



Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Wetherby Civic Society held in 'The Wetherby' on Thursday 11th October 2018 at 7.30pm

1. **Apologies** The following apologies were given: Chris and Pam Kirby, Robert Vickers, George and Linda Ozols, Professor and Mrs Shirley Lawrenson, Jeremy Burton, Cindy and Neville Bentley, Chris Best, Janet Martin, Anne Taylor, Victor and Elaine Hawkins, Ian Hall, Paul Grafton.

2. **Minutes of AGM 2017** Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2017 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of that meeting and duly signed by Roger Taylor our Chairman.

Acceptance of the minutes proposed by Edward Pope and seconded by Peter Catton

3. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising

4. **Chairman's Comments:** Roger commented that the year had passed quickly again. Visits that were arranged had been well attended and that the visit to RAF Linton on Ouse had been outstanding. Nic Sheppard and his team continue to monitor planning applications. Jean Chapman our Secretary keeps us all on the straight and narrow. After six years of concise financial reports Margaret Crawford our Treasurer is stepping down. Our very grateful thanks to Margaret for her steady and reliable support over this time. Angela Winterbottom is prepared to take over this role. Our achievements this year include being approached by the Council for the Protection of Rural England as they thought that Wetherby was under siege by developers. This resulted in a public meeting in Wetherby Town Hall and the Better Wetherby Partnership being formed as a result of that meeting, they have been active in the Spofforth Hill housing application. It shows the effect of the combined strength when various groups with the same objectives get together. The Society continues attending John Bee's guest spot on the last Thursday of the month on Tempo FM, Wetherby's own radio station. We continue to lead the Guided Town Walks for the Arts Festival and other groups. This year we have conducted a walk for the East Riding Art Fund and the Harrogate branch of the National Trust., the income from these walks helps the Wetherby Civic Society funds and also spreads the word about Wetherby. Angela and Peter continue to get items in the Wetherby News, which shows the usefulness of an active local press and media. We have continued to think about our website, which will be subject to review in the next few months. We continued to talk to the Old Men's Parliament and put them in touch with the U3A Fettleers Group who between them took down the old weathered White Hart Yard sign, repainted it and then put it back up. The Royal Navy anchor from Scapa Flow is at its new resting place at the coach drop off point at the Cluster of Nuts car park. We are involved in organising a suitable information plaque or sign jointly with the Historical Trust to explain why the anchor is there. We do need more members for the Society and more help on the committee. My thanks to Peter Catton for all his hard work on the Spofforth Hill matter and the Better Wetherby Partnership. As always my thanks to you the members for your support and in particular my thanks to the committee members for their support and work throughout the year which I very much appreciate.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** All members present had been given a copy of the accounts and there were no questions asked. The accounts are to be approved by Nigel Wainman

Adoption of the accounts proposed by Roger Taylor and seconded by Nic Sheppard

6. **Election of Officers of the Committee:**

Chairman : Roger Taylor proposed by Jean Chapman and seconded by Harry Chapman

Vice Chairman: Peter Catton proposed by Nic Sheppard and seconded by Ruth Wheeler

Secretary: Jean Chapman proposed by Nic Sheppard and seconded by Peter Catton

Treasurer: Angela Winterbottom: proposed by Margaret Crawford and seconded by Jean Chapman

All were confirmed in their positions by the members present.

7. **Election of Committee Members:**

Nic Sheppard, Victor Hawkins and new member Julie Turner

All proposed by Jean Chapman and seconded by Harry Chapman

All confirmed in their positions by the members present.

8. **Sub Committee Reports:**

(i) **Trees:** The trees are looking great and growing well. They do not need a lot of looking after now apart from trimming the weeds away and keeping the branches away from people walking by them.

(ii) **Planning:** Nic Sheppard reported that the planning group continue to survey the planning applications within the conservation area and surrounding area. They have commented on a number of small proposed changes to premises within the Town Centre Conservation Area, these are very few in number and you will be aware that changes in the town centre have been minimal over the past year. Outside the conservation area housing developments next to Morrisons petrol station, the Mercure Hotel, the site of the old Forensics Laboratory, next to the roundabout on Sandbeck Lane and the Bellway Estate at the top of Spofforth Hill are either complete or near to completion. Collectively these are significant, yet generally small developments in comparison to the recent surge in applications and proposals to develop much larger estates on or just outside the natural boundaries of the town. We understand housing development is inevitable, however we promote the view that what the community needs are the right houses in the right places. We are pleased that a new partnership of locally concerned groups called the Better Wetherby Partnership has now been formed. This is to ensure that a co-ordinated and informed challenge is made to local authorities and developers. The Civic Society will continue to actively contribute and support the actions of the Partnership. Whilst groups such as the Better Wetherby Partnership and the Civic Society are useful in presenting a collective voice, we hope all our members will continue to make their own individual contribution and voices heard when objections need to be raised. There is still time to put your objections in to the Racecourse Approach application.

(iii) **Events:** Peter Catton reported that over five visits last year we had ninety-nine people attending, an average of twenty people per visit. Most popular were the visits to Allerton Castle and RAF Linton on Ouse, although attendance at the latter was limited to twenty and many applicants were disappointed. Other visits include Wakefield Cathedral, Fulneck Moravian Settlement and Carlton Towers. We had three talks during the year, "Royal Ordnance Factory Thorp Arch" in Spring given by Peter Catton, an "Historical Tour of the Wetherby Rural District" in Summer was given by Victor Hawkins and tonight's talk

“Gunpowder Treason and Plot” will be given by Jocelyn Brooks. Next year we intend to follow a similar pattern to this year, with five visits and three talks, but most of the visits will be organised by Angela Winterbottom. As usual members will receive a form to complete on which they will identify the visits in which they are interested and nearer the time will receive an application form for those visits.

10. Any Other Business: Roger thanked our auditor Nigel Wainman.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00pm

After a break for tea/coffee and biscuits the talk was by Jocelyn Brooks

on

“Gunpowder Treason and Plot”
