

10289 Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 27th February 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), S. Bradbury, J. Girling, K. Merritt, J. Walker and J Wilson.

County Cllr. M. Evans and Borough Cllr. D. Redhead (until 8.20pm)

Clerk R. Medley.

Three members of the public attended the Open Session.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Claydon and Peter Vince.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 23rd January 2014

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

3.1 Item 16.1 of previous meeting – Rural Profiling questionnaire. The Rev. Brin Singleton did not feel qualified to complete the survey so the Clerk had filled in the required information. In answer to the query about land for affordable housing the Rev. Singleton had commented that ‘In the particular case of Wickhambrook All Saints Glebe the parochial church council would not be able to consider a change to the present use in the foreseeable future’

3.2 Item 8.1.8 to 8.1.13 of previous meeting – All charities on receipt of donations had responded with a letter, card or email of appreciation.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Declarations of interest were as follows Cllr. Sammons 8.1.5 and Cllr. Bradbury 8.1.6.

5. OPEN SESSION 7.35pm

Police Report. PC. R. Sippitt reported that there had been no crimes of note in Wickhambrook over the last month although the theft of catalytic converters and the stealing of power tools from outbuildings are still occurring in the local area. There had been recent local successes in apprehending suspects.

County Cllr. M. Evans said she had asked for the open gully at Attleton Green to be finished. She reported a change in the Council’s pothole repair policy. All potholes on a stretch of road would be repaired at the same time and there would be an increasing number of a permanent first fix type repairs. Despite cuts in the overall budget, around £38 million, there was to be no increase in council tax and no decrease in the budgets for highways or for the fire service. Speed indicator signs can now be purchased for about £3,000 and villages might wish to club together. She offered to check on the service contract. She had met Chris Hollingsworth to discuss the ownership of a northern section of the Bury Road playground and it was hoped that the transfer to the Parish Council could now progress. Participatory budgeting was to be introduced to make best use of the Locality Budget. 0845 dialling would be dropped.

District Cllr. D. Redhead introduced Jessica Hulbert, Families and Communities Officer of West Suffolk, who would be available to help community initiatives in several parishes including Wickhambrook. She may be able to help with funding. Derek referred to the recent changes in the procedure for considering planning applications. Further changes would follow and it was likely that the process would revert to a system similar to the previous scheme. There would be no increase in St Edmundsbury council tax.

Community First Responders Update. The Clerk read the report provided by Peter Vince. The Group was going live at 9.00am on 1st March with 7 fully trained responders operating on a buddy system. Due to supply difficulties at the Ambulance Service only one complete set of first aid kit was available but this was sufficient for immediate needs. Potential CFRs from Lidgate were still considering joining.

Recent Flooding. Angela Cook reminded Cllrs. about the flooding of properties in the Duddery, Cloak Lane and Coltsfoot Green and asked what could be done. The Clerk would investigate.

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Disappearing footpath. Mike Pettitt complained about the state of the footpath between the Plumbers Arms and the Church. The Clerk would report the matter to Suffolk Highways.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION at 8.27pm

6. Planning

6.1 The following applications had been considered by Councillors.

6.1.1 DC/14/0067/HH White Gables, Ousden Road. First floor extension to outbuilding.

6.1.2 DC/14/0013/HH The Old Manse, Meeting Green. Ground and first floor extensions.

6.1.3 DC/14/0126/FUL Boyden End House. Single storage building.

6.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the District Council.

6.2.1 SE/13/0689/HH The Poplars, Meeting Green. Erection of double garage. Refused

6.2.2 DC/13/0757/FUL The Ostlers Cottage, Malting End. Replacement dwelling. Approved

6.3 Changes to planning approval procedures. Following the comments made by District Cllr.

Redhead Cllrs. agreed that this item need not be discussed.

7. Clerk's Report.

7.1 Circulated documents.

7.1.1 Clerks & Councils article – 'Two signatures rule scrapped'. Cllr. Wilson outlined what he saw as the risks in adopting this approach. The Chairman said that there would be no change at the moment.

7.2 Other matters.

7.2.1 Clerk's Holiday. The Clerk would be away 1st to 5th March. Cllr. Girling offered to cover.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1	001891	E. Of E. Amb. Service NHS Trust. Donation (CFR kit)	500.00
8.1.2	001892	Borough of St Edmundsbury. Emptying dog bins	82.68
8.1.3	001893	AnglianWater Water use on Bowls Green	16.08
8.1.4	001894	E-On Electricity use in Chapel	8.33
8.1.5	001895	Rainbird Partnership. Office supplies	39.55
8.1.6	001896	S. Bradbury. Printing costs	20.00
8.1.7	001897	R. Medley. Salary for February	485.18
8.1.8	001898	R. Medley. Purchase of printer cartridge	13.49
8.1.9	001899	R. Medley. Car expenses – various meetings	34.40
8.1.10	01900	R. Medley. Home as Office allowance	45.00
8.1.11	DD	BT Phone rental in February	25.28

8.2 The following income was noted.

There was no income in February.

9. Budget

An updated budget was circulated prior to the meeting. The resulting total remained at £31,236 and was the amount claimed on the precept form returned to the Borough of St Edmundsbury.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 Flooding in the village. The Clerk was instructed to investigate what could be done to alleviate the problem. Cllrs. suggested a letter be sent to all landowners responsible for maintaining the brook.

10.2 Parking outside the Surgery. The white lines denoting driveway entrances had been replaced.

10.3 Footpath from MSC to Browns Close. Basic additional lighting i.e. another street light, would cost around £2,000 to install and connect. The Borough and County Councils would welcome a contribution from the Parish Council. County Cllr. Mary Evans offered to make enquiries.

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10.4 Speed Watch. A letter had been received from Depden Parish Council asking if Wickhambrook would be interested in becoming involved in a cross-village Speed Watch scheme. Cllrs. agreed that cross-village purchase of speed indicator signs would be preferable. The Clerk was instructed to make that suggestion to neighbouring villages.

10.5 Leaning wall at Thorns Corner. The Clerk was instructed to report this possible hazard to the St Edmundsbury Building Control specialist who would visit and take further action if needed.

11. Estates Matters (the draft minutes had been circulated before the meeting)

11.1 Bury Road playground update. Clopton Farms Ltd. would produce evidence of past ownership of the northern section of the playground and then the transfer could proceed.

11.2 Signs for Playground. Three signs had been approved and ordered. They should be delivered within the next month.

11.3 Spring Litter Pick. This would be held on Sunday 16th March. The MSC Pavilion was not available so light refreshments would be provided in the W.I. Hall.

12. Insurance for 2014/15.

12.1 Parish Council insurance. AON UK Ltd. had lowered their quote from £1,790.53 to £1,253.00. The Clerk was instructed to check these figures.

12.2 Tennis Club insurance. The Tennis Club had requested that their, and the Bowls Club, insurance be included in the Parish Council cover. The Clerk was instructed to check the situation.

13. Possible changes to Standing Orders.

Cllr. Sammons had considered the document and said that there were several possible changes. Cllrs. wished to consider these changes and asked for the document to be placed on circulation.

14. Scene update.

Cllr. Bradbury had attended a meeting with MSC representatives. Future plans for the Scene and What's On were discussed with options including amalgamation of both into one publication. A staged approach was agreed. From May 2014 every house would receive a copy of both on alternate months. Funding is to be discussed at a future meeting, as is the future of the lottery, and for the time being the format of the Scene will remain much the same. Further details will be confirmed as the MSC progresses its review.

15. Reports from representatives from other village organisations

There were no reports.

15.1 Cllr. Wilson asked what was happening to the assets of the Wic-kids Youth Club and the Day Centre. The Clerk offered to investigate.

16. Affordable Housing

Cllr. Wilson was in the process of investigating Community Land Trusts and other aspects of Affordable Housing.

17. Correspondence

17.1 There were no comments on documents previously circulated.

Date of next meeting. Thursday 27th March 2014 in the MSC Pavilion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2014.

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Chairman

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Date