

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion**

**Present**

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman), K. Merritt and K. Sammons.

J. Girling and R. Merry

R. Medley (Clerk).

Four Memorial Social centre trustees attended the Open Session.

**1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies. I. Spencer did not attend.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising**

4.1 Item 5.1 from previous meeting – Alternative quotes for mowing recreation ground. Cllrs. agreed to continue with the existing contractor (EFMS) at a cost of £1450.25 + vat for the 2015/16 season.

4.2 Item 5.2 of previous meeting – Playground sign. The final cost was £460.80

**5. Open Session 7.35 pm**

The four MSC trustees had been invited to discuss a common approach to dealing with the dog fouling on the recreation ground. Several alternative possibilities were considered including installing closed circuit television, giving maximum publicity to the prosecution of a persistent offender, highlighting each pile of dog muck with fluorescent paint or flag and articles in local papers and village newsheets. The action agreed was that the Clerk would circulate the content of the recent course on Byelaws & Dog Control Orders to everyone present and members would design a flyer which could either be delivered as part of the ‘What’s On’ newsheet or as a separate item.

**Close of Open Session 8.20pm.**

**6. Youth Facilities**

6.1. Safety Inspections. Reports were up to date. R. Merry had heard nothing from Pro-Scape and may ask Miracle to assist. Three companies had suggested designs for improvements to the Skate Park and their quotes and ideas would be circulated. A display at the Village Carnival was suggested. Cllr. Sammons had agreed to act as a ‘sounding board’.

6.2. Installation of notice boards. John Crysell had started to install the display boards.

6.3 Bury Road Playground. Simon Curl, Area Manager, had been advised by his legal team that his suggestion of issuing a ‘licence to occupy’, as a temporary measure, would not be appropriate.

6.4 St Edmundsbury Youth Initiative. A 2015 version of ‘Wos Up’ was being considered. Cllrs. were happy that Wickhambrook be involved providing that there was no charge for the service.

**7. Tree Warden’s Report.**

7.1 The Tree Warden gave a thorough report. He noted that the promised protection for the Jubilee Oak had not yet been installed.

7.2 Free tree packs from Community Trees. The Clerk had applied for the minimum pack (30 whips) for the 2015/16 winter period. All applications were to be considered on merit and the outcome would be known in early Autumn.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**

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**8. Cemetery**

8.1 Safety Inspections. Reports were up to date. J. Girling had noted a ‘greening’ of the wooden gates and the donated seat. He offered to stain both and tidy the cut brambles. One of the uprights of the iron gates had tilted so that the gates no longer closed properly. The clerk was instructed to contact David King about the brambles in the Yew tree behind the Chapel.

8.2 Site and size of memorial garden. Having considered the likely costs of installation and ongoing maintenance Cllrs. wondered if the outlay could be justified. The decision would be taken back to the Parish Council.

8.3 The Clerk was in the process of registering the Wickhambrook War Memorial.

**9. Churchyard**

9.1 Inspections reports were up to date. The Clerk would mention the large pile of cut branches to the warden.

**10. Six Acres**

10.1 Cllr. Merritt gave an update. He noted that the goals had not been moved prior to grass mowing so several small areas had not been cut and that there appeared to be some goals no longer in use. The Clerk was instructed to discuss these concerns with the Football Club Chairman.

10.2 Storage of Football Club posts. Cllrs. gave their approval for the removal of a section of the bank surrounding the Bowls Club car park, sufficient to allow access for the wheeled goals. The Clerk was asked to remind the Club about their offer to ‘make good’ the changes.

**11. Village Greens**

11.1 Inspection reports were up to date. The Clerk was concerned about the condition of Moor Green. Remedial action was needed and R. Merry agreed to draw up a list of the improvements required.

11.2 Moor Green. Paul Rowe had confirmed that he would install the perimeter posts and was looking for a gap in his work schedule.

**12. Working Parties.**

In the absence of I. Spencer this matter could not be discussed.

**13. Overhanging Hedges**

A few hedges were still causing concern and in the opinion of Cllrs. constituted a traffic hazard.

The Clerk was instructed to ask County Council highways to send letters to the landowners in question.

**14. Litter Pick**

There were only a few volunteers involved on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Consideration would be given to moving the event to a Saturday.

**15. Inter Village Sports.**

Keith Warnock and colleagues had attended meetings with other interested villages and had offered to host the Tennis, Outdoor Bowls and Tug of War competitions as part of Wickhambrook Carnival on 11<sup>th</sup> July. The School pupils would be involved in Childrens’ Sports but on a different occasion.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.**

**Next Meeting** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the MSC Pavilion. J. Girling offered his apologies.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**