

10283 Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 28th November 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), S. Bradbury, J. Claydon, K. Merritt, J. Walker and J Wilson.
Borough Cllr. D. Redhead (7.35 to 7.50pm)
Clerk R. Medley.
Four members of the public attended the Open Session.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were accepted from County Cllr. M. Evans and Cllr. J. Girling

2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 31st October 2013

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

- 3.1 Item 3.1 of previous meeting – Letters of thanks to those donating to the playground. Cllr. Sammons produced a draft letter which met with the approval of Cllrs.
- 3.2 Item 18.2.4 of previous meeting – Speeding on A143. The Clerk read out the response.
- 3.3 Item 18.2.5 of previous meeting – Clearing fallen trees on Mole Hill. The Clerk read out the response.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Sammons declared an interest in item 8.1.4 and Cllr. Wilson in 8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

OPEN SESSION 7.40pm

Police representatives Ryan Wilson and Claire Fuller presented the crime report. The three crimes reported over the last month included damage to the Parish Council notice board on the Bury Road, spray painting of trees on private land and the smashing of a security lamp. An offender, thought to have been responsible for several local burglaries, had been apprehended. The number of break-ins and thefts locally was on the rise and the Police wished to remind the public about checking security, particularly of other buildings.

County Cllr. M. Evans had provided a report which was read out. She requested information on broadband speeds and the strength of mobile phone signals and provided updated information on Meeting Green crossroads, the flooding at Attleton Green, potholes at Nunnery Green and parishes taking responsibility for their local footpath network.

Borough Cllr. D. Redhead gave further details of recent changes to the Borough of St Edmundsbury Planning Department including the appointment of a new Departmental Head.

A deputation from Browns Close area requested more lighting on the footpath that runs from MSC Hall to Browns Close. Residents accepted that it would be impractical to install a full size street lamp but suggested that lighting at a lower height may be practical. They also placed a request for the hedging to be trimmed. District Cllr. Redhead offered to raise the matter of lighting with St Edmundsbury Council.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION at 8.10pm

6. Planning

6.1 The following applications had been considered by Councillors.

6.1.1 TCA13/2535 Manor House, Wickham Street. Application to fell one tree.

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

6.2.1 DC/13/0071/HH Clematis Cottage, Meeting Green. Studio. Granted

6.2.2 DC/13/0306/HH Coltsfoot Cottage, Coltsfoot Green. Rear extension. Application withdrawn.

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Chairman

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7. Clerk's Report

7.1 Circulated documents.

7.1.1. Ordnance Survey Public Sector Mapping Agreement. No additional action was necessary.

7.2 Other matters

7.2.1 Suggestions for the Scene. Topics suggested were the recent success in the Parish Council of the Year competition, praise for the new MSC committee's first year and for the organisers of the Fireworks evening and an invitation to the January 23rd Budget setting Parish Council meeting.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1	001868	Mdsign. Website and internet services (Oct. to Dec.)	169.50
8.1.2	001869	Mdsign. Internet hosting (Annual fee)	264.00
8.1.3	001870	HMRC. Employer payments (Tax months 7 to 9)	364.00
8.1.4	001871	The Rainbird Partnership. Printer cartridges	71.81
8.1.5	001872	R. Medley. Salary for November	485.38
8.1.6	001873	R. Medley. Salary for December	485.18
8.1.7	001874	R. Medley. 'Home as Office' allowance	45.00
8.1.8	DD	BT Phone rental in October	26.70

8.2 The following income was noted.

8.2.1	NatWest.	Interest on bank accounts to Sept.	No. 1 account	7.68
			No. 2 account	1.15
8.2.2		Transfer of Carnival monies to 'life's milestones' fund		20.00

9. Budget – preliminary thoughts

A draft budget had been circulated and Cllrs. discussed the suggested figures. The deadline for a completed precept application was January 31st 2014. Cllr. Sammons offered to circulate further figures before the next Parish Council meeting.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 Meeting Green junction. Hedges had been trimmed on all sides of the junction and Highways officers are of the opinion that visibility is reasonable.

10.2 Flooding at Attleton Green. A response from the Flooding Team is awaited.

10.3 Parking outside the Surgery. In the absence of Cllr. Girling this matter was postponed.

10.4 Grit Heaps and Insurance. Grit heaps had been replenished. The Clerk said that those who volunteered to spread the grit should check that their names were on the Parish Council list to ensure they were covered by the County Council insurance.

10.5 The Parish Footpath Network. Cllrs. declined the offer of taking over the contractor's role in footpath trimming but could be interested in adopting responsibility for the network. The Clerk was instructed to make this suggestion.

11. Estates Matters

11.1 Litter Pick on 24th November. A small number of volunteers, helped by the presence of PC Rob Sippitt and the patrol car, worked hard and collected about a dozen bags of rubbish, some car tyres and two mudguards.

11.2 SALC Parish Council of the Year (Support to Young People) Competition. Wickhambrook had been awarded third place and it was hoped that the certificate could be displayed in the foyer of the Memorial Social Centre.

11.3 Parish Council notice board on Bury Road. Sometime over the weekend of 2nd November the glass was smashed. The damage had been reported to the Police who had carried out door to door enquiries. The glass had been replaced and it was unlikely that an insurance claim would be made.

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Chairman

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12. Possible changes to Standing Orders.

An updated version of Model Standing Orders had been received. Cllr. Sammons offered to compare the contents of the latest version with the current version and recommend any changes.

13. Scene update.

Possible changes to the layout and content of the Scene would be discussed at a MSC meeting to be held on 3rd December. Cllrs. Bradbury and Walker would attend.

14. Reports from representatives from other village organisations

MSC. Cllr. Walker reported on the AGM held on 11th November and suggested that the new MSC Management Committee should be praised for a most successful first year in office.

United Reform Charities. Cllr. Wilson reported on recent changes and improvements to the heating in the Alms Houses.

15. Community First Responders.

Some 15 volunteers from Wickhambrook, Ousden, Stradishall and Lidgate were interested in becoming actively involved and a co-ordinator had been found. The volunteers were obtaining their Disclosure and Barring Service checks. The next meeting had been arranged for 10th December. The Village Fireworks had raised £330 towards equipment. Contact had been made with the Practice Manager at the Surgery and she would discuss the situation with the partners.

16. Affordable Housing

Cllr. Wilson offered to investigate further details of Community Land Trusts. Cllrs. agreed that the best approach would be to find a willing landowner then to contact the Borough's Planning Department. The Clerk was instructed to discuss the matter with Niki Hollingworth to see if she could provide any new information. Affordable Housing should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

17. Donations

Cllrs. agreed that Charity donations would be made to the same organisations as last year providing that Newstalk still had the same need.

18. Correspondence

18.1 There were no comments on documents previously circulated.

18.2 Correspondence requiring a response.

18.2.1 Nominations for 'Someone who gives extra in the Community'. With the news of the imminent demise of the Wic-Kids Youth Club after a successfully running for a period of 25 years, Cllrs. suggested that the organisers Roz Clarry and Dee Hayward be nominated.

19. Dates for 2014 were confirmed

Parish Council meetings. Thursdays – Jan. 23rd, Feb. 27th, Mar. 27th, April 24th, May 22nd*, June 26th, July 24th, Aug. 28th, Sept. 25th, Oct. 23rd and Nov. 27th.

Estates Committee meetings. Thursdays – Feb. 13th, Apr. 10th, June 12th, Aug. 14th, Oct. 9th and Dec.11th.

'Special' meetings – Annual Parish meeting Thursday 8th May

Annual Parish Council meeting Thursday 22nd May*

Date of next meeting. Thursday 23rd January 2014 in the MSC Pavilion at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2013.

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Chairman

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Date