

Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee 12th February 2015 at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), P. Couzens (attended to make committee quorate), and K. Merritt.
J. Girling and R. Merry
R. Medley (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. J. Walker and I. Spencer. Cllr. J. Norton had resigned.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 8th December 2014

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Item 8.3 from previous meeting – Request for interment cross. The Clerk read the letter that had been sent to Mr. Cross. To date there had been no reply.

4.2 Item 13 of previous meeting – hazardous manhole on drive to Australia Farm. Suffolk County Council and the owner had confirmed that the manhole was no longer in use so would be filled in. R. Merry said that the work had been completed.

5. Finance

5.1 Increase in charges for mowing playing fields. The Clerk offered to seek alternative quotes.

5.2 Invoice for sign listing those donating to playground. Cllrs. felt that £480 was an acceptable charge.

6. Youth Facilities

6.1. Safety Inspections. Reports were up to date. R. Merry had painted over the graffiti and was hoping that Pro-Scape would make a visit. He was investigating improvements to the skate park and had already obtained quotes and ideas from three companies. It was suggested that a stand at the Village Carnival displaying alternative designs could generate more ideas and support.

6.2. Installation of notice boards. The Clerk and John Crysell had arranged to meet on 18th February to agree final details.

6.3 Bury Road Playground. Simon Curl, Area Manager, had admitted that the delay was his fault and offered to issue a licence to occupy as a temporary measure. The Clerk was instructed to obtain further details.

7. Tree Warden’s Report.

7.1 The Tree Warden noted that the promised protection for the Jubilee Oak had not yet been installed.

7.2 Free tree packs from Community Trees. The 2014/15 offer had been oversubscribed. The Clerk would apply, as soon as possible, for the minimum pack (30 whips) for the 2015/16 winter period.

8. Cemetery

8.1 Safety Inspections. Reports were up to date. In the absence of Cllr. Norton the Clerk had carried out the inspection. J. Girling offered to do inspections in the future.

8.2 Site and size of memorial garden. Cllrs. agreed the choice of a formal garden as this would mean easier maintenance.

8.3 Cllrs. agreed that the Wickhambrook War Memorial be registered.

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Chairman

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Date

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9. Churchyard

9.1 Inspections reports had been completed. The Clerk would mention the damaged Car Park sign to the warden.

10. Six Acres

10.1 Inspection reports were up to date. Mole activity continued to increase and there were still regular instances of dog fouling. The Clerk offered to contact the Dog Warden to see if he would be willing to visit and take further action.

10.2 Storage of Football Club posts – letter from Mr Ashling. Cllr. Couzens stated that the container intended for storage of Football Club equipment should be available in the next few weeks. It was understood that this would be placed against the wooden pavilion in the Bowls Club car park and the goal posts would be placed alongside. Councillors were worried about the state of the football pitches and feared that continual use during wet periods would damage the grass to such an extent that re-seeding may be necessary. The situation would be monitored. The Clerk would inform the Club Chairman.

11. Village Greens

11.1 Inspection reports were up to date. The Clerk would take on this role until another volunteer could be found.

11.2 Moor Green. As there was no sign of the perimeter posts the Clerk was instructed to write to Paul Rowe asking if the promised action could be taken.

12. Working Parties.

I. Spencer had produced a written report giving plans for the clearing of Attleton Green pond and the tidying of the established trees. He hoped the volunteers would make a start in April.

13. Overhanging Hedges

Most hedges had now been trimmed. An article thanking the landowners would be placed in the ‘Scene’.

14. Inter Village Sports.

Wickhambrook had been invited to join Hundon, Kedington and the Thurlows for a sports competition. Details had been sent to sports clubs but there had been minimal response. The opportunity had been mentioned at the ‘Greyhound’ and several individuals were now showing interest. The Clerk would progress the approach.

Cllr. P. Couzens offered to attend the April meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm. Next Meeting Thursday 9th April 2015 in the MSC Pavilion.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2015.

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Chairman

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Date