

EC119

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
12th September 2006 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

Present

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

1. Apologies for absence

P. Bayman

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items.

No declarations.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 4th July 2006.

The Clerk explained that the minutes of the inquorate meeting of 4th July had been approved at the Parish Council meeting of 24th August.
The minutes were taken as read and signed.

4. Matters arising

The Chairman welcomed Peter Miller as a newly co-opted member of the Estates Committee.
Item 7.2. Powergen had sent an invoice for £84.56. The Clerk had asked for an explanation. The sum was for standing charge only as there had been no electricity used since the installation of the new meter in May 2005.

5. MSC Representative/s.

No MSC representatives attended.

6. Finance

6.1 Eibe Skatepark Regulations sign. The Clerk had asked for a discount on the original price of £80.27. The revised price was £74.24.

A provisional quote from Workwise was £50.00 and the Clerk was instructed to accept this. It was agreed that the new sign be placed on the wooden partition.

6.2 An invoice of £119.30 for bench repair and re-varnishing the roundabout had been received from John Crysell. It was agreed that this be paid.

7. Tree Wardens Report

7.1 Cllr. Bevan said he had been approached about a 'sickly' chestnut tree on the recreation ground. He wished to get expert opinion from the Borough Tree Officer. If work had to be carried out he would request tenders from David King and the Borough.

His suggestions were approved and it was confirmed that the tree was on MSC property.

Cllr. Bevan asked for suggestions for further sites under the Tree Planting Scheme.

8. Cemetery

8.1 Safety Inspection. A visual inspection had been carried out. A written report would follow.

8.2 The 10% increase in fees recommended by the Estates Committee had been approved by the Parish Council. The Clerk had incorporated this increase and examples of the new fees were handed out.

It was agreed that any review of regulations be postponed until Cllr. Bevan and the Clerk had attended the Churchyard Management days taking place in October.

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Chairman

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8.3 Wickhambrook Players had made a start on moving into the Chapel. The interior had been dusted and swept and clothes racks and partitions had been placed to the left of the entrance door. The Players wished to improve the overhead lighting (fluorescent strips in place of single bulbs) and install a second wall socket (for possible use of a dehumidifier). This was acceptable providing that the work was carried out by a qualified electrician and that all wiring in the building was checked. The Clerk was instructed to check what difference such changes would make to the insurance cover. Cllr. Bevan hoped to remove the biers in the near future.

9. Churchyard

9.1 Routine inspections had confirmed dead trees in the car park. These would be removed.

10. Playground

10.1 Safety Inspection. Broken slats in the fence would need replacing eventually. A split had appeared in the handrail of the junior climber. P. Miller offered to repair this with fibre glass filler. This offer was gratefully accepted.

10.2 Maintenance. The loose bars on the junior climber had been locked in place.

10.3 Grant for path to playground. The Clerk explained that he now had three quotes for this work and that they were between £5,000 and £7,000. A £2000 donation had been offered by the County Councillor and the Clerk would now complete an application form for monies under the Rural Areas Community Initiative. P. Miller suggested that it would be wise to apply to Havebury at the same time.

10.4 Annual inspection. This item would be dropped from the next agenda.

11. Teen Project

11.1 Safety inspection. There had been an incident of fly tipping. The rubbish had been collected and placed in the Chapel. The lid of the litter bin had been damaged. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for a replacement.

11.2 Progress on securing the grindbox. P. Miller and John Crysell were arranging to permanently anchor this equipment.

11.3 Progress on securing the basket ball post. P. Miller had bolted the retaining brackets to the wooden support.

11.4 Graffiti. The Millers suggested that they be allowed to purchase a kit for removal of graffiti. This was approved.

11.5 Notice. See item 6.1 above.

12. Six Acres

12.1 Safety inspection. A letter requesting prompt removal of the rusting goalposts had been sent to the Football Club. No reply had been received so the Clerk had phoned the Secretary and had agreed that the Parish Council would arrange removal and that any costs would be levied against the Football Club. Cllr. Walker hoped to arrange removal in the near future.

The Environment Health Officer had visited the area and had condemned most of the goalposts. He would contact the Football Club direct to discuss enforcement action.

12.2 Letter to Football Club. It was pointed out that the map accompanying the letter signed by the Football Club was imprecise. A more detailed version would be sent.

12.3 Tree planting on the green by the school. Most saplings were now well established. The few that were affected by the dry summer would be replaced.

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12.4 Dogs and litter bins. The Clerk was instructed to arrange installation of two additional dog litter bins.

The three new dog fouling notices were now in place.

12.5 Other Matters. Concern was expressed about a recent article in the Scene which referred to the banning of dogs from the recreation ground/six acres. It was felt that the Parish Council should write a response to the MSC Management Committee saying that banning of dogs would not be legally enforceable.

13. Village Greens

13.1 Inspections. These had been completed. There were no areas of concern.

13.2 The Clerk had written to Genesis Green Stud explaining the Council's concern about erosion of the Green and asking for advice. There had been no response. It was felt that the situation had since improved and that no further action was necessary.

13.3 Other Matters. The Clerk explained that the Greens maintenance contract which had been held by David King for several seasons was due to go for tender. The Education Department, the Borough Council and Paul Cook were suggested as possible alternatives.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th November 2006. 7.30 p.m. in the MSC Pavilion.

15. Dates of subsequent meeting.

Tuesday January 30th 2007 in the MSC Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 12th September 2006

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Chairman

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Date