

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council
22nd May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in M.S.C. Pavilion

10098

Present

Cllrs. P. Bevan, K. Merritt, K. Sammons, E Taylor and J. Wilson.
Clerk R. Medley.
Two members of the public.

1. The chairman welcomed the members of the public.
2. **Apologies for absence**
County Cllr. J. Midwood and Borough Cllr.D. Redhead and Cllrs. J. Claydon and J. Walker.
3. **Election of Chairperson**
Cllr. Claydon was proposed by Cllr. Wilson and seconded by Cllr. Sammons. The Clerk explained that the 'Declaration of Acceptance' would be signed at the earliest opportunity.
4. **Election of Vice-Chairperson**
Cllr. Bevan was proposed by Cllr. Merritt and seconded by Cllr. Wilson and re-elected unanimously.
5. **Minutes of Meeting of 24th April 2008**
These were signed as a correct record.
6. **Matters arising.**
 - 6.1 Proposed removal of village phone boxes. The Clerk read the response from the Parish Council.
 - 6.2 Possible duplication of insurance. This had been investigated by both the Clerk and J. Field. Both had concluded that there was no duplication.
 - 6.3 Mobile library changes. The Clerk had made further enquiries. The changes were only at the stage of being suggested so no additional publicity was needed.
7. **Declarations of interest in agenda items.**
Cllr. Sammons expressed an interest in Item 9.2.1 and Cllr. Bevan in 9.1.5
8. **Report from members of the public.**
The Neighbourhood Watch representative asked that the Watch signs be cleaned when the village signs were done. The Clerk was instructed to request action from the County Highways Department.
9. **Planning**
 - 9.1 The following applications were considered on circulation

9.1.1 SE/08/0484 New House Farm Barns	No objection
9.1.2 SE/08/0483 The Paddocks, Giffords Lane	No objection
9.1.3 SE/08/0559 Park Gate Barn	No objection
9.1.4 SE/08/0548/9 Plumbers Arms, Wickham Street	No objection
9.1.5 SE/08/0595 Doctors Barn, Cloak Lane	No objection
 - 9.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the Borough Council

9.2.1 SE/08/0293 Samples Farm, Ashfield Green	Refused
9.2.2 SE/08/0391 28, Boyden Close	Granted
 - 9.3 Consideration of Planning Applications.
Cllrs. agreed that if there were 2 or more objections to any planning application, a meeting should be called to reach an overall decision. If necessary, a postponement of the 'closing date' would be requested.

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Chairman

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Date

10. Clerk's Report

10.1 Circulated Documents

10.1.1 Proposed changes to Plumbers Arms junction. The Clerk was requested to contact County Highways department to query the growth of shrubs in the garden of the property facing the side of the Plumbers Arms.

10.1.2 Local Government Review in Suffolk. No further comment.

10.1.3 St Edmundsbury Core Strategy. No further comment.

10.1.4 Parish Council Conference. No further comment.

10.2 Other Information

10.2.1 Clerk's holiday. Cllr. Taylor would take on responsibility for circulation of planning applications and receiving any bookings for the cemetery.

10.2.2 CiLCA qualification. Cllrs. were informed of the likely costs. The training to support this qualification cost £250 plus vat and the additional time needed would be a minimum of 30 hours plus 3 journeys to SALC at Claydon.

10.2.3 Details of the next meeting of the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Forum were supplied.

10.2.4 The report 'Deprivation in Rural Suffolk' would be circulated.

11. Finance

11.1 The following payments were approved

11.1.1 001412 E-On Electricity use in Chapel	£23.07
11.1.2 001413 BT Phone rental Feb. to April	£41.34
11.1.3 001414 Rainbird Partnership Purchase of printer cartridges	£59.85
11.1.4 001415 R. Medley Salary for May	£293.78
11.1.5 001416 R. Medley Use of home as office	£45.00
11.1.6 001417 MSC Recycling Credit	£791.15

11.2 The following payments were received:

11.2.1 St Edmundsbury Borough Council - precept	£23975.00
11.2.2 Credit for recycling	791.15
11.2.3 Headstone inscription	17.00
11.2.4 NatWest Quarterly Interest from accounts	261.97

11.3 Other financial matters

11.3.1 Broadband payment for April and May. Direct Debit	36.07
11.3.2 Rents for sports facilities and the Chapel would be set by the Estates Committee.	
11.3.3 The Clerk was instructed to investigate interest rates for alternative accounts at NatWest.	
11.3.4 Arrangements had been made to add Cllr. Taylor to the approved signature list.	

12. Estates Committee

12.1 Progress on Cemetery safety. Some 20 letters had been sent to next of kin and a few headstones had already been repaired. This left 35 where the next of kin was unknown. The 2 'dangerous' headstones had been fenced off.

12.2 Progress on playground improvements. Pam and Peter Miller had agreed to research alternative safety surfaces, recommend modifications to existing equipment and look at any new replacements. They would also investigate grants.

13. United Charities Representatives Report

The annual inspection of the Alms houses had taken place and repairs to the thatch had been completed.

14. MSC Matters

Nothing to report

15. Roads, Hedges, Verges, Drains.

15.1 Bus Shelter. No further information was available.

15.2 The Clerk was instructed to report potholes in the Farley Green area and request further cutting of verges.

16. Rights of Way

There was nothing to report

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Chairman

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Date

17. Stansted Holding Stacks.

The Clerk was asked to compile a response emphasizing the tranquillity of the area and stating a preference for stacking at sea.

18. Community Speedwatch.

Cllrs. agreed that this work should be paid for and carried out by the Police. The clerk was instructed to relay this message with copies to Borough and District Cllrs. and the local MP.

The Clerk would request Police speed check visits for Bunters Road, Ashfield Green and outside the school.

19. Local Housing Needs Survey.

The Clerk would request a further visit from Louise Wilby to discuss the findings of the survey.

20. Approval of Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation.

The Clerk thanked Cllr. Sammons for her help in preparation of the end of year figures. Cllrs. requested a version of the Financial Statement showing comparison figures for the previous year. The Bank reconciliation was approved. The suggestion that more regular financial reports be presented throughout the twelve months was being investigated by Cllr. Sammons.

21. Next meeting.

This would be held on Thursday 26th June 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the MSC pavilion..

The Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

I confirm that this is a correct record of the meeting held on 10th May 2007.

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Chairman

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Date

