the hope that Tree Preservation Orders can be made, is in the queue at HDC Planning. This could potentially save them if ever there was any development in that space.

4. To receive and note the Chair's report – main points listed here. Full report attached.

- A Police Beat Surgery was held at the Reading Room on 8th December 2023.
- Community Speedwatch - There is a meeting for volunteers on Thursday 23rd May
- The Wistow & Newton Harcourt website is now administered by Cuttlefish.
- Opportunities for volunteers to help administer our social media and to become flood wardens for the area.
- Two wobbly stiles and a fallen tree on Kissinggate were reported in January and soon fixed.
- Neighbourhood Planning (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>)
See full report for details. Those present at the Meeting felt it was an onerous task but that there was an opportunity for anyone interested to attend the meeting at HDC in May.
- JG has attended three Parish Nature Network Meetings since the last meeting. Leicestershire NatureSpot website - <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/> where you can help by adding your wildlife sightings which then helps to inform the environmental teams and groups.
- JG attended a Community Resilience briefing on 16th April. This one focused on Cyber Crime, Phishing emails and Social Media messaging. **See full report for some useful tips.**
- Station Road is to be closed from 1st – 26th July for the installation of permanent traffic lights. It will not close before Newton Lane opens and Wistow Road will remain closed to traffic until Station Road works have been completed.

RESOLVED: That the Chair's report be noted. (Please see full report attached.)

5. To receive and note the Treasurer's Report.

Documents needing approval:

- Annual Internal Audit Report – received and noted. Thank you to Raymond Bray for auditing the book. Noted.
- Annual Governance Statement – approved and signed by Chair. Noted.
- Accounting Statements – approved and signed by Chair. Noted.
- Certificate of Exemption – approved and signed by Chair. Noted.

RESOLVED: That the Treasurer's report be noted. (Please see full report attached.)

6. To receive and note reports from village groups.

St Luke's Church Report : Report noted.

Friends of Newton Harcourt (FNH): Report noted.

Poor's Land Charity: Report attached.

Reading Room Report. Report noted.

(Reports were emailed prior to the meeting. Thank you to all village groups for their reports.)

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>

Report noted.

(The report was emailed prior to the meeting.)

8. To elect officers: Chairperson, Clerk and Treasurer.

Julie Guiver agreed to stand for Chair. Proposed and unanimously agreed.

Celia Bates agreed to stand for Clerk. Proposed and unanimously agreed.

Julie Firth agreed to stand for Treasurer. Proposed and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: Officers elected for 2024/25.

9. To consider any other business.

- A Newton Harcourt village fete at The Manor House is planned for 22nd June 2024, 2-5pm.
A chance for the village to come together for fun, games and frolics! More details will follow.
- The Reading Room Committee ask that if anyone has ideas/activities for the Reading Room being used more regularly please contact them. (Weekly events or a few times a year.)

- The 'Light and Life' Convention will be back at the Harborough Showground from Saturday the 20th to Friday 26th July 2024. There may be some congestion in Market Harborough during this time.
- Unfortunately, the Music in the Park at Wistow will not be taking place this year.
- Two choir evenings are to be held at Wistow Church: one in June and the uplifting Gospel Choir in July. There is no charge but donations are welcome. Details to follow.
- BE, from Canal and River Trust, updated us on the culvert work which had taken place between Newton Harcourt and Wistow. The work had been completed at a cost of approximately £250,000.

10. Date of next meeting.

Monday 25th November 2024, 7.30pm.