

EC171

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
19th October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), V. Mayes, K. Merritt.
Cllr. E. Taylor attended for agenda items up to and including 6.1.
Peter Miller and M. Cowan.
R. Medley (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Walker and Pam Miller. Cllr. Taylor left at 8.15pm.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

None declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 17th August 2010

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Ref: Item 5.1 of previous minutes. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had accepted the recommendation from the Estates Committee that the Bowls Club projected costs of £520.00 be underwritten for the 2011 season.

4.1 Copy correspondence from Item 7.3 of the previous minutes (overhanging hedges) was tabled.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Quote for new dog bins. The Borough Compliance Officer had provided a quote of £290.00 plus vat for the purchase and installation of two new dog bins. Emptying would cost £2.31 plus vat per bin per week.

6. Playground

6.1 Progress on playground designs. Cllr. Taylor outlined the current situation. The most favoured design was by Miracle with Komplan as second choice. A metal and plastic combination was preferred to wood because of longevity and choice of colours. The favoured surface was safety matting through which grass grows and late summer would be the best time for installation. Cllrs. approved the chosen design and were happy that the sub committee of Cllrs. Sammons, Taylor and Walker continue to progress the proposal. The next move would be to 'go public'. Miracle would be contacted about arranging a visit to see the chosen equipment in use and the three alternative company designs would be put on display at a Farmer's Market, at a specific open meeting and on the website.

6.2 Safety Inspection. M. Cowan and P. Miller had carried out the weekly inspections and the monthly summary was handed in.

6.3 Donations for playground improvements. Further donations, one anonymous donation of £400 and second from relatives of Dr. Forsyth (the late village doctor) had brought the total to £2824.00.

6.4 Fundraising. It was hoped that fundraising suggestions would follow the public meeting.

7. Tree Warden' Report

7.1 Tree Planting. Paul Bevan's offer of help had been previously circulated. A second offer, of both help and trees, had been received from the Scouts. Councillors agreed that the appearance of Coltsfoot Green would not be enhanced by additional trees, although one specimen tree could be considered.

Cllrs. suggested that an area of the 'Six Acres' be considered as a community woodland. Cllr. Sammons would consult the Borough Tree Officer.

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Chairman

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Date

EC172

7.2 Progress on trimming of hedges. To date there had been no progress on hedge trimming at Meeting Green crossroads. One landowner had been sent a letter by the Highways Authority.

8. Cemetery

8.1 Safety Inspection. Marion Cowan handed in the safety inspection and queried the leaving of an open grave. The Clerk was instructed to contact the grave digger.

8.2 Progress on repair of further headstones. A request had been placed with Saxon Monumental for the repair of the three outstanding unsafe headstones. If necessary a reminder would sent.

8.3 Fees for 2011. The bi-annual review of fees took place. Cllrs. resolved that from 1st January 2011 fees for interments would increase to £70 (burial) and £50 (cremated remains); for exclusive right of burial to £70 (grave) and £35 (cremated remains plot) and placement of headstone or tablet to £60 and £25 for each inscription after the first. Search fees would go up to £8.00 and £2.00 respectively. Subject to approval by the Parish Council these fees would be sent to all the main funeral directors before the next Estates meeting.

8.4 Chapel Rates. A rebate of £72.04 had been received from St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the current year. This was due to Small Business Rate Relief being increased from 50% to 100% from 1st October. As rates for the year had been paid in advance a rebate had been made. Rate relief is set for a period of twelve months so there should be nothing to pay for the first six months of 2011/12.

9. Churchyard

There was nothing to report.

10. Teen Project

10.1 Safety Inspection. Reports were handed in.

10.2 Progress on obtaining a new notice. The order had been placed and a quote had been received (£148 plus vat) but the specialist equipment at Workwise was being repaired.

11. Six Acres

11.1 Safety inspection. This was handed in.

12. Village Greens

12.1 Safety Inspection. This was handed in.

12.2 Easement across Coltsfoot Green. The approved letter had been sent to Mr and Mrs Osborne in August. To date there had been no response.

12.3 Progress on registration of village greens. Registration documents for VG 63, 64, 65, 66 and 70 (Badmondsfield End) had been sent to the Land Registry who had confirmed that these areas were unregistered. The Parish Council now has to apply for registration and to do this must produce 'evidence of ownership'. The strongest evidence is a copy of the Commons Commissioner's decision which led to the original (County Council) registration. This has been requested from County sources.

Date of next meeting.

This would be held in the MSC Pavilion on Tuesday 7th December 2010.

Cllrs. agreed that meetings would continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each alternate month in 2011.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 19th October 2010.

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Chairman

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Date