

EC149

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (postponed from 4<sup>th</sup> November) at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

**Present**

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman) V. Mayes, K Merritt and E. Taylor  
P. Bayman and Peter Miller  
R. Medley (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Pam Miller. Cllr. K. Sammons was absent.

**2. Declarations of interest in agenda items.**

Cllr. Taylor declared an interest in Item 13.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

These were signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising**

R. Penhaligan's estimate of £160 for bench and guttering maintenance was accepted.

**5. Finance**

5.1 Invoices for the Playground gates (£1603.88) and safety tiles (£1410.00) had been paid.

5.2 Figures were suggested for inclusion in the 2009/2010 budget. These were £2000 for the Cemetery, £500 for Playground maintenance and £2000 for replacement, and £500 for Bowls Club.

**6. Tree Warden' Report**

No report was available.

**7. Cemetery**

7.1 Safety Inspection. P. Bayman suggested that some tidying of the Chapel drive would be beneficial.

7.2 Headstone Safety. Some 20 headstones had been repaired or promises to repair had been received.

The Clerk suggested that some of the older and more dangerous headstones should be repaired within the current financial year but as the likely cost would be about £1000 Cllrs. felt that the alternative of laying the stones down should be considered and if appropriate a warning notice be displayed. The Clerk was instructed to investigate this possibility.

7.3 Fees. The new scale of fees would be sent to Funeral Directors before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

7.4 Regulations. Cllrs. agreed that a reference to BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons) be added to the headstone section of the regulations.

**8. Churchyard**

Cllr. Sammons had sent in the quarterly report.

**9. Playground**

9.1 Inspection reports were handed in.

9.2 Short Term repairs. Peter Miller outlined the recent changes. The new gates had been installed and improvements made to the entrance surfaces. The old gates would be left in situ but be bolted closed. The top bar of the chain climber had been removed and the possibility of replacing that with the playballs was being considered. Turf had been laid under the Springer and the new safety surface had been installed under the Junior Climber. Some de-lamination of the seats on the roundabout had been noticed.

The recently received Annual Safety Inspection report would be circulated.

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**Chairman**

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9.3 Persons to steer longer term improvements. Cllr. Taylor expressed a willingness to lead a working group but explained that because of other commitments there would be a delay before a start could be made.

**10. Teen Project**

10.1 Safety reports were handed in.  
10.2 Fixing of the Grindbox. David King was unable to help with this but had suggested anchoring as normal then welding the nuts in place.  
The basket ball net needed replacing. Cllrs. authorised expenditure of up to £60 for a replacement.

**11. Six Acres**

11.1 Inspection reports were handed in. An apology had been received from the MSC for damage to the surface caused by fairground attractions.

**12. Village Greens**

12.1 Safety inspection reports were handed in.  
12.2 Coltsfoot Green. After inspection it was agreed that the blackthorn copse and pile of grass cuttings were untidy and the Clerk was instructed to ask David King to quote for clearing the area of scrub and planting a few specimen trees to be supplied by the Borough.

**13. Bowls Club**

Cllr. Taylor explained that the rejuvenated Club had experienced an encouraging first season but more time was needed to increase membership to a level where the Club could meet all outgoings. She produced a forecast for the 2009 season showing a likely shortfall of about £900. Sources of additional income were being explored, in particular grants and fund raising, but she asked if some finance may be available from the Parish. The suggestion was approved in principle and would be raised at the next Parish Council meeting. It was suggested that a £ be donated for each £ raised by other means.

**14. Hedges**

13.1 The landowner in the Malting End area had agreed to ask his contractor to cut the hedges to a higher level than the previous year.

**15. Bus shelter**

County Council representatives had been invited to visit the proposed site to discuss suitability. It was suggested that a canopy in front of the entrance to the MSC Hall could be an alternative.

**16. Access to Bridge House, Coltsfoot Green**

The Clerk was instructed to contact the owners to suggest that their solicitor draw up an easement agreement for consideration by the Parish Council.

**17. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the MSC Pavilion. Other dates for 2009 were approved. These were 10<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> September, and 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
Cllr. Taylor would be unable to attend any meeting held on a second Tuesday of the month.

**Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.**

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**