

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Meeting Minutes

Attendees	Sophie Blaken – Chair (SB), Jude Nicholas – Treasurer (JN), Pat Huxley – Vice Chair (PH), Daniel Atherton – Digital Secretary (DA), Robert Nicholas (RN), Bob Atherton (BA), Brian Hardy (BH), Bill Roughton (BR), Jonathan Shewell-Cooper (JSC), Stephany Schild (SS)
Also Present	ClIr Andrew Rule (AR)
Where	The Ferry Inn, Main Road, Wilford
When	19.30, 17 th February 2025
What	Wilford Community Group Meeting

Item	Description	Action
0	Agenda	
0.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apologies2. Minutes & Actions from 20/01/25 Meeting3. Iremongers Pond Update4. Litter-Picking Update5. Community Events6. Community Group Finances7. AOB	
1	Apologies	
1.1	Clare Roughton (CR), Pamela Duesbury (PD), Ann Gerty (AG), Terri Slade - Secretary (TS), Joanne Mist (JM), Hayley Spain (HS), Heidi Shewell-Cooper (HSC).	
2	Minutes and Actions from 20/01/25 Meeting	
2.1	<p>Burning on allotments, RN investigated and noted the rules. BH reminded the group about issue from several years ago leading to health issues of neighbour, reiterated the arrangement agreed at that time which was for there to be only two arranged burning sessions a year – will take this up with Nottingham City Council if necessary.</p> <p>HS contacted SB about the quarry application. No further action.</p>	
3	Iremongers Pond Update	
3.1	<p>DA updated the group on progress with the bridge. Engineers have conducted ground surveys ahead of necessary cement foundations for either end of the extended bridge. A list of supplies will be provided as soon as possible to enable the group to seek donations and purchase items in time for a hoped spring installation. Thanks were paid to Pino DeRosa and Bridgeways as well as to Howard Pratt and HSP Consulting who are putting together the technical plans for the bridge.</p> <p>BR noted the Wildlife Trust is intending to install mink traps as they are a noted local pest – traps would capture live minks which would, in turn, be exterminated. JSC cautioned that reports were exaggerated. BR emphasised that the group can object though hesitated about what effect this would have. No objections were raised about the installation.</p>	

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Treasurer: Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ *Secretary:* Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL *Digital Secretary:* Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

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	<p>BR warned about the decreasing water in the Swales. JSC noted that they are around 2 foot down from where they should be, owing to the pumps not flowing into the Swales. JSC requested AR to seek urgent clarification about why the pumps were turned off and how to get this reversed immediately.</p> <p>BA warned that no group had taken responsibility for the water being turned off. JSC and SB confirmed that the pump is an NET pump. JSC highlighted that this is not the case of a lack of rainfall – Gresham Marsh and river levels are high enough that there is not a concern about low rainfall. JSC warned that there must be urgent action to avert terrible damage to the wildlife.</p> <p>DA noted that the group could make this a case for the media. JSC noted that NET had publicly commented about the water feeding into the Swales from the Wilford Lane Tram Stop.</p> <p>SB has emailed NET, AR has emailed Environment Agency and copied in NCC representatives.</p> <p>DA updated the group that the Nottinghamshire Badger Group had conducted a professional survey of the site and concluded that, though it was once occupied, it is no longer actively used nor are there traces of recent use since the last major flooding at the pond. Therefore the group would not need to be cautious of the location and could look to return use of the walking route and for vehicle access to the bridge.</p> <p>PH confirmed that Green Flag application has been successfully submitted, with thanks to Sophia Kourpas for completing the tediously long application with an extension.</p> <p>AR noted that EA has already confirmed that they will investigate on Tuesday 18th.</p>	AR
4	Litter-Picking Update	
4.1	No update received. Bi-weekly sessions are continuing.	
5	Community Events	
5.1	<p>SB confirmed that May Day is going ahead. Church Hall has been confirmed, free of charge. Two issues are arising: church group unable to store BBQ and chairs. Gazebos can continue to be stored but only upstairs. SB warned that the gazebos are deteriorating quickly. SB noted that there are provisional possibilities for transferring the May Day celebration to Modern's Rugby Club. Conversations are ongoing. Agreed for chairs to be disposed of and solutions to be sought for the BBQ storage.</p> <p>PH warned that the previous event did not cover all costs. DA confirmed that the group now has access to two card machines which, SB highlighted, will make donations easier to make.</p> <p>AR and SB to continue to pursue Modern's Rugby Club as an option.</p> <p>SB noted that planning will begin for the Safari Sale following May Day. Noted that discussions will occur about a location for stalls at one of two local schools.</p>	AR/SB
6	Community Group Finances	
6.1	£259.20 for website costs for three years of website coverage. No further financial updates.	
7	AOB	
7.1	<p>PH – Donation of history books by Ray Hutchins.</p> <p>Funds were requested to go to Iremongers Pond from sale of RH's books. The group thanked Ray Hutchins for his generosity.</p>	

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	<p>RN noted that archive materials relating to Wilford House have been provided to SMT (current occupants of Wilford House) who were very grateful.</p> <p>DA – noted that local groups were offering to undertake spring cleaning projects.</p> <p>JN celebrated the bulbs coming up in the WCG-supported planters by the Village Green.</p> <p>BH asked whether AR had had any progress with flooding issues on Holly Avenue. AR continuing to chase with relevant groups.</p> <p>BR asked whether the Iremongers Pond Group could be re-absorbed into the Community Group. SB noted that it was a stand-alone passion and group that should not be formally absorbed into the WCG meeting.</p> <p>Agreement for IPA to have a reconstitution meeting.</p> <p>AR passed on warning from local Police Sergeant that there have been multiple burglaries utilising key boxes outside of front doors. Warning to be communicated to local community Facebook groups.</p> <p>AR noted that the Flooding Drop-In session is likely to be the 12th of March between 2 and 3:30pm, waiting for confirmation from Modern's Rugby Club. Passed on apology from organisers for delays. SB and DA agreed to publicise as soon as possible.</p> <p>AR updated on the quarry application. Pre-meeting for the quarry has occurred and a decision should be given in February or March. Encouraged residents to communicate with the City Council Planning Committee with their views.</p> <p>DA requested AR to prod City Council team about how best to submit our Wilford Crossroads Petition.</p> <p>SS to renew Community Group notice boards.</p>	
8.6	<p>There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20:33.</p> <p>The next meeting is on Monday 17th March 2025 at 19:30 in the Ferry, Main Road, Wilford.</p>	

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