

**10135 Minutes of the meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on
30th July 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. J. Claydon (Chairman), V. Mayes, K. Merritt, E. Taylor, K. Sammons and J. Walker.
Clerk R. Medley.
Three members of the public

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. J Wilson. County Cllr. Midwood, Borough Cllr. Redhead, PCSO Debs Carroll-Ber and the Kelly's Meadow representatives left at the end of the 'open session'.

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parish Council on 25th June 2009

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

3. Matters Arising (for information)

3.1 Correspondence arising from Item 16 of the previous meeting was on display.

3.2 Complaints Procedure. This had been circulated. Cllrs. were happy with the content and agreed that the procedure be adopted with immediate effect.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Taylor declared an interested in item 14.1.

5. Kelly's Meadow

Members of the Steering Group summarised the current situation and explained that more funding was needed to continue their work. Cllrs. suggested that the Borough's commitment to diversity and equality could be used to point out the injustice of a situation where the proposers of the planning application were being funded by the Borough but not the objectors. They asked if the Press would be interested in highlighting the use of £740,000 of public money for the establishment of just one family. Further guidance would be sought on what action the Parish Council could take without falling foul of the Code of Conduct. There was confusion over the longer term ownership of the site.

6. Comments by the Police representative, County Cllr. Midwood, Borough Cllr. Redhead and members of the public.

PCSO Debs Carroll-Ber gave details of crimes committed since the previous meeting. There had been arrests in connection with criminal damage to the pool at the school and three males had been apprehended in connection with local burglaries. PCSO Foster had met with the local Youth Worker to see what could be done to provide more activities for the local youngsters.

County Cllr. Midwood outlined some of her committee responsibilities. Locality funding was still available. She felt that there was a stronger case for a bus shelter at the Plumbers Arms than at Thorns Corner.

Borough Cllr. Redhead warned that the grant paid towards the precept was likely to be decreased by 9% and there was a possibility that the Borough could start charging for playground inspections.

7. Sustainable Transport Meeting

Cllr. Mayes reported on her recent attendance at the above meeting. Suffolk County Council is keen to improve accessibility and sustainable transport in rural areas. The first stage would be to investigate the needs and travel habits of people in the local 'cluster' (Ousden, Hargrave, Lidgate, Wickhambrook and Depden) and details would be collected by means of a questionnaire.

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Chairman

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Date

10136

Notes of explanation would be placed on village notice boards and in the 'Scene'. Cllrs. favoured the more detailed questionnaire and that would be delivered to every house using the 'What's On' distribution network. Replies would be returned freepost to the County Council for analysis.

8. Planning

- 8.1 The following applications were submitted for consideration
 - 8.1.1 SE/09/0768 Sparrows Nest, Lady's Green, Ousden. 1½ storey rear extension.
 - 8.1.2 SE/09/0812 The Cottage, Baxter's Green. Side extension.
- 8.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the Borough Council.
 - 8.2.1 SE/09/0592 Chestnut House, Attleton Green. Retention of garage and storeroom. Granted
 - 8.2.2 SE/09/0604 Minori, Ashfield Green. First floor and single storey rear extensions. Granted

9. Clerk's Report

Circulated Documents

- 9.1.1 St Edmundsbury Empty Homes Strategy.
- 9.1.2 Responsibility for closed churchyard. After considering the findings of the original investigation Cllrs. accepted responsibility for the churchyard.
- 9.1.3 Ideas for new business in village. This initiative would be publicised in the Scene and website.
- 9.1.4 Emergency Plan and Guide. This item would be carried over to the next meeting.
- 9.1.5 Suffolk Local Involvement Networks. This item would be carried over to the next meeting.
- 9.1.6 Rural Community Network. Cllrs. stated whether they wished to continue with this regular update and that information would be passed back to the distributors.
- 9.1.7 Latest SALC Pack. A response was awaited from SALC as to the importance of the complete set of NALC Legal Topic Notes.
- 9.1.8 Rating Appeal on Chapel. Cllrs. agreed that this appeal should go ahead.

Other Information

- 9.2.1 Clerk's holiday. Cllr. Mayes agreed to deal with planning applications and cemetery enquiries in the Clerk's absence.
- 9.2.2 Request from East Anglian Daily Times. The Clerk was instructed to offer to forward summaries of the parish 'points of interest' prepared for the 'Scene'.
- 9.2.3 Rural Affordable Housing event. Prior notice was given of a meeting to be held in Elmswell in the morning of Friday 9th October.

10. Finance.

10.1 The following payments were approved.		
10.1.1 001503 Glasdon U.K.Ltd. Litter bin liner and fireexpire kit		59.80
10.1.2 001504 D.R. King & Son. Grounds maintenance. 1 st payment		3105.00
10.1.3 001505 Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Annual membership		30.00
10.1.4 001506 R. Medley Salary for July		409.44
10.1.5 Tiscali Broadband payment for July		23.14
10.1.6 001507 St Edmundsbury Council. Rates for Chapel		312.65
10.2 The following income was noted.		
10.2.1 Interment (L. Fulcher)		45.00
10.2.2 Payment for headstone (H.J.Paintin)		50.00
10.2.3 Interment (Armstrongs)		60.00
10.2.4 Bank Interest - April to June No. 1 account		5.51
	No. 2 account	0.66

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Date

10137

10.3 Other financial matters

10.3.1 Budget to Actual expenditure from April to June. This had been circulated

10.3.2 Change of Signatories. The completed paperwork had been delivered to NatWest and confirmation of the changes was awaited.

10.3.3 Rates reminder notice. On the understanding that payment would be returned if the appeal was successful Cllrs. agreed that the Chapel rates should be paid. (see above)

11. Estates Committee Report.

11.1 Poplars at Park Gate. Cllrs. were made aware that the diseased trees would be felled in September.

11.2 Choice of playground equipment. Cllr. Taylor said that she had visited all three local schools whose pupils were potential users of the playground to ask which equipment was preferred.

11.3 Recent approval of expenditure. The Estates Committee had approved expenditure for replacement litter bin parts (see above) and a notice for the 'Six Acres'.

12. United Charities Report

A verbal report was given on behalf of Cllr. Wilson.

13. MSC matters

Nothing to report

14. Roads, hedges, verges and drains.

14.1 Responsibility for hedge in Thorns Close. The County Council had accepted responsibility and would trim the hedge twice a year in May and October, and in the next two weeks.

14.2 Coltsfoot Close had been surface dressed.

15. Rights of Way.

15.1 'Access Suffolk'. The Contractor Licence for the use of Ordnance Survey data had been completed and returned to the Rights of Way team.

16. Possible donation to the work of the Steering Group.

This discussion took place in camera.

Cllrs. were against making a donation on behalf of the Parish Council as this could jeopardise their role as an impartial body and could remove the opportunity of making comments at the planning application stage. A note explaining the situation would be put in the 'Scene'.

Date of next meeting.

Thursday 27th August 2009 at the MSC pavilion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2009.

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Chairman

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Date