



# Wookey Hole Residents' Forum

## Committee Meeting, Wookey Hole Club Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**In attendance:** Hugh Talbott (*Chair*), Nicky Amos, Julia Scarth, John Grange. **Observers:-** Councillor David Ball, Councillor Ed Danson, Councillor Mike Pullin, Dave Hudsmith, James Lewis.

**Apologies:-** Mary Gaunt, Gary Amos, Jenny Lewis, Chris Britton

Before the meeting, the new District Councillor for Wookey Hole, Mike Pullin gave a short resumé of his responsibilities on the District Council. His contact details are telephone 01749 673 665 e-mail [office@somersetconservatives.com](mailto:office@somersetconservatives.com)

1. Minutes of the committee meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chair.
2. **Matters Arising.**

Dave Hudsmith and James Lewis were co-opted onto the committee in accordance with the Constitution dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

  - b. Nicky will send a letter of condolence on behalf of WHRF to the family of Chris Blackford, vice chair, who sadly passed-away in November.
  - c. We revisited the question of monthly coffee mornings – see Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The committee agreed that Roger may approach village organisations asking for their support to organise a monthly coffee morning in the Community Hall. Roger as organiser feels that one organisation organising all 12 dates would be preferable to individuals organising one each.
  - d. The vacancy for a vice-chair will be advertised to the mailing list in advance of the next committee meeting.
  - e. It was agreed to form a social committee working party to arrange WHRF social events. This will be put on the Agenda for the next committee meeting. It was noted that WH Club wishes to start a weekly residents' evening.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** £520 is being held on behalf of Neighbourhood Plan group and £91.65 remains of the Community Garden Grant. **The balance for use by WHRF is £745.04.** The bank balance stands at £1356.69.
4. Obtaining Public Liability cover is still proving problematic: quotes are in the region of £300 per year and policies contain many exclusions. Hugh will speak to Ivor Tetley, for advice and the village agent, Barbara Webb.
5. **Planning.** Agreed that key issue is publicity about proposed WH planning applications. A copy of all planning applications are now put on both the village website and the WH Parish Council notice board. It was agreed this system is working well. As agreed last meeting Nicky is now sending all e-mails from a dedicated WHRF e-mail address rather than her own personal e-mail address. We re-discussed the involvement of WHRF in planning issues and confirmed that a working group could be established to look at a specific planning issue but the committee could not be seen as taking a position for or against any individual application. Nicky will remind the mailing list to look for planning applications as above.
6. **Bring & Share Winter Supper** January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, 6pm. Tickets £2. Max 40. Nicky to book hall and print tickets. Food, as last time, to be agreed at time of ticket purchase. Nicky to give committee member 5 tickets each to sell. Julia to ask Louise & Adam about communal singing.

Hugh will look into a visit to Butcombe Brewery on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 followed by a pub lunch. Julia will contact St Cuthbert's Mill re a show-round for villagers. John will look into a picnic in the third chamber of Wookey Hole Caves.
7. **AGM.** Agreed date 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Nicky to book the hall. Free wine and cheese to be provided. Committee can stand for one more year but after that most will need to stand down. We will discuss this and possible revisions to the Constitution (especially regarding finances) at the next committee meeting
8. **Update from Working Groups** - see attached
9. **Any Other Business.** Councillor Ball has undertaken much work on **the HGV/ SatNAV** issue and was thanked. Local MP Ian Liddell-Grainger and SCC Chair, John Osman have however made no progress except to advise the village that any illegal HGV signage erected will be removed by MDC. It was agreed that at the committee meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup>, reports from Working Groups would be put at the beginning of the Agenda.
10. The next committee meeting will be on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the Wookey Hole Club with the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Nicky will book the Club.

Nicky Amos December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

## **Working Party Reports**

### **Buses + Footpaths**

**Mary Gaunt**

A group has been formed to tidy up some of the footpaths. Mary was thanked.

### **WP2 Pyrolysis Plant**

**Roger Hancock**

No developments since last meeting.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

**Vacancy**

The next step is a joint housing needs survey for St Cuthbert's Out and Wells City, but this will cost £7,000. A grant from the Community Council for Somerset is being pursued by the Parish Clerk. David Ball has had to resign as overall Parish Councillor in charge of this project and Nigel Clarke has resigned as the leader of the North Ward Neighbourhood plan subgroup. This is problematic, as both groups clearly need a leader. The Parish Council Clerk is attempting to find replacements for both.

### **St Cuthbert's Mill**

**Roger Hancock**

A vacancy caused by the passing-away of Chris Blackford has been filled by Roger Hancock. It is felt that the Pyrolysis Project and St Cuthbert's Mill project both involve a watching brief only at present, and could easily be handled together.

### **Elm Close Developments**

**Chris Britton**

Chris Britton advises that both developers intend to appeal the rejections: the appeals will be heard by the Secretary of State as both applications were submitted before the Local Plan was in place. The Taylor Wimpey appeal will be heard in Shepton Mallet on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **Wookey Hole Website**

**John Grange**

A grant has been received from SCOPC to cover the costs of the website fees for the next year

### **Additional Post Box**

**Hugh Talbott**

No developments since last meeting.

### **Memorial Trees**

**David Scarth**

No developments since last meeting.

### **Notice Boards**

**Jenny Lewis**

A Working Group comprising Hugh Talbott, as chair, Roger Hancock and Mary Gaunt has been formed and will take forward the decisions reached at the village meeting about the notice boards held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Funds raised so far, (grants +donations), and ring-fenced for purchase of notice-boards, are being held by the Community Hall, Treasurer.

### **Campaign for Dark Skies**

**Gary Amos**

No developments since last meeting

### **WH What's On**

**Jenny Lewis**

Jenny has asked us to mention that it is helpful to receive notices in advance for the Whats On rather than just before the deadline, which causes issues with layout etc. WH residents to contact Jenny if they do not already receive this very useful newsletter.

### **St Mary Magdalene Community Garden**

**Julia Scarth**

Andrew Faulkner of Benjamin and Beauchamp Architects, Wedmore, is working with the St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council and taking forward the designs.

### **Litter Pick up**

**Ed Danson**

Keep Britain Tidy has launched a 'Clean for the Queen' Campaign to tidy-up the country to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty. Tidying-up events are planned for the weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested Wookey Hole might like to take part as the entry roads to the village especially are looking very grubby.