

EC169

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
17th August 2010 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman), V. Mayes, K. Merritt and K. Sammons.
Cllr. E. Taylor attended for agenda items 5.1 and 6.1 only.
Peter and Pam Miller and M. Cowan.
R. Medley (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies. Cllr. Taylor arrived at 7.40 and left at 8.20pm.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

None declared

3. Minutes of the meeting of 1st June 2010

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

4.1 A copy of the letter to the 'Players' was tabled.

5. Correspondence

5.1 A letter had been received from the Bowls Club. Cllr. Taylor explained the contents in greater detail. Despite offering 'free play for all for 2010' membership had remained constant at around 20 players. The original budget of £1600 per annum had been pared to £520 and the green and the surround were being maintained by a team of enthusiastic volunteers. The Bowls Club portion of the Pavilion had been offered to the Tennis Club. The rabbit proof fencing was almost complete. Cllrs. discussed options for the future. It was felt that volunteers should continue to receive free use of facilities but non volunteers should be asked to make a donation. The Parish Council would be asked to underwrite any shortfall in order to maintain the facility for a further 12 months. Cllrs. hoped that the Parish Plan questionnaire could include a question on the future of the Bowls Club.

6. Playground

6.1 Progress on playground designs. Cllr. Taylor explained that she had received three proposed designs from three separate companies with prices ranging from £68,000 to £88,000. These would be circulated in time for comments at the next Estates Committee meeting. Cllrs. suggested that thought be given to setting up a working party.

6.2 Safety Inspection. A shortened inspection form was now in use. Overhanging branches had been trimmed, broken pales had been replaced and the seats on the roundabout had been painted.

6.3 Annual playground inspection. Cllrs. were satisfied with the report.

6.4 Donations for playground improvements. Giffords Hall Open Gardens had raised £1103. This together with previous donations brought the total to £1573.

7. Tree Warden' Report

7.1 The ash tree opposite the 'Greyhound'. David King had carried out an inspection and felt that this tree offered no greater risk than similar trees elsewhere. Cllrs. resolved that the situation be reviewed and minuted on a regular basis.

7.2 Community Orchards. Recent information on this initiative had been given to the Parish Plan steering committee.

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Chairman

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7.3 Overhanging hedges. The Clerk was instructed to write letters to two residents at Meeting Green crossroads

8. Cemetery

8.1 Safety Inspection. Marion Cowan had carried out weekly checks and handed in the safety inspection. The Clerk was instructed to arrange repairs on two sunken graves.

8.2 Repair of further headstones. A notice listing three remaining dangerous headstones had been on display for over a year but there had been no contact from surviving relatives. Cllrs. suggested that arrangements should be made for repairs.

8.3 Fees for 2011. The Clerk was instructed to circulate copies of the existing fees with the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Churchyard

9.1 The inspection report had been handed in. Some damage to the flint wall had been noted.

10. Teen Project

10.1 Safety Inspection. Reports were handed in. Weeds had been sprayed and branches cut back. The concrete ramp at the entrance needs replacing. Screws had been replaced or tightened on several pieces of equipment and the grindbox had been anchored again.

10.2 New regulations notice. The wording had been agreed and Workwise had been contacted.

11. Six Acres

11.1 Safety inspection. This was handed in. The damaged sign near the tennis courts had been repaired.

11.2 Dog bins. Cllrs. were in favour of dog bins being placed in the areas of Coltsfoot and Attleton Greens and the matter would be put on to the next Parish Council agenda.

12. Village Greens

12.1 Safety Inspection. This was handed in.

12.2 Easement across Coltsfoot Green. A copy of a draft letter to the applicants had been vetted by NALC. The Clerk was instructed to make the advised changes and send the letter.

12.3 Registration of Greens. The four true village greens (those with an area of land for which the Parish Council is responsible) and Badmondfield End had been registered with the County Council but not with the Land Registry. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements. Cllrs. could see little point in registering the remaining seven 'greens'.

13. Valuation of assets. The value of Parish Council assets had been queried by the auditor. Further guidance had been sought. The Council is required to annually assess the asset register against the insurance policy. The Council needs to check that any additional assets have been included and insured and disposed assets are no longer listed. The outcome of the exercise needs to be minuted.

Date of next meeting.

This would be held in the MSC Pavilion on Tuesday 19th October 2010. Pam Miller offered her apologies.

Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 17th August 2010.

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Chairman

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Date