

**10092 Minutes of the meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on
20th March 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. J. Claydon (Chairman), K. Merritt, K. Sammons, J. Walker and J. Wilson.
County Cllr. J. Midwood and Borough Cllr. D. Redhead
Clerk R. Medley.
Seven members of the public

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. P. Bevan

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 14th February 2008

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. Sammons declared an interest in items 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.6, and 6.1.8 and Cllr. Wilson in 6.2.1 and 8.1.2.

5. David Price was due to give a presentation on the role of Independent Monitoring Boards but for health reasons was unable to attend.

Report from County Councillor

Cllr. Midwood gave the latest information on

- The proposed changes to the flight patterns for aircraft approaching Stansted
- The likely future of Clare School
- Recent flooding in the village.

Report from Borough Councillor

Cllr. Redhead gave details of the consultation process for changes by the Boundary Commission. The Government proposal was that Borough and County Councils be replaced by Unitary Authorities. The changes were likely to boost the importance of parish councils particularly those that had attained quality status.

6. Planning

6.1 The following applications were considered on circulation.

6.1.1 SE/08/0131 Black Horse Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.2 SE/08/0119 Samples Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.3 SE/08/0178 Moatwood Cottage, Giffords Lane	No objection
6.1.4 SE/08/0241 Great Mill Cottage, Mill Lane	No objection
6.1.5 SE/08/0240 Aspenden Cottage, Coltsfoot Green	No objection
6.1.6 SE/08/0289 Black Horse Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.7 SE/08/0259 Little Timbers, Ashfield Green	No objection
6.1.8 SE/08/0293 Samples Farm, Ashfield Green	No objection

6.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the Borough Council.

6.2.1 SE/08/0073 Poplar Hall, Genesis Green	Granted
6.2.2 SE/07/2000 Badmondsfield End Cottage	Granted
6.2.3 SE/08/0178 Moatwood Cottage, Giffords Lane	Granted

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Chairman

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Date

10093

7. Clerk's Report

7.1 Circulated Documents.

7.1.1 'Save the Parish Councils' petition. Cllrs. agreed that no immediate action be taken.

7.2 Other information

7.2.1 Countryside Access Community Scheme. Financial restrictions had forced a temporary halt to these proposals.

7.2.2 Certificate in Local Council Administration. Cllrs. were willing to support the Clerk in obtaining this qualification.

7.2.3 Suffolk Housing Society. Details of the recent allocation of 3, Emily Frost Close were provided.

7.2.4 The Parish Council Conference would be held on 22nd April at Great Whelnetham. Cllr. Sammons requested details.

7.2.5 The Clerk outlined the contents of a letter from Clare School concerning a local pupil.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1 001398 Suffolk ACRE Annual subscription 2008/9 25.00

8.1.2 001399 Mdsign Internet Services (Dec. to Feb. '08) 165.97

8.1.3 001400 D.R.King & Son. Grounds Maint. (final payment) 789.74

8.1.4 001401 Allianz Cornhill Insurance premium for 2008/9 2027.64

8.1.5 001402 R. Medley Salary for February 463.63

8.2 The following income was noted.

8.2.1 100437 Headstones (private) 90.00

8.2.2 100438 Interment (Southgate of Newmarket) 110.00

8.3 Other financial matters

8.3.1 Quotes from D. R. King & Son

Grounds maintenance for 2008/9 5788.98

Bowling Green maintenance 580.00

Cllrs. confirmed that both quotes should be accepted.

8.3.2 Tiscali broadband. The clerk explained that payment would be by direct debit.

8.3.3 Cllr. Sammons had completed the paperwork for PAYE registration and had carried out a check of the Council's financial records and reconciliation procedures.

The Clerk drew attention to salary 'slippage'. Cllrs. gave approval for the April payment to include both March and April.

9. Estates Committee Report.

9.1 Playground Improvements. Cllr. Claydon had removed the senior climber. An on-site meeting had been arranged for 8th April at 6.00pm with the St Edmundsbury Funding Officer.

9.2 Notice Board for Cemetery. This had been ordered from Workwise at a cost of £320 plus vat.

9.3 Chapel Use by 'Players'. The 'Players' had finished painting the interior and had supplied a new filing cabinet.

10. United Charities Representatives Report.

The annual inspection of the Alms Houses would be carried out in the near future.

11. MSC Matters

There was nothing to report.

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Chairman

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Date

10094

12. Roads, hedges, verges and drains.

12.1 Road repairs. After recent work the surfaces of some of the main village roads had been much improved. Flooding still occurred after heavy rain but it was hoped that this would be minimised once the pipes under private drives had been cleared.

13. Rights of Way

Footbridges on footpath 30 and 42 had been replaced. The surface of byway 31 would be reinstated.

14. Community Speedwatch.

The Clerk explained that there had been considerable interest in this initiative but numbers of actual volunteers remained low. He offered to attend a meeting to provide further details on 2nd April at Barrow.

15. Affordable Housing.

The closing date had been passed. Returns had been in the region of 40%. The next stage was computer analysis of the data.

16. Future of the Bowls Club

A letter had been received from Elaine Taylor saying that there was evidence of fresh support for the Club with several new members and changes to the committee. Cllrs. agreed that the Bowls Club could count on the support of the Parish Council.

17. Changes to Stansted flight paths. Concern was expressed about the proposals particularly the suggestion that the noise of descending aircraft was less disruptive in rural areas.

It was felt that individual responses would have as much effect as joint responses and that maximum publicity should be given to the different ways of responding.

This item would remain on the agenda until the end of the consultation period in mid May.

18. Councillor Vacancy. Mr.M.Divall had contacted the Clerk to say that he had taken on additional responsibilities and was no longer interested in the vacancy.

Councillors discussed the merits of the two remaining candidates and agreed that the position be offered to Mrs E. Taylor.

19. Date of next meeting – Thursday 24th April 2008

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 20th March 2008.

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Chairman

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Date