

EC143

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
6th May 2008 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

Present

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Taylor.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items.

P. Bayman declared an interest in item 7.3.

3. Minutes of the meetings of 4th March and the Extraordinary meeting of 16th April 2008

These were both signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

The Clerk explained that Mr. J. Crysell had promised to fix the grindbox in the Skatepark on 7th May.

5. Finance

5.1 The following quote had been approved

D. R. King & Son Grounds Maintenance for 2008 £5788.98

6. Tree Warden' Report

Councillors agreed that this item should remain on the agenda. They asked if the tree warden received other information and if it was possible to have a list of trees in the parish protected by Preservation Orders.

7. Cemetery

7.1 Safety Inspection. P. Bayman handed in the most recent inspection report.

7.2 Headstone Safety. The Clerk reported that the recent inspection carried out by Saxon Monumental Craft had found 55 unstable headstones. Of these 20 had identifiable 'next of kin' and they had been sent letters requesting that repairs be carried out. The others were pre-1982 and no records were available. A notice would be erected asking that visitors to the non-traceable graves contact the Clerk. Concern was expressed about 2 dangerous headstones and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Insurers for advice.

7.3 Chapel Use by the 'Players'. The 'Players' had delivered a new filing cabinet and the only outstanding work was a small amount of tidying.

7.4 There was no further news of the Cemetery notice board.

8. Churchyard

Written reports were being received quarterly.

9. Playground

9.1 Inspection reports were handed in. A pale on the far gate needed replacing and the ground in the area where the senior climber previously stood needed levelling.

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Chairman

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9.2 Short Term repairs. Pam and Peter Miller had carried out exploratory work on replacement safety surfaces and gates. After a discussion of alternatives it was agreed that grass tiles were the preferred choice for the junior climber. These would be purchased as a 'do-it-yourself' option and laid by a local contractor. The cost, including replacement of the mat under the Koala springer with grass, would be in excess of £3,000 so three alternative quotes would be sought. The ideal time for carrying out this work would be September and the sections under repair would be temporarily fenced. Safety modifications to the Junior Climber would be made at the same time.

Metal gates with in built closers would cost around £685 plus vat. Cllrs. approved the purchase of two.

Replacement chains for the senior swings would cost £117.00 for two pairs and purchase was approved. These could be fitted without outside help.

Because of the imminent deadline it was agreed that there was insufficient time to apply for a grant from the Borough. The finance earmarked for Playground Replacement (£6,500) and Playground Maintenance (£500) would be used.

9.3 The appointment of persons to steer longer term improvements. This decision was delayed to the next meeting.

10. Teen Project

10.1 Safety reports were handed in. Some minor subsidence was noted. Peter Miller agreed to check the warranty.

10.2 Fixing of the Grindbox. See agenda item 4.

11. Six Acres

11.1 Inspection reports were handed in. The collapse of the Tennis Club litter bin had been reported.

11.2 Bowls Club maintenance. Mr. D. King's quote of £580.00 for maintaining the Club area, excluding mowing the greens, was approved.

11.3 Village Fete on 12th July 2008. The MSC had asked about placing the Car Boot sale on the 'Six Acres' and requested that vehicles be allowed to use the bottom corner (by the school) as the exit. This was approved. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter reminding the MSC that this route was for emergency access and should not be blocked in any way. The occupants of neighbouring properties should be informed.

12. Village Greens

12.1 Safety inspection reports were handed in. The seat at Attleton Green needs cleaning and oiling.

12.2 Cleared section of thicket on Coltsfoot Green. This work had been completed and it is intended that some replacement trees (provided by the Borough) would be planted over the winter.

13. Hedgerow Survey

The Clerk explained that work on the survey of hedgerows in the parish would be re-started in the near future. It was hoped that the task would be completed by the end of the year.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th July 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the MSC Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 6th May 2008.

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Chairman

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Date