

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee  
7<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion**

**Present**

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman), J. Girling, K. Merritt and K. Sammons.  
M. Cowan and J. Norton  
R. Medley (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

**2. Declarations of interest in agenda items**

None was declared.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Correspondence**

5.1 A letter from Simon Pickering, Youth & Community Development Officer from St Edmundsbury, confirmed that the final payment requested from Wickhambrook would be £505 and promised that a progress summary would be provided in September.

**6. Playground**

6.1 Safety Inspection. The monthly summaries were handed in. Marion Cowan reported further deterioration of the top slat of one of the benches.

6.2 Playground Improvements. The Clerk handed out a summary of the fundraising situation. There had been no addition to the total of £68,000 reached in May. Pre-applications had been sent to 'Reaching Communities' and 'Awards for All'. Both had been unsuccessful; the former because 'the proposal does not clearly show how the project activities described will lead to your outcomes' and the latter because 'there is insufficient justification to consider the zip wire as a separate stand alone project'. The remaining possibilities – Biffaward and SITA/Fields in Trust – need evidence of ownership. Cllr. Sammons suggested a loan and it was agreed that all alternatives should be considered.

6.3 Playground on Bury Road. A message from Havebury Housing dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August stated 'we are currently in the process of having the land valued...We have insured the equipment for the interim period ...The intention is still to gift the land to the Parish Council.'

6.4 Annual Playground Inspection. This previously circulated report was considered satisfactory.

**7. Tree Warden' Report**

The Clerk would remind the tree warden, Cllr. Bradbury, of the need for reports for these meetings.

7.1 Jubilee Oak. The tree originally offered to Wickhambrook had been re-allocated elsewhere, but a second batch of jubilee oaks would be available in the Autumn. The Chairman proposed that the tree be planted in the area of the Bowls and Tennis Clubs on the bank that was free of trees currently. This suggestion received general support.

7.2 Remedial work on Parish Council trees. Acacia Tree Surgery had been authorised to proceed with the A rated work (work to be completed within 6 months of the April inspection) The Memorial Social Centre had been invoiced for their portion of the inspection costs and the Women's Institute was about to be invoiced. There was some uncertainty about whether the trees on the bank of the Church car park were in the Wickham Street conservation area. The Clerk was trying to clarify this.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**

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**8. Cemetery**

8.1 Safety Inspection. Inspection reports were handed in. John Norton suggested that the iron gates would benefit from a coat of paint. Cllrs. supported this and instructed the Clerk to ask Cllr. Claydon if he would be willing to sand blast and spray paint both gates.

8.2 Denoting the war memorial area. Saxon Monumental Craft would make a site visit within the next week or so. Cllrs. Merritt and Girling wished to be invited.

**9. Churchyard**

9.1 Safety Inspection. The quarterly report was handed in. There were no concerns.

**10. Teen Project**

10.1 Safety Inspection. Reports were handed in. Marion commented on the lack of litter over the previous two months. Marion and Ian Cowan offered to repair the 'slab missing' area at the skate park entrance by laying a concrete ramp.

The most recent Play Equipment Inspection report identified 'several screws missing from quarter pipe' but it was thought that these were holes that were no longer in use.

**11. Six Acres**

11.1 The inspection report was handed in. Dog muck seemed to be on the increase and Cllrs. suggested that a note in the Scene would be beneficial.

**12. Village Greens**

12.1 Reports were handed in. Cllr. Girling explained the agreement reached with the builders over Moor Green. John Norton offered to clean and re-stain the seats at the cemetery and Coltsfoot and Atleton Greens.

12.2 Another Litter Pick? Cllrs agreed that a litter pick should be arranged for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October at the usual time and place.

12.3 Overhanging hedges at Meeting Green. Cllrs were concerned about restriction of sight lines and instructed the Clerk to send a letter to the owner of Sunset Bungalow.

**13. Village Notice Board.** John Crysell had offered to investigate the practicality of repairing the Parish Council notice board which stands outside the Village Stores. He had removed it temporarily.

**14. Possible involvement in the running of public services in the local community.**

Information received from Rural Services Network suggested that parish councils may have the opportunity of taking on responsibility for local services such as verge cutting and maintenance of footpaths. Cllrs. were in favour of obtaining more information. Cllr. Sammons offered to contact Cowlinge and Kirtling parish councils to learn of their experience.

**Date of next meeting.**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in the MSC Pavilion.

**Meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.**

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**