

Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee 7th December 2015 held at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), J. Barton, J. Walker and P. Couzens
J. Girling, R. Merry
R. Medley and S Thorburn (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to the public. Cllr. K. Merritt and A. Harris and I. Spencer offered their apologies. There were no members of the public present.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 15th October 2015

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Item 7.5 of previous meeting – growth on the chapel. The Clerk reported that Andrew Harris had cleared the ivy from the gutters and roof which had uncovered some cracked tiles. John Crysell had been employed to replace these and the work was now complete.

4.2 Item 10.3 of previous meeting – autumn litter pick. A disappointing turnout was discussed by the Committee with a report that a youth football match was being completed and a later time may have attracted the players. It was agreed to have the late winter litter pick on a Saturday at the time of 10.30 a.m.

4.3 Item 7.4 of previous meeting – cemetery water butt. This had not been replaced as yet.

5. Open Session 7.45 p.m.

No comments.

Closure of open session 7.45 p.m.

6. Youth Facilities

6.1. Main Playground

6.1.1 Safety Inspections. Weekly reports were up to date. R. Merry commented on the need to tighten the handles on the Busy Bee and Miracle had supplied the replacement bolts. The annual inspection report had indicated areas in the playground that were trip hazards and the supply of safety matting needed pegs to secure it at a cost of £14.00 per one hundred – the Committee agreed this purchase could be made. Algae covering the equipment was also highlighted as a hazard and it was agreed that quotes should be sought to pressure wash the equipment. The Clerk would contact the company who treated the War Memorial. Other areas that the report had highlighted would be monitored.

6.1.2 Errors on notice boards. A draft of the final version of the amended list of donors on the brass plate was checked by Cllrs. and The Clerk would now return it for engraving.

6.1.3 Football and the playground. The Clerk had discussed the situation regarding the footballs being kicked towards the play equipment with AON the company which provides insurance cover and had acted on their advice to display warning signs. The Committee agreed to the purchase of four permanent signs one to be put in and outside at each gate. The Clerk would investigate different options regarding protective netting availability and cost before a meeting would be requested with the MSC and football representatives to discuss cost sharing.

6.2 Teen Project

6.2.1 Inspections and Improvements. Reports had been completed. Litter was less of a problem. R. Merry had trimmed some overhanging branches and purchased a replacement net online for £2.85 for the MUGA.

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6.3 Bury Road playground. The Clerk had received information that the Highways Maintenance Technician was in the process of arranging a court hearing for 26 February 2016. The new plan showing the re-positioning of the fence had been provided for approval by the Suffolk County Council legal team. The Clerk assured the Committee that the work would be funded by Suffolk County Council.

7. Tree Warden’s Report. J. Girling gave a verbal report that the exposed roots and surrounding soil of the removed diseased cherry tree at Genesis Green had been treated. The Jubilee Oak near the Bowls Green was still without the protective guard. The horse chestnut tree in the cemetery was specified in the Acacia inspection report as needing a limb removed at a cost of £300. An alternative quote had been in excess of this and the Committee agreed to instruct Acacia to act in addition to the removal of deadwood from a mountain ash at Genesis Green at a cost of £25.

8. Cemetery

- 8.1 Safety Inspection. Inspections were up to date. Julian Girling was concerned about brambles in the conservation area becoming a hazard. The Clerk had emailed David King for advice and cost of removal but had no response as yet.
- 8.2 Memorial garden and possibility of HLF funding. The Clerk would speak to the History Society, they may have researched local families who had suffered losses in the First World War.
- 8.3 Arrange date for committee cemetery visit. The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday 16th December at 2 p.m. to discuss the interpretation of the cemetery rules and regulations. Cllr. Couzens, who is responsible for the cemetery, would also attend.
- 8.4 Cemetery query. The Clerk re-stated the query discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 26th November and as the Parish Council still held the exclusive right of burial form, this had been refused by a family member, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Co-operative Society about the state that the grave had been left in and request that excess soil be removed, the grave cleared and turf re-instated. Permission had been given at the November meeting for the wooden cross to be replaced by a new cross.

9. Churchyard

9.1 November Report. Cllr. Sammons submitted a written report and stated that the rear of the churchyard was now clear of debris and tidy. The car park sign was in a state of disrepair and the Clerk would remind the Warden about this.

10. Six Acres

- 10.1 Inspections. There was a flooded area that may be connected to a drain problem. New dog fouling signs had been placed at the four entrances and no dog fouling had been detected which may be due to the bag dispensers being in place. The hedge near the school needed monitoring as it was becoming untidy.
- 10.2 Dog Fouling trials. The MSC had offered to refill the dispensers but may approach the Parish Council for funding when more bags were required.

11. Village Greens

- 11.1 Inspections. Reports were up to date. The Committee agreed that a small hawthorn that was not flourishing could be removed at Genesis Green.
- 11.2 Moor Green. A meeting was to be arranged when David King attended the green to quote for the required work which would include the adjoining neighbours, R. Merry and J. Girling.

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11.3 Ditches on Coltsfoot Green. The householder who had requested that the ditches be cleared had been contacted regarding summer clearance and The Clerk reported that there had been an expression of concern about flooding should the work be delayed. The Committee discussed the issue of damage to the green should the work take place immediately and taking into consideration the fact that the request had only recently been received after the dry summer months, it was decided to notify the householder of the decision to clear the ditches in the spring to save extensive damage to the green. Meanwhile the situation would be monitored but a current inspection had shown the ditches to be flowing well.

12. Working Parties. Nothing to report

13. Bury Road notice board. A quote from John Crysell was awaited for the repair.

14. Hedges. Suffolk Highways had written to the offending owners and some progress had been made.

15. Health and Safety. The Committee agreed to co-ordinate the Parish Council's responsibility to Health and Safety and The Chair agreed to oversee The Clerk's progress with this subject.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m. Next Meeting 7.30 p.m. Thursday 11th February 2016 in the MSC Pavilion.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015.

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Chairman

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