



Second Annual General Meeting of Wookey Hole Residents' Forum

Thursday 23rd April 2015 - 8pm,

Wookey Hole Community Hall, School Hill, Wookey Hole

The meeting was attended by 7 committee members, 29 residents and one observer and was chaired by Rev. Hugh Talbott.

REPORT

Apologies: Chris Briton, Joanna Davey, Colin Babb, Ed Danson, Linda Danson, Vanda Vann, John Clark, Graham Livings, Paul Harris, Louise Burton, Bima Clarke.

1. Introduction

A Report of the General Meeting of October 2nd 2014 (already circulated), was signed by the Chair as an accurate record. (Proposed Jenny Lewis, Seconded David Scarth). The Chair thanked the 13 working groups for their work during the year and the Community Hall committee for providing a new meeting place for the village. Since the formation of WHRF there had been a much improved cohesion within the village: the film club and community speed watch are just two of a range of successful new ventures, he said. The Chair explained that the committee had not allowed a candidate for the forthcoming District Council elections to talk at this meeting as WHRF is very keen to be seen as politically neutral and not affiliated to any political or other organisation.

2. Election

The committee elected at the first AGM on 30th April 2014 was appointed for a two-year tenure. There were no resignations so no elections are required. The following committee members are willing to stand for further 12-month period.

Hugh Talbott	Chair	Mary Gaunt	Committee member
Chris Blackford	Vice chair	Louise Burton	Committee member
Nicky Amos	Secretary	John Grange	Committee member
Roger Hancock	Treasurer	Julia Scarth	Co-opted member

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Roger Hancock, advised that during the year a WHRF bank account has been opened at NWB in Wells. The balance is currently £442. The Bring+Share supper raised £242. SCOPC has donated £200 for use by the Community Garden Group. Not shown in the account is a £500 donation promised to WHRF by Mr Paul Harris, a resident of Wookey Hole, who was thanked in his absence.

4. Update from Working Party leaders

Buses + Footpaths

Mary Gaunt

Unless we all use the buses, Webber the operator, will reduce the service. Mary provided a list of bus times, which are very frequent, and the cost. The timetable is on the village website. Mary is the Parish Council Footpaths officer. Her phone number is 674 026. Please let her know if you find a problem with any local footpath.

WP2 Pyrolysis Plant

Roger Hancock

Roger explained that there had been no recent developments but that the planning permission is still valid and building work could be started at any time. Audience member, John Winstone, an architect from Wookey, mentioned that the plant is still live, a legal start having been made, and no authority is going to withhold consent for a modified scheme. As the site has an approval it does not contravene the latest SCC waste location policies. Planned housing, down-wind from the site, would be affected by the plant, if it was built. The 'planning blight' currently caused by the planning permission for the plant, would only be removed if the owners agreed to forego their consent he said.

Neighbourhood Plan

David Ball

Rowland Marshall, who had been instrumental in getting the SCOPC plan off the ground has moved to Devon and is sadly missed but was sincerely thanked in his absence for all his work.

There have been 5 consultations with residents of North Ward during the year and comments made at these have been incorporated into the latest version of the Plan. SCOPC have granted the NP group £300 to be used for Planning Consultant's fees in order to take the Plan to the next stage, but this will only suffice for an initial view. It is expected that a part re-drafting will be required, which will require additional funds. The process is under review by the PC. All residents of SCO parish will be asked to vote on the final edition of the plan, later this year. Once approved the neighbourhood plan can be used by MDC to direct planning decisions for the village until 2025.

St Cuthbert's Mill

Chris Blackford

On 26th March 2015, the Wells Journal reported that the site had been sold and the buyer is a consortium called Haybridge Park Limited, whose directors are Neil Aldred, Amanda Buckles, Peter Moore, Patricia Schroeder, and whose secretary is David Lang. Reportedly the group paid £625,000 for the site.

Elm Close Development

Chris Britton (by email)

The developer, Gladman Developments Ltd, had planned to build a housing estate on this site and after the planning application was refused appealed against the MDC Local Plan Part 1. On 13th April 2015 this appeal was withdrawn and reputedly Gladman have now abandoned the project.

Wookey Hole Website

John Grange

John advised that the new website is up and running at wookeyhole.info and encouraged everyone in the village to submit news and articles. He would like details of cycle rides in particular. Chloe Stirk announced details of a photographic competition.

WOOKEY HOLE WEBSITE 2015 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

A photo in any format, subject *'My Life in Wookey Hole'* closing date July 24th 2015.

Class 1 Age, under 16 Prize, voucher to use at Great Shakes

Class 2 Age, 16 or over Prize, voucher donated by D.H.James, Wells

Judging by Barry Lane, former secretary of the Royal Photographic Society, also public's favourite photo. Winners will be announced at Wookey Hole Fete on August 1st 2015

Entries by email to John or Chloe at photo@wookeyhole.info or deliver to The Pink Lodge, Wookey Hole

Additional Post Box

Hugh Talbott

The Post Office authorities have suggested the best location would be at the entrance to Homestead Park. The owner of the site has sadly recently passed away and her estate is being finalised. Once the legalities have been concluded Hugh will take this forward with the Post Office.

Memorial Trees

Julia Scarth on behalf of David Scarth

The small-leafed lime trees planted in 2000 now need some attention. This will be undertaken by the Community Garden group, later in the year.

Notice Boards

Jenny Lewis

The group has received grants of £1,107 towards the costs. The current plan is to buy four new glass-fronted oak notice boards engraved 'Wookey Hole'. Each Board to cost £600. The group would welcome additional support, please contact Jenny at j.lewis072@btinternet.com if you can give a few hours to help.

Campaign for Dark Skies

Julia Scarth

Julia explained that this is a national campaign aimed at reducing light pollution. Light pollution hinders views of the night skies for astronomers and causes difficulties for nocturnal wildlife and migrating birds. Julia wishes to stand down as chair because of her involvement with other groups but after the meeting Gary Amos gary.amos@rwenpower.com agreed to replace her. Please contact Gary if you would like to be involved.

WH What's On

Jenny Lewis

The chair thanked Jenny, on behalf of WHRF, for taking on the newsletter and keeping everyone in Wookey Hole informed about village events. Anyone not on the mailing list can contact Jenny at j.lewis072@btinternet.com

St Mary Magdalene Community Garden

Julia Scarth

This is a very active group and Julia thanked the PCC and the over 60 people, residents and non-residents, who have given time and energy getting the idea off the ground and underway, including SCOPC for a £200 'starter' grant.

There have been 4 events, 3 Sundays clearing the overgrown shrubs and ivy, which had overtaken the bank at the back of the church. Thanks to Jo Taylor of Mendip Landscapes for providing a team free of charge to dispose of the mounds of brash created. The last event on Easter Monday was a much enjoyed egg hunt, Easter Hat competition and egg and spoon race.

The future draft plans are available for anyone to see at the back of the church, which is open every day. A new church architect has been appointed by the PCC within the last month and the next step will be to agree an overall plan with him which he can take forward to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC are the decision-making authority who will need to approve any new works.

The project has also led to a spin off with Les Cloutman enlisting a group to undertake maintenance work at a future date on a SSSI on the edge of the village. He also gave a very informative talk about Wookey Hole wildlife, which raised funds for the village hall.

Litter Pick up

Ed Danson

Ed Danson will be organising a River Axe clean-up day. Please come and lend a hand. Ed can be contacted on ldanson@aol.co.uk

5. Audience Questions/Answers and Any Other Business

Wookey Hole Club. Martin Clemow explained that the Wookey Hole Club is 'for' the people of Wookey Hole. The Club will be starting 'Village' nights once a week as a social evening for people who live in Wookey Hole. Keep your eyes open for posters, he said. There will be a Ceilidh on May 8th, all are welcome. Wookey Hole Club 672 389.

St Mary Magdalene Church Fete – August 1st. This is always a lovely community day. Lucy White asked people to contact her if they could lend a hand. 677 156 or lucywhite@phonecoop.coop

Church. Rev Prebendary Alastair Wheeler, Vicar, reminded everyone that residents of Wookey Hole could use either St Cuthbert's Church in Wells or St Mary Magdalene in Wookey Hole for baptisms/christenings, weddings or funerals, as the two churches are part of the same benefice. He can be contacted on 677 810 or AQHW@aol.com Residents are fortunate to have one 'big' church and one 'small' church to use for family occasions, he said.

Dresses from pillowcases. Jenny Lewis j.lewis072@btinternet.com is running a group that makes dresses for impoverished children in Africa. Please contact her if you would like to be involved or have pillowcases to spare.

M.V. Balmoral. Alex Lewis volunteers for the charity that operates this historic river cruiser and has offered to organize a WHRF village outing later in the summer. Nicky will publicize for Alex nearer the time.

Butterfly Conservation. Les Cloutman is the local organizer. The fields above Wookey Hole are an SSSI because of the rare butterflies they support. Anyone interested in being part of a summer butterfly survey can contact Les on 673 069 bett.les@talktalk.net

6. Dates of forthcoming events

Saturday 13th June 2015 WHRF Open Gardens. Four gardens will be opened in the village followed by a cream tea in the Community Hall.

Saturday 24th October 2015. A bonfire evening at Mary Gaunt's Orchard to celebrate Samhain, (the end of harvest; the beginning of winter).

January 2016 (no date arranged yet) New Year social event

Nicky Amos

Secretary April 27th 2015