

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee 13th November 2012
(postponed from 9th and 16th October) at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion**

Present

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

M. Cowan

R. Medley (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from J. Norton.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

None was declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 7th August 2012

These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Item 8.1 of previous meeting – painting the cemetery gates. Cllr. Claydon had said that his equipment was not suitable for the task. An alternative was being investigated (see Item 8.3)

Item 14 of previous meeting – possible running of public services. Cllr. Sammons had contacted Cowlinge and Kirtling parish council clerks. Both reported favourably on experiences of adopting responsibility for the cutting of roadside verges and trimming footpaths.

5. Correspondence

5.1 A quote for cutting the recreation ground in 2013/14 had been received from Eastern Facilities Management Solutions, the existing contractor. The total, including vat, would be £1609.34 as opposed to £1562.50 in 2012/13. The Clerk was asked to investigate a competitive quote.

6. Playground

6.1 Safety Inspection. The monthly summaries were handed in. All weaknesses were being monitored. Cllr. Merritt had repaired the fence.

6.2 Playground refurbishment. A coffee morning organised by friends of Cllr. Walker had raised £193.60 and letters sent to the ‘Scene’ advertisers, and others, had raised £600. Cllrs. agreed that, on completion of improvements, a plaque listing all those who had given donations be placed on site. A second refusal had been received from Reaching Communities. An application for £2,000 had been sent to Suffolk Foundation.

6.3 Playground on Bury Road. The Clerk was asked to remind Havebury Housing about the lack of progress on the transfer and let them know that additional play items could be placed on the site as part of the purchase of the main playground.

7. Tree Warden’ Report

7.1 Remedial work on Parish Council trees. Acacia Tree Surgery had completed all the urgent work in the cemetery, Attleton Green and the church car park.

7.2 Concern was expressed about Ash Dieback but it was felt that little positive action could be taken apart from a reminder being placed in the ‘Scene’.

8. Cemetery

8.1 Safety Inspection. Severe shrinkage had been noted in a recently used grave. As this was on the Friday before the Remembrance Day service and there was insufficient time for the funeral director to complete the necessary remedial action the Clerk had completed temporary repairs. The war memorial had been cleaned.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

EC196

8. (Continued) Additional pantomime scenery had been moved into the Chapel so that the ‘Players’ were now using more space than the agreed 50%. Cllrs. agreed that no action be taken at the moment.

8.2 Review of fees and regulations. Cllrs agreed that the period for Exclusive Right of Burial be lowered from the current 99 years to 75 years and the fees be increased by 5% (2.5% per annum). The new fees would be £73.50 (as opposed to £70), £52.50 (was £50), £36.75 (£35), £63 (£60), £26.25 (£25) and £8.40 (£8). The grave dimensions would remain the same.

8.3 Painting of iron gates. A quote had been received from J. T. Finishing Solutions for treating two gates and two sets of rails of £513.60. Cllrs. agreed that this quote be accepted and that John Crysell be asked to replace the one broken post and paint all posts and stays black.

8.4 Denoting war memorial area. David King had suggested metre long edging slabs (6 inches wide) be placed parallel to each of the octagonal faces, at an approximate distance of 5 metres from the base and just the one paving stone be used to denote North. The Clerk was instructed to seek a quote.

9. Churchyard

9.1 Safety Inspection. The quarterly report was handed in. There were no concerns.

10. Teen Project

10.1 Safety Inspection. Reports were handed in. There were no concerns. The grindrail had been moved to the Chapel.

10.2 Meeting with skate park users. This was planned for Saturday 17th November at 10.30am.

11. Six Acres

11.1 The inspection report was being prepared. It had been noted that one of the junior goals had been upended. The Clerk was asked check insurance cover for sports activities.

11.2 The Carnival Committee had been granted permission to use the ‘six acres’ on July 13th 2013.

11.3 Dog muck was being removed from the playing area before each football match. Cllrs. suggested that more obvious signs should be placed at each entrance/exit. Cllr. Walker would discuss this action with the new MSC committee. Cllrs authorised some expenditure, if necessary.

12. Village Greens

12.1 Reports were handed in. The Clerk would contact David King about the continually expanding Viburnum on Genesis Green.

12.2 The Litter Pick on 21st October had been successful. It was noted that a few of the regular volunteers had not appeared but there were several new faces. Cllrs. agreed that there be just two litter picks per year, in the Spring and Autumn.

13. Village Notice Board.

This had been repaired, including one new post, a new back and a new sill at a cost of £314.66.

14. Hedges.

There was concern about various hedges including those at Malting End. It was hoped that the landowners would take action before the next meeting.

15. Dates for 2013 meetings.

Tuesdays – 5th Feb., 9th April, 11th June, 13th Aug., 8th Oct., and 10th December.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 4th December 2012 in the MSC Pavilion.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2012.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date