

**Minutes of the town Team meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at  
7.30pm in Wilton Town Council Chamber**

**Present**

**David von Zeffman, Chairman** (President of Wilton & District Business Chamber), **Chris Rolfe** (Resident Agent, Wilton Estate), **Gary Nunn** (Wilton Carnival etc), **Rev'd Mark Wood** (Rector, St Mary & St Nicholas Church), **Phil Matthews** (Mayor of Wilton), **Catherine Purves** (Town Clerk), **David Parker** (Editor, Valley News), **Sam Thake** (Wilton CLT), **Wilts Cllr Peter Edge** (part).

**Apologies**

**Mark Pountain** (Chairman, Wilton CLT), **PC Ian Pedliham & PCSO Jenny Moss** (Wilton NPT), **Stephen Harris** (SWW Community Area Manager), **Jonathan Greening** (Minister, Wilton Baptist Church), **Clare Ellard** (Wilton Shopping Village), **Nicola Sage** (Wilts Council Youth Activity Co-Ordinator), **Jon Moulard** (Wilton Rotary)

**1. Chairman's welcome and apologies**

DvZ warmly welcomed all to the meeting, and noted the apologies, as recorded above.

**2. Approval of minutes, and any matters arising not covered in the agenda.**

- a. *Minutes* – the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record by DvZ, without amendment.
- b. *Matters arising* – DvZ noted that Stephen Harris' presentation on dementia awareness had been well received at the recent Business Chamber Breakfast, and that as a result, a number of businesses had opted to undertake further training, to enable Wilton to become a dementia friendly town.

**3. Wilton Town Website**

*Gary advised that:*

- There had been a good response and positive feedback to the new website, and was running well. He was now enabled to edit the website on a day-to-day basis.
- Please send him any news or details of upcoming events. It is particularly important, as it was noted that already there is a clash of dates between Wilton Carnival and a performance given by the Wilton & District Band.
- It was suggested that a notice be displayed in the lobby of the Michael Herbert Hall advising organisers to contact Gary should they want their event/class promoted on the website.

#### **4. Wilton Business Directory and the Annual Diary to be included in the Wilton Hill/Erskine Park welcome pack**

DvZ took the opportunity to circulate draft copies of the two documents, noting that the final documents needed to be completed fairly speedily, as the Enterprise Hub would be marketing the business units before the development was complete, and the first residents would be moving in within the next two months.

#### **5. Neighbourhood Plan**

- The request to define the area to be covered had been submitted to Wilts Council, which now had to undertake a consultation exercise on this.
- Wilts Council was now consulting on its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, as it is required to build an additional 4200 houses. It is a living document, with sites being added and removed as they are assessed and found to be a possibility or not. Unlike last time, landowners must be aware that their land is being submitted.

#### **6. Brief updates from member bodies**

- *Wilton Town Council* – the location of the skate board is a live issue, the funding is available. There is a possibility that the Council will be expected to take on the responsibility and cost of the toilets in the Market Square. The Civic Awards will take place this year on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. The next Market Towns meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April in Westbury, and the 2014 Benchmarking exercise has been received, and will be considered by the Council in April.
- *Wilton & District Business Chamber* – the guest speaker at April's Business Breakfast will be Sarah Dyke Brasher from the Heart of Wessex LG, who chairs the committee which considers applications for EU funding. The Chamber will be submitting an application in the autumn for bridge funding, pending the establishment of the income stream from the Enterprise Hub. Business Chamber and rotary members are now working together to provide marshalling at local events
- *South West Wilts Area Board* – the next meeting is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Dinton. The Magna Carta celebrations are still in the planning stage, but it is likely to take the form of a procession from Salisbury Market Square to the Cathedral Close during the evening Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Gary & Stephen will shortly be visiting all the businesses on the cycle route. There was a suggestion that the "Best of Wilton" event could be held in front of St Mary & St Nicholas church.
- *Wilton Carnival* – the venue is confirmed to be the Wilton Shopping Village on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, with the annual Big Lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July. If requested, the Wilton House car park can be made available for use, even though the House will be closed.

- *Wilton Shopping Village* – It was noted that Fisherton Mill & Café are leaving the Shopping Village. Although the background circumstances to this are not known, the Team viewed this with dismay, as it was felt the Shopping Village would be losing part of its attraction. Concern was also expressed about the future of the studio lets.
- *St Mary & St Nicholas Church* - the church now has its own fully functioning sound system, which will enable concerts etc to be recorded as well. Part of the funding for the veterans accommodation at Erskine Park has been secured, with Alabare to operate the premises. The Wilton Education Trust has funding available, and is looking at supporting apprenticeships. The Wilton United Charities now has a new secretary.
- *Wilton Community Land Trust* - £3.5m has been secured for the Veterans Facility, which should attract a further £2.5m from private investment. A planning application for the Enterprise Hub should be submitted to Wilts Council by the end of March. Funding is actively sought for this.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- *AGM arrangements* – as the Town Team is a working group of the Town Council, this is not required to be held, but it was felt appropriate that the election of a chairman should take place each year. This will be held, therefore, at the May meeting, to tie in with the Council's timetable in such matters.
- *Wilton Station* – a presentation will be given at the next meeting by Wilts Councillor Horace Prickett, Portfolio Holder for Transport, and Paul Johnson, Chairman of Trans Wilts Rail CIC on the plans to re-open Wilton station, which may be possible by 2020. It is also possible that a metro line will run between the Park & Ride facilities at Wilton, Petersfinger and Laverstock instead of/as well. This project will support the Core Strategy requirement to keep the settlements of Salisbury and Wilton separate. DvZ will pass on Cllr Prickett's contact details to Wilton Estate. There is a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March with John Glen MP and other interested parties.
- *Lloyds Bank, Wilton branch* – it had been noted with grave concern that the branch was curtailing its opening hours from June, and a protest by the business community had recently been held outside the branch. It was felt that the Bank needed to be aware of the perception that Wilton is being downgraded, even though it might make commercial sense for the bank.
- *Wilton House opening hours* – it had been noted with dismay that the House will be opening later, and closing earlier this summer, and not opening at all on Fridays and Saturdays. There is a perception that the Estate is a vital part of the local economy, attracting visitors to the town and the wider area, although there is no evidence to support this viewpoint either way. However, the hours had been adjusted to reflect the experience of previous years and the weather, and it was understood that the state would keep this under

review, and would be flexible if it proved necessary. The Estate was aware that a lot of visitors to the grounds are local people, and it is anxious to convey that it is not withdrawing from the community. It engages local trades wherever possible, and uses local shops as well, and is happy for vehicles to be left in its car parks whilst visitors explore the rest of the Town. It is also looking at a variety of community participatory schemes, but from past experience, these don't always deliver what is hoped. Those present hoped that the Wilton Walks leaflet and Local Directory would be available at the entrance desk.

**The meeting finished at 9.30am**

The next meeting takes place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber