

**10120 Minutes of the meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on
19th February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), V. Mayes, K. Merritt, E. Taylor, J. Walker and J. Wilson.
Clerk R. Medley.
Borough Cllr. D. Redhead (arrived after the start of the meeting and left before the end)
Six members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Claydon (business commitment) and County Councillor J. Midwood.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council on 15th January 2009

These were accepted as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

3.1 Copies of correspondence re: items 14.1, 15.1 and 17 of the previous meeting were available and the response to item 15.2 would be circulated.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Wilson declared an interest in Item 8.2.2.

5. Affordable Housing.

Nathan Cole and Philip Murton from Icen and Louise Wilby from the Rural housing Team briefed Cllrs. on what they saw as the 'next move'. They recommended a small working party of 4 to 6 members including the Clerk and two Cllrs. and others from the Parish with an interest in this initiative. There was no shortage of funds and building could take about three years from start to finish. Cllrs. suggested that there was a need to check that land was available from within the sites suggested for the Local Development Framework.

6. Kelly's Meadow

Three members of the steering group updated Cllrs. on the latest developments.
A significant number of contributions had been received to the 'fighting fund' but to ensure the best professional advice more donations were needed. A display of public support at future Borough Council meetings would be advantageous starting with the full Council meeting on Tuesday 24th.
A facilitator had recently been appointed and his role was to find solutions to objections and agree common ground between parties.
Members were still experiencing difficulty in meeting the Goodey family on their own.
Highpoint was not a suitable alternative site because training exercises still took place and the ground was very wet.
Cllrs. asked if the Borough had any evidence of identified need for a local traveller's site.
Borough Cllr. Redhead confirmed that as the Parish Council was not the decision making body Cllrs. were allowed to discuss the issues with any of the parties involved.

7. Comments by Borough Cllr. and any members of the public.

Borough Cllr. Redhead said that cost of the Public Services 'village' in Western Way was £1million over budget at completion. The extra money would be drawn from reserves.
The link between the new Arc development and the town centre was still being discussed.

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8. Planning

8.1 The following applications were submitted for consideration

8.1.1 SE/08/1470 Gables, Thorns Corner

8.1.2 SE/09/0029 Boyden End Stables

8.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the Borough Council.

8.2.1 SE/08/0548/9 Plumbers Arms, Wickham Street

Appeal Hearing
Granted

8.2.2 SE/08/1470 Gables, Thorns Corner

9. Clerk's Report

Circulated Documents

9.1.1 Clerks and Councils Direct. Recommended Planning Application procedures were in line with those included in Standing Orders.

Other Information

9.2.1 A Police Surgery was to be held in the MSC Hall on 26th February.

9.2.2 Age Concern was hoping to set-up lunch clubs for the elderly and had been put in touch with the village 'Scene'.

9.2.3 The Chairman would be informed of the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

9.2.4 Details of the next West Suffolk Link meeting were available.

10. Finance.

10.1 The following payments were approved.

10.1.1 001472 BT Line Rental Nov. to Jan. 41.36

10.1.2 001473 R. Medley Salary for February 393.94

10.1.3 001474 R. Medley 'Home as Office' allowance 45.00

10.1.4 Tiscali Broadband payment for February 20.03

10.2 The following income was noted.

10.2.1 Vat repayment for 2008 2,291.98

10.2.2 Bowls Club Ground rent 10.50

10.3 Other financial matters

10.3.1 Annual insurance (due end of March) 2,276.40

10.3.2 Confirmation of Precept. Cllrs were made aware of the decreasing grant from the Borough – from 50% in 2006 to 40% in 2009.

11. Estates Committee Report.

11.1 Coltsfoot Green. Cllr. Walker presented the latest situation.

11.2 Possible erection of barrier on 'Six Acres'/recreation ground. The Estates Committee had not supported this suggestion. Cllrs. asked if this affected the insurance situation.

11.3 The County Council Grass Cutting quote of £1,192.60 plus vat for the 2009 season had been accepted.

12. United Charities Report

There was no further news.

13. MSC matters

Cllrs. had been circulated with the MSC proposal for the 'bus shelter'. Cllrs. supported this suggestion and instructed the Clerk to ask the MSC to provide further details.

14. Roads, hedges, verges and drains.

14.1 Clearing of grips. The County Council had recently been given some more money for this task and Wickhambrook was regarded as a priority.

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14.2 Hedges. Hedges had been trimmed at Meeting Green and along the road between the crossroads and Coltsfoot Green.

14.3 Water from the fields uphill of Coltsfoot Lane was washing away the surface of the lane and threatening to flood the cottages in that area. The Borough Council was carrying out an investigation.

14.4 Cllrs. suggested that a copy of the completed parish hedgerow survey map should be available for public viewing.

15. Rights of Way.

15.1 The sinking bridge on Footpath 26 had been reported.

16. Standing Orders.

Cllr. Sammons presented the updated version of the Standing Orders. The number of days that an agenda should be on public display prior to the parish council meeting would be altered to comply with national guidelines.

17. Training Opportunities for Councillors.

Cllrs approved the Clerk's attendance at the Power of Wellbeing course on 2nd March.

Cllr. Sammons took the details of the Tree Warden's Seminar on 7th March.

18. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 26th March 2009. To be held in the Pavilion of the MSC Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 19th February 2009.

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Chairman

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Date