

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council
25th May 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in M.S.C. Pavilion

10030

Present

Cllrs. S. Sumner (Chairman), J. Claydon, A. Harrison, K. Merritt and J. Walker.
Clerk R. Medley.

1. Apologies for absence

County Cllr. J. Midwood, Borough Cllr. D. Redhead, P.C. McKenna, Cllrs. Bevan and Wilson.

2. Election of Chairperson

Cllr. Sumner was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr. Claydon. All those present supported the nomination and Cllr. Sumner signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

3. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Cllr. Bevan, who was not present, was re-elected unanimously.

4. Minutes of Meeting of 27th April

These were signed as a correct record.

5. Matters arising.

Following a conversation between Cllr. Wilson and Nick Jolland the Clerk had sent a copy of the Sports Club agreement to the secretary of the Football Club with the request that it be completed and returned together with payment of £10 within fourteen days.

6. Declarations of interest in agenda items and members register of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

Members register of interests to be raised as an agenda item at the next meeting.

7. Proposal to Review Standing Orders.

Agreed that Standing Orders should be circulated prior to discussion at the next meeting.

8. Clerk's probationary period.

Noted that the Clerk had completed his six month probationary period.

9. Appointment of Estates Committee.

The existing Parish Council members were reappointed. Councillors hoped that the existing lay members would continue. Cllr. Walker offered to contact them and confirm at the next meeting.

10. Appointment of representatives.

10.1 SALC Area Meetings – Cllr. Merritt

10.2 MSC – Cllr. Sumner

10.3 United Charities – It was hoped that Cllr. Wilson and Mrs. B. Fairhall (existing trustees) would continue.

10.4 Tree Warden – Cllr. Bevan

10.5 Village website – it was hoped that Cllr. Bevan would continue in the role.

11. Reports from County and District Councillors and Community Beat Officer.

No reports were tabled.

12. Clerk's Report

12.1 CPRE – details of two future meetings were given out

12.2 Probert Community Initiative Awards – to be circulated

12.3 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 – to be held over to next meeting

12.4 Public Catalogue Foundation – no further action to be taken.

12.5 Capital Funds for Rural Projects – copy to be sent to MSC and displayed on notice board.

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Chairman

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- 12.6 Suffolk Pass – article to be forwarded to the editor of the Scene, placed on the website and displayed in the Surgery
- 12.7 SALC Training Opportunities and next area meeting. The Clerk expressed a wish to attend a future Clerk’s Day. This was approved. Charges would be £30.00 plus vat. Details of the next SALC area meeting were given to Cllr. Merritt.
- 12.8 Website of Year Competition. The village website had been entered for this national competition.

13. Finance

- 13.1 The following payments were approved
 - 13.1.1 Phone rental March to May 2006 £55.00
 - 13.1.2 Suffolk ACRE – Annual membership subscription £20.00
 - 13.1.3 R. Medley. Clerk’s ‘home as office’ allowance £45.00
 - 13.1.4 R. Medley. Clerk’s internet portion of private phone £20.00
 - 13.1.5 R. Medley. Clerk’s salary for April £311.60
- 13.2 The following payments were received:
 - 13.2.1 St Edmundsbury Borough Council - precept £19980.00
 - 13.2.2 H. J. Paintin - interment £35.00
- 13.3 Review of chairman’s allowance.
Cllr. Sumner waived the allowance.
- 13.4 Review of cemetery fees.
These were last reviewed in 2004. Comparative figures would be circulated and the item would be raised at the next meeting.
- 13.5 Review of sports facilities ground rents
Agreed that these should remain at the current rates of £10.00 per annum per club.
- 13.6 Closure of Capital Reserve account.
The Clerk explained that the Council operated three accounts but the only two were regularly used. The third had been set up to hold monies for the skate park development. Councillors approved closure.
- 13.7 Approval of final balance sheet.
The Clerk explained that this was not yet complete. Councillors requested that it be circulated once complete and they could ask questions prior to signing off. If necessary an extraordinary meeting could be arranged or the chairman could be delegated to sign on the council’s behalf.
The Clerk outlined the process of internal and external audit and emphasized the tight deadlines.

14. Planning

- 14.1 The following applications were considered on circulation:
 - 14.1.1 SE/06/1503 Depden Water Tower – erection of aerials No objection
 - 14.1.2 SE/06/1518 Brook Cottage, Cloak Lane – various extensions No objection
(Majority decision. Some reservations passed back to the Planning Department)
 - 14.1.3 SE/06/1606 Giffords Hall, Clopton – pergola and trellis No objection
 - 14.1.4 SE/06/1622 Spring Cottage, Thorns Corner – two storey extension No objection
- 14.2 The following applications considered by the Borough Council were noted:
 - 14.2.1 SE/06/1157 Farley Green House – detached outbuilding Refused
 - 14.2.2 SE/05/1674 Easterwood Farm – detail on windows and doors Approved

15. Estates Committee

The Clerk reported the recent (23rd May 0830 hours) sewage overflow which has resulted effluent spreading across the children’s play area. Notices had been put up banning use of these facilities for 48 hours. Graffiti had been noticed (morning of 24th May) on the skate park, the entrance to the Pavilion and the rear of the Chapel. The incident had been reported to the Police.

16. Proposal for less regular reporting of MSC activities

After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would ask for a copy of MSC minutes so that councillors could be updated on developments. MSC would remain a regular item on the agenda.

17. United Charities Representatives Report

No report was available.

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Chairman

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18. Roads, hedges, verges and drains

- 18.1 Renewal of white lines. Suffolk County Council would renew the white lines at the junction of Coltsfoot Close when 'the line marking gang were next in the area'. The Clerk had requested that the lines at the junctions of the village road and the A134 at Plummers Arms and Stradishall crossroads be re-done at the same time.
- 18.2 Two complaints about village pavements had been received. The path from the Plummers Arms to the church was difficult to walk on because of an encroaching bank and the path from Wash lane to Cloak lane was very narrow due to an overgrown hedge. Both matters had been reported to Suffolk County Council Highways section.

19. Rights of Way.

- 19.1 Parish Paths Partnership. The budget for the financial year 2006/7 was now known but funds were limited. Councillors felt that if the village accepted responsibility for the parish footpath network there was a danger that funding would continue to be withdrawn. No interest would be shown at the moment.

20. Proposal for quarterly reporting on Neighbourhood Watch.

After some discussion it was agreed that Neighbourhood Watch should remain as a regular agenda item as it was important that any news was up to date.

21. Next Meeting.

This would be held on Thursday 29th June 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the MSC pavilion.

22. Future Meetings.

The date of 23rd November was confirmed subject to availability of the Pavilion. There would be no December meeting and an early January meeting would avoid any clash with pantomime preparations. Thursday January 11th 2007 was suggested.

23. Any other business.

No other matters were raised.

The Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

I confirm that this is a correct record of the meeting held on 25th May 2006.

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Chairman

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Date

