

EC116

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
4th July 2006 at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms**

Only two councillors attended so this meeting was inquorate and no decisions could be taken

Present

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman) and K. Merritt.
P. Bayman, Pam and Peter Miller
Clerk R. Medley

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Bevan, Sumner and Harrison.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items.

P. Bayman declared an interest in Item 8.4

3. Minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2006.

The previously issued minutes were taken as read and signed.

4. Matters arising

Item 7.2. There had been no further communication from Powergen.

MSC Representative/s.

Patrick and Margaret Colvill (Chairman and Treasurer) briefed members on future plans.

A detailed assessment of the Memorial Social Centre had revealed 74 improvements. These had been prioritised and working parties were considering the most urgent. Ambitious changes were planned for the hall including heating, insulation, lighting, the gents toilet and the bar area. Work on some of these was already underway.

The wire and post fence between the car park and the recreation ground would be replaced by a green beech hedge. Use of the grounds by dogs would be controlled by 'You are welcome to walk your dog but please clean up' signs. An entrance gate to the recreation ground and extension to the car park were being considered but neither was seen as a priority.

Details of possible sources of finance were provided.

The representatives were thanked for their input and left the meeting.

5. Co-option of new member

Peter Miller expressed his willingness to become a co-opted member. He would be formally invited before the next meeting.

6. Finance

6.1 A quote of £80.27 for replacement of the broken skate park sign had been received.

It was felt that this was excessive and the Clerk was asked to contact Eibe for a more acceptable price. The remnants of the existing sign would be removed.

7. Tree Wardens Report

In the absence of Cllr. Bevan no report was available.

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Chairman

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Date

8. Cemetery

- 8.1 Safety Inspection. P. Bayman reported that a small section of lettering on the war memorial was missing. The Clerk was instructed to mention this to Saxon Memorial before the annual clean.
- 8.2 Fees and regulations. After discussion it was agreed to recommend a fee increase of 10%.
- 8.3 Notice. The Clerk was instructed to place the contact details notice on the wall of the Chapel in the area of the water butt.
- 8.4 Possible hiring of Chapel by Wickhambrook Players. Cllrs. were in favour of this proposal but felt that a formal agreement should be drawn up. The P.C.C. should be reminded about the bier.

9. Churchyard

No report was available.

10. Playground

- 10.1 Safety Inspection. Results of the regular safety inspection were presented.
- 10.2 Maintenance. The Clerk explained that John Crysell aimed to have the bench repaired and the roundabout re-varnished before the start of the school holidays. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the quote for the re-varnishing.
- 10.3 Grant for path to playground. The Clerk explained that he was having difficulty in obtaining the necessary three quotes as contactors were particularly busy this time of the year. Further contacts were provided. He hoped to obtain funding from local grants rather than the national funding agencies such as BIFFA.
- 10.4 Annual inspection. P. Miller gave the background to the current safety standards and explained that most are advisory. The Chairman said that the safety mats were now in place.

11. Teen Project

- 11.1 Safety inspection. P. Miller presented the results. There had been further incidences of graffiti; she had successfully removed the worst but some still remained. Some screws were working loose on the front edge of the fun box. P. Miller offered to replace these. P. Bayman offered to 'loan' Paul Jolland for help with manual tasks.
- 11.2 Progress on securing grindbox. Jeff Claydon had shown interest but had not been able to do anything to date. The Clerk was instructed to contact John Crysell.
- 11.3 Progress on securing the basket ball post. Jeff Claydon had shown interest, as above. P. Miller volunteered to replace the screws with bolts.
- 11.4 Graffiti. The Millers would continue to try to remove the wording with different cleaning substances.
- 11.5 Notices. Notices giving the new contact number for the Clerk were now in place.
- 11.6 Annual Safety Inspection. Recent improvements included the lopping of tree boughs and the removal of head height and ankle height studs in the fence.

12. Six Acres

- 12.1 Safety inspection. Concern was expressed about the hazard created by the rusting goal posts. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter to the Football Club saying that unless they were removed within 14 days, the Parish Council would remove them and send the bill.
- 12.2 Letter to Football Club. The Clerk reported that the Football Club had completed and returned one of the standard Sports' Club agreements and paid a years subscription. P. Miller felt that this could result in members of the Football Club assuming more rights that they were entitled to.
- 12.3 Tree planting on green by school. It was noted that the young trees were vulnerable through this current dry period and that the grass needed trimming.

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Chairman

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12.4 Dogs and litter bins. The Clerk explained that dog bins cost £57.69 plus VAT and £1 every time they were emptied (weekly?). He had discussed siting with the Waste Management Manager and the recommended sites were either end of the trees along the bottom of the Six Acres.

The Millers had obtained three dog fouling notices and these would be placed on the children's playground, the skate park and the fence of the tennis court or bowls green.

It was suggested that the Clerk obtains stickers for posts on the regularly used footpaths.

13. Village Greens

13.1 Inspections. P. Miller had handed in her reports. She felt that there was a danger of continuing erosion of Genesis Green. During recent local building works contractors had parked their vehicles on the edge. The Clerk was instructed to write to Genesis Green Stud, explaining the concern, and asking their advice.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th September 2006. 7.30 p.m. in the MSC Pavilion.

15. Dates of subsequent Meetings

This subject would be delayed until the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 4th July 2006

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Chairman

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Date