

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 22nd January 2015
at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall**

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), J. Claydon (arrived 7.45pm.), P. Couzens, K. Merritt, J. Norton, J. Walker and J. Wilson.

County Cllr. M. Evans and Borough Cllr. D. Redhead (until 8.25pm.)

Clerk R. Medley.

One member of the public was present until 8.25 pm.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Bradbury. A letter of resignation from Cllr. J. Norton had been received by the Chairman.

2. Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 27th November 2014

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

3.1 Item 7.2.1 of previous meeting – The Mayor’s scroll would be displayed in the Pavilion.

3.2 Item 8.3.2 of previous meeting – The BT contract had been renewed and a new router supplied.

3.3 Item 17.2.2 of 28th August meeting – The Website of the Year competition had been won by Framlingham but the judges had commented favourably on Wickhambrook website.

3.4 ‘Parish Polls consultation’. Wickhambrook had responded supporting the proposal.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Wilson declared an interest in 8.1.3 and Cllr. Sammons in 8.1.4.

5. OPEN SESSION 7.35 pm

Police report. A written report mentioned two crimes – one an attempted distraction burglary and one forced entry through UPVC french doors. Jewellery and money were stolen.

Borough Cllr. D. Redhead said the District Council would freeze the Council Tax for the 2015/16 year. He was concerned about the rising costs of land and infrastructure required for new developments and wondered if this would seriously hamper future house building.

County Cllr. M. Evans reported a 0% rise in County Council Tax but there was a need to save a further £38 million over the next year. Some of the ‘pothole challenge’ money would be used for Nunnery Green. An on-line reporting system will enable those who report problems to check on progress. Despite cutbacks in Police budgets the number of staff locally should not change. Steven Halls, drainage specialist, will make another visit to Attleton Green.

Carpet Bowls Club. Ian Cumming, Chairman, said that the 18 members of the Club who met every Tuesday and Thursday, wished to modernise their equipment. They hoped to raise £9,000 in funding.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION at 8.25pm**6. Planning**

6.1 Applications considered by the Parish Council

6.1.1 DC/14/2153/TPO 43, Nunnery Green. Crown reduction of Goat Willow.

6.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the District Council

6.2.1 DC/14/2193/FUL The Paddocks, Giffords Lane. Siting of mobile home for use as annexe.
Withdrawn/Abandoned

6.2.2 DC/14/2153/TPO 43 (see above) Approved

6.3 Any other applications

6.3.1 Update on Plumbers Arms. Cllr. Wilson reported that the developer was in the process of providing the information on the demolished building required by Council’s Conservation Officer.

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Chairman

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6.3.2 Cemetery Road development. Cllrs. were asked about the preferred position for a bus shelter. The majority favoured the top of Cemetery Hill. Exact positioning would depend on access.

7. Clerk’s Report.

7.1 There were no circulated documents that needed further consideration.

7.2 Other matters

7.2.1 Alternative internal auditor. The Clerk gave additional information about the Ladywell organisation. Cllrs. asked that further checks be carried out.

7.2.2 Portable hard drive. A Toshiba 2.5 ALU had been fitted on 21st January 2015

7.2.3 Replacement Laptop. The Clerk confessed to having insufficient technical knowledge to confidently purchase a replacement laptop. Cllrs. suggested that Cllr. Bradbury may be willing to purchase a suitable model including the necessary programs and that he be repaid at the following meeting. Cllrs. were willing to authorise expenditure of around £350. The Clerk would approach Cllr. Bradbury.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1	001974	E-On. Electricity use in Chapel (to Jan. 7 th)	17.12
8.1.2	001975	Miracle Design & Play. Additional playground sign	164.70
8.1.3	001976	Mdsign Virus protection for the website	42.00
8.1.4	001977	The Rainbird Partnership Envelopes	9.23
8.1.5	001978	MSC Recycling credit	1,129.90
8.1.6	001979	Borough of St Edmundsbury Emptying dog bins	68.90
8.1.7	001980	LCPAS Bye-laws course	20.00
8.1.8	001981	Newstalk Donation	50.00
8.1.9	001982	Suffolk Accident Rescue Services Donation	50.00
8.1.10	001983	Suffolk Family Carers Donation	50.00
8.1.11	001984	Marie Curie Cancer Care Donation	35.00
8.1.12	001985	EACH Childrens’ Hospitals Donation	35.00
8.1.13	001986	Village Recorder Donation	30.00
8.1.14	001987	R. Medley. Printer cartridge	18.89
8.1.15	001988	R. Medley. Portable hard drive	45.00
8.1.16	001989	Salary for January	501.30
8.1.17	DD	BT Phone rental in November	28.03
8.1.18	DD	BT Phone rental in December	26.95
8.1.19	DD	BT Broadband Services	76.96

8.2 Recent income

8.2.1	Borough of St Edmundsbury. Recycling payment		1,129.90
8.2.2	NatWest Interest on bank accounts (Oct. to Dec.)	No 1 a/c	6.86
		No 2 a/c	1.12
8.2.3	HMRC Refund of VAT from March to November		2,397.97

8.3 Other financial matters

8.3.1 Consideration of National Salary Award 2014 – 2016 (circulated 27th Nov.) Cllrs. approved the recommended changes.

8.3.2 Changes to playing field grass cutting arrangements. EFMS were suggesting an increase of 8% over 2014/15 charges. The Clerk was instructed to contact the contractors and suggest that in the light of the recent drop in fuel prices this rise was unjustified.

9. Consideration of Indoor Bowls Club request.

Cllrs. agreed that a donation of £700 be made.

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Chairman

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10. Consideration of draft budget and the setting of the precept.

Additions made to the draft figures included £850 for election costs, £1000 for the creation of a memorial garden, £650 for posts to hold vehicle activated signs, £200 for additional lighting of the MSC/Browns Close footpath and £1000 towards the costs of Neighbourhood Planning. Adjustments were made to the projected income figures. These alterations resulted in a precept of £31,590. Cllrs. gave their approval and the application form was completed and signed by the Chairman.

11. Highway Matters

- 11.1 Footbridge across the ford in Wash Lane. This was modified and replaced in December.
- 11.2 Lighting on footpath from MSC to Browns Close. Further information had been requested and it was hoped that a single bollard light would provide sufficient illumination.
- 11.3 Vehicle Activated Signs. County Cllr. Mary Evans intended to provide several sets of equipment for use by villages at no cost. The Clerk would investigate insurance and maintenance fees.
- 11.4 Flooding/ditches update. Cllr. Wilson had cleared the ditch from Attleton Green to B1063. Ditches and grips in Cloak Lane had been cleared by local volunteers. Suffolk Highways had agreed to rod the drain that runs into fields at the lowest point between Wash Lane and Marrows Corner.

12. Estates Matters

- 12.1 Moor Green. Julian Girling had reminded Paul Rowe about installing the protective posts.
- 12.2 Memorial Garden. This item would be postponed until the next Estates Committee meeting.

13. Bye-Laws and Dog Control orders.

This matter could not be discussed because of the resignation of Cllr. Norton.

14. Rejuvenated Village Clubs.

- 14.1 Older Persons Club. 29 people attended the first meeting of the Meet & Eat lunch club on 8th Jan.
- 14.2 Youth Club. There was no further news.

15. Neighbourhood planning. Either Cllr. Sammons or Wilson would attend a masterclass on 9th March.

16. Replacement biscuit barrel box. Cllrs. were doubtful about the use of mdf and stated a preference for wood.

17. There were no reports from representatives of other village organisations.

18. Date for Annual Parish meeting. The Clerk will suggest a date.

19. Correspondence

- 19.1 There were no comments on correspondence previously circulated.
- 19.2 Correspondence requiring responses.
 - 19.2.1 Cllrs. approved the Clerk attending the updated Quality Councils briefing on 5th Feb.
 - 19.2.2 The letter about storage of Football Club equipment would be postponed until the next Estates Committee meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 26th February 2015. Cllr. Sammons offered her apologies.

Meeting closed at 9.38 pm

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 22nd January 2015.

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Chairman

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Date