

10055

**Minutes of the meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on
15th February 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. S. Sumner (Chairman), J. Claydon, K. Merritt, J. Walker and J. Wilson.
County Councillor J. Midwood and Borough Councillor D. Redhead.
Clerk R. Medley.
One member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllrs. P. Bevan and A. Harrison

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 11th January 2007

These were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

There were no matters arising

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Merritt declared an interest in 17.

5. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Redhead explained that a hoax letter had been sent to Parish Councils requesting support for the abolition of the Borough Council.

Cllr. Midwood commented on

- a re-alignment of police areas which should result in more contact with the community,
- the lack of funding for Highways which meant that there was little chance of any improvements to combat the flooding at Coltsfoot Green,
- and there had been a recent instance of Neighbourhood Watch being successful in passing a warning message between villages

There was no representative from Neighbourhood Watch. It was agreed that this item be removed from future agenda.

6. Planning

6.1 The following applications were considered on circulation.

6.1.1 SE/07/0062 Park Gate Barn	No objection
6.1.2 SE/07/96/100 Little Timbers, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.3 SE/07/0124 Aspenden Cottage, Coltsfoot Green	No objection
6.1.4 SE/07/0131 Garden Cottage, Clopton Green	No objection
6.1.5 SE/07/143/148 Brook Cottage, Cloak Lane	No objection
6.1.6 SE/07/0136 Samples Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.7 SE/06/2701 8, Bunters Row	No objection
6.1.8 SE/06/2875 Farley Green House	No objection
6.1.9 SE/07/0174 Home Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection

6.2 The following applications considered by the Borough Council were noted.

6.2.1 SE/06/2820 Have-a-rest, Attleton Green	Granted
6.2.2 SE/06/2816 3, Wickham House Bungalows, Giffords Lane	Granted

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Chairman

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Date

7. Clerk’s Report

- 7.1 Circulated Documents.
 - 7.1.1 Annual Insurance renewal. This was still in circulation.
 - 7.1.2 Hedge maintenance. It was agreed that letters be sent to Malting End residents requesting trimming of the overgrown hedge and conifers.
 - 7.1.3 The poster from the Community Spirit pack would be put on the notice board.
- 7.2 Other information.

The Clerk gave the following information.

 - 7.2.1 Permissive access for ‘The Glebe’. Maps showing access to this field and Hole Farm area would be placed on the notice board.
 - 7.2.2 The Richard Spring poster would be placed on the board if there was room
 - 7.2.3 A letter of resignation had been received from Cllr. Harrison. The Clerk was instructed to contact Cllr. Harrison and ask if he would be willing to continue until the election in May.
 - 7.2.4 Cllrs. noted the letter about drainage at Ashfield Green. This would be circulated.
 - 7.2.5 Letter about Affordable Housing. This would also be circulated.
 - 7.2.6 Cllrs. noted the letter about Bird ‘Flu.
 - 7.2.7 Suffolk Probation Area’s Community Payback Scheme. Details would be circulated.
 - 7.2.8 The possible provision of grit bins. The Clerk had received a request for grit piles/bins to be placed in the areas of the shop and the surgery. Supporting information would be circulated.
 - 7.2.9 Preparation for elections. A training session would be run at the Borough Offices on the evening of 5th March. The Clerk asked for permission to attend. This was granted.
 - 7.2.10 The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 17th May 2007. Nominations for the ‘Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel’ were requested. This information would be circulated.

8. Finance.

- 8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1 001307 Lubbock Fine – External Audit fees	141.00
8.1.2 001308 British Telecommunications – parish phone	52.07
8.1.3 001309 R. Medley – salary for January	327.09
8.1.4 001310 R. Medley – ‘home as office’ allowance	45.00
8.1.5 001311 R. Medley – portion of private line	20.00
8.1.6 001312 Suffolk County Council – grass cutting contract	1145.74
- 8.2 The following income was noted.

8.2.1 VAT refund – from 29.6.05 to 31.12.06	2249.44
8.2.2 Interment – Dignity Funeral Services	55.00
8.2.3 Interment – Armstrongs Funeral Services	220.00

9. Estates Committee Report.

- 9.1 Cllr. Walker confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance contract from D. R. King had been accepted for the 2007 season. Three alternative quotes had been considered but rejected.
- 9.2 Cemetery Regulations and Fees had been finalised and copies had been sent to all local Funeral Directors.
- 9.3 Further discussion took place about the rusting goalposts on the ‘Six Acres’. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for their removal after having given the Football Club limited notice via registered post. It was re-stated that this removal was to comply with advice given by both the Environmental Health department and the Parish Council’s Insurers.
- 9.4 The Suffolk County Council grass cutting quote for 2007 season was accepted.
- 9.5 Cllr. Walker gave details of the quote from D. R. King for removal of fallen trees from Attleton and Coltsfoot Greens. Cllr. Claydon offered to make alternative enquiries.

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Chairman

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Date

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10. United Charities Representatives Report.

There was nothing to report

11. MSC Matters

Initial favourable indications from the MSC for the provision of the proposed path from the car park to the 'Teen Project' had subsequently been withdrawn. The Chairman, Patrick Colvill, summarised the objections. These were that

- there was insufficient space between the football pitch and the path for a safe 'slide area' for players.

The Football Club had been asked to provide details of the recommended requirement,

- a straight hard surface run would give skate boarders the opportunity to build up speed before reaching the car park, putting cars at risk of damage, and that

- there were better alternatives. These were using the existing footpath between the cemetery and the W.I Hall (County Cllr. J. Midwood suggested that the grant could be at risk if this proposal was adopted owing to the status of the path as a Public Right of Way) or creating a path along the inside of the existing playground and then down to the 'Teen Project'.

During discussions it was emphasized that disabled access was a requirement of the existing facilities, 'owning' of land was misleading; village organisations were custodians of village property for a period of time, and projects such as this must be judged from the view of improving facilities for the village as a whole.

Further research would be carried out before suggesting a 'next move'.

12. Roads, hedges, verges and drains.

There was nothing to report.

13. Rights of Way.

There was nothing to report.

14. Consideration of Standing Orders.

A final version was being prepared.

15. Date of next meeting – Thursday March 22nd 2007.

16. The Village Shop.

Cllr. Merritt said that the new owner was likely to take over towards the end of March and it was his intention to spend money on improving and updating facilities. All members of existing staff who wished to stay on could do so.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 15th February 2007.

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Chairman

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Date