

EC234

Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee held on 11 February 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall

Present

Cllrs K. Sammons (Chairing the meeting), J. Barton, P Couzens, K. Merritt and J. Walker
J. Girling, R. Merry and I Spencer
Clerk S. Thorburn.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from A Harris. Cllr P Couzens would leave the meeting at 8.30 p.m. I.Spencer would leave the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2015.

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

4. Matters Arising (for information)

4.1 Item 6.1.2 from previous meeting – all resolved and plaque installed.

4.2 Item 8.3 from previous meeting – agreed and grave to be marked as reserved.

4.3 Item 11.3 from previous meeting – nothing more to report. Monitor and action in summer.

5. OPEN SESSION 7.35 pm

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION 7.35 p.m.

6. Finance

6.1 Quotes from contractor

The work had all been undertaken – Coltsfoot Green to be deferred to summer months and Memorial Garden to be discussed under 10.2

7. Church Clock

Church Warden Paul Bevan had reported that the clock had stopped. He instigated an early service and the repair, an additional £40, which was approved by the Estates Committee, a total of £250. This to be passed for payment at the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Youth Facilities

8.1 Main Playground and Teen Project

Roger Merry stated that the weekly inspections were all complete together with the St Edmundsbury Inspections completed each month. Mr Merry had attended a ROSPA course on inspecting playground facilities and proposed to update the current risk assessments in line with ROSPA recommendations but aligning groups of equipment to visual reports. The Estates Committee suggested that a new inspection form be formatted and insurance approval requested before it was implemented.

8.1.2 Purchase and installation of noticeboards

Roger Merry was to meet on 13 Feb with the contractor to discuss the siting of the signs regarding the football hazard in the playground.

8.2 Bury Road Playground

Court hearing for the playground was 25 February 2016.

8.3.3 The MSC would show an interest if the Six Acres playground needed to be protected from the activities of the football team.

14. Working Parties

Item 14 was brought forward due to Mr Ian Spencer having to leave the meeting early. The Attleton Green residents would now form a working party as the Contractor had reduced the growth to a manageable level. The pond needed to be cleared of growth once the weather had improved. Cllr Walker would action the investigation as to who would be responsible for the removal of used telegraph poles from the area. The Clerk would action an investigation into the wild flower seed projects. Mr Spencer was requested to supply the names and addresses of anyone on the working party to enable them to be covered by the Parish Council insurance plan.

Chairman

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9. Tree Warden's Report

Mr Julian Girling reported that all was in order but the Jubilee Oak did not have the guard surrounding it purchased some time ago. He had re-treated the stump at Genesis Green to prevent the spread of honey fungus. At the cemetery T17 did not appear to have been reduced as per the Acacia Tree quote to remove the limb that was stressing the tree in general. The Clerk reported that an invoice had been received to this effect and would investigate.

10. Cemetery

10.1 Safety Inspection - Gravestones all firm, car park tidy and nothing else to report.

10.2 Memorial Garden - Cllr. Sammons had met with the contractor with a view to maintaining the conservation area as part of the Memorial Garden. The contractor agreed to immediately tackle the brambles so that nesting birds would not be an issue as part of the schedule, and provide a quote to tidy the whole area. The quote of £1940 plus VAT was to be taken to the Parish Council meeting for approval. The contractor had agreed to lift the crown of the conifer for the seat but specific items such as this needed to be referred to in the quote. Due to the amount alternative quotes will need to be sourced. Funding would be applied for and Cllr Merritt stated that the maintenance of the chapel should also be considered.

11. Churchyard

11.1. Inspection report up to date, car park tidy and rear of the church comparatively clear.

12. Six Acres

12.1 Inspection noted mole hills could form a trip hazard by the tennis courts – Clerk to action quote and circulate prior to inspection. Proposed by Cllr Merritt and seconded by Cllr Walker.

A broken metal goal post should be removed. The drainage did not appear to be working but the wet season may not have been indicative of a problem. The dog fouling situation while not entirely resolved was improving.

13. Village Greens

13.1 Inspections

Reports covered in 9 and 14.

13.2 Moor Green – Roger Merry and Julian Girling agreed to tackle the removal of cut brambles from the site.

15. Hedges

Nothing to report and this item to be removed from the agenda until the conclusion of the bird nesting season.

16. Flooding in the village

Nothing to report but agreed to keep on the agenda to keep at the forefront of action.

17. Report on the Green Lanes

The Byways in Wickhambrook and Ousden had been closed and a discussion took place as to how they could be re-instated once re-opened.

A request was made from Roger Merry for the committee to consider a change of day for meetings – all were agreed to look at this and see when the pavilion could alternatively be booked.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Date of next Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee meeting Thursday 14 April 2016.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 11 February 2016.

Chairman

Date