

EC133

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee  
11<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion**

**Present**

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from R Medley.

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

None was declared.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

The minutes were taken as read and signed.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. MSC Proposal – Jim Field**

Jim Field was unable to attend.

The Chairman reported that there had been no response to the most recent correspondence which had suggested a compromise for the planned pathway. There was nothing to report in respect of the proposal whereby the Parish council would take over responsibility for insuring the whole of the outside area.

**6. Finance**

6.1 The following payments were approved

6.1.1 001355 P. Miller. Purchase of Graffiti Remover	£36.88
6.1.2 001356 Powergen. Electricity Use in Chapel (May to July)	£27.96

**7. Tree Warden's Report**

Nothing to report

**8. Cemetery**

8.1 Safety Inspection. P. Bayman handed in the most recent inspection report. It was noted that the two suspect headstones had not yet been attended to, but their condition had not deteriorated.

8.2 Memorial Safety. Saxon Memorial had not yet made their report.

8.3 The meter was changed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There will still be a standing charge but costs should be less in the future.

8.4 Jobs for Community Payback Team. After some discussion it was decided that the requests should not be too adventurous and the following suggestions were made and approved:

- (1) painting of chapel and tank,
- (2) clear public footpath entrances of excess growth,
- (3) move rubble and improve track beside the village hall, and
- (4) litter picking around the village, including the removal of litter and debris from the roadside ditches.

The committee also felt that enquiries should be made as to the capabilities of the workers before taking the matter any further.

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**N.B.** During the discussion concern was expressed as to the condition of the hedge along Shop Hill and it was felt that a request should be made to the Parish Council to take the matter up with the Highways Authority. Hedge trimming is required as a matter of urgency before the pathway is obstructed completely. It should also be reported that tree stumps and new growth along the footpaths were becoming a hazard.

- 8.5 Planting on Graves. D King has complained at the planting on graves, which is making maintenance work more difficult. It was suggested that the Clerk meet with Mr King to discuss the matter.
- 8.6 The “No Smoking” signs are now in place.
- 8.7 Annual cleaning of war memorial. It was reported that there was no clean last year. It was suggested that the clean should take place and that the repair of the chips and the lettering be undertaken at the same time. This work, together with the inspection of the headstone, should be completed by Saxon Monumental **before** Armistice Day.
- 8.8 Siting of new cremation row. It was agreed that this should be held over until the next meeting when it was hoped that the Clerk would be able to assist.

**9. Churchyard**

Nothing to report.

**10. Playground**

10.1 Inspection reports were handed in by Pam Miller. It was noted that:

- (1) The trip hazard infill is still ongoing,
- (2) The fence paling near the goal post still needs attention
- (3) The mound under the slide is breaking up and will need repairing in due course.
- (4) The bench seat at the WI end needs repair – all the joints require attention.

The clerk to contact John Crysell with a view to effecting the repairs.

10.2 The Annual Inspection Report. The clerk is still to report on the insurance situation.

There was uncertainty about the ‘insufficient area of tiles’ comments as these were not put in place as safety mats and the Clerk was instructed to check the situation with regard to insurance requirements. A trip hazard had been created where black wet pour had shrunk under the No.1 Springer and it was agreed that remedial work should be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

10.3 Path to playground and ‘Teen Project’. Nothing to report.

**11. Teen Project**

11.1 Safety inspection. Completed forms were handed in to be passed to the Clerk. It was reported that a large quantity of broken glass had been discovered on the skatepark. This had been removed by the clerk.

11.2 Grindbox It was agreed that John Crysell should be asked to do the work on the grindbox. Peter Miller would contact the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

11.3 The broken parts of the litter bins have been replaced.

11.4 It was also reported that the graffiti remover had assisted in the removal of the paint. Some staining remained but this would fade in time.

**12. Six Acres**

12.1 Safety inspection. Completed reports were given to the Clerk. There was still some dog fouling but this had reduced dramatically and the bins were being used. The goalposts had been repaired but were still not secured.

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- 12.2 Infilling of entrance to Bowls Club car park. This has been done ready for the wet weather.
- 12.3 Bowls Club. An article had appeared in the Bury Free Press. Letters were being sent to neighbouring Parish Councils offering the use of the playing area in the hope to attract “new blood”.

**13. Village Greens**

- 13.1 Safety inspections. A summary had been handed to the Clerk.
- 13.2 Other matters. It was reported that the area at the entrance to Coltsfoot Close was not being cut, despite being included in the original contract. The clerk is to contact the new contractor to find out why this was not being done. Could it just be an omission?

**14. Hedgerow Survey**

Approximately 150 hedges had been surveyed so far and it was reported that 2 veteran oaks had been identified in Ousden. It is unlikely that the task will be completed in 2007

**14. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the MSC Pavilion.  
Suggestions were made for meeting dates for 2008, these being 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.**

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

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**Chairman**

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**Date**