

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 23rd October 2014
at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall**

Present

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

County Cllr. M. Evans (until 8.05) Borough Cllr. D. Redhead did not attend.

Clerk R. Medley.

One member of the public who remained until 9.10 pm.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Bradbury and Cllr. J. Walker.

2. Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 25th September 2014

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (for information)

3.1 The right for Parish Councils to sell electricity generated from local schemes. Wickhambrook had been added to the list of 100 Town and Parish Councils supporting this proposal. The Government has six months to respond.

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr. Sammons declared an interest in 8.1.6 and Cllr. Wilson in 8.1.2.

5. OPEN SESSION 7.35 pm

Police report. P.C. Trish Sinclair said that there had been no recorded crimes for Wickhambrook over the past month. She was soon to retire. Sophie Mitchell had been moved to a different area so new members of staff would be introduced in the next few months.

County Cllr. M. Evans said that the Wash Lane repair would only include the replacement of the footbridge. There would be no changes to the ford section of the road. She had no further news on other ongoing repairs in the village but would continue to remind Council officers. She hoped there would be a good attendance at the rearranged Broadband meeting to be held on 17th November in Stansfield. She had been given the task of investigating poor mobile reception in the A14 corridor.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION at 8.05pm**6. Planning**

6.1 Applications considered by the Parish Council

6.1.1 DC/14/1633/HH The Poplars, Meeting Green. Double garage.

6.1.2 DC/14/1669/FUL Black Horse Farm, Ashfield Green. Changes to stables.

6.1.3 DC/14/1721/HH 17, Boyden Close. Front and side extensions.

6.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn by the District Council

6.2.1 DC/14/1267/FUL Plot to the rear of 8 Bunters Road. Construction of 1 single storey dwelling. Refused

6.3 Any other applications

6.3.1 Update on Plumbers Arms. The Planning Support section has identified the ongoing alterations as a priority and has asked an external consultant to investigate.

7. Clerk's Report.

7.1 Circulated documents.

7.1.1 Community Led Planning. Cllr. Bradbury has arranged to discuss the process with the Clerk of Holt Council and would report at the next meeting.

7.1.2 Additional filter for wickhambrook.org. To be considered at the November meeting.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

10315

7.2 Other matters.

7.2.1 Scroll presented by the Mayor. Cllrs. suggested that this should be mounted and framed and placed on display in the MSC Hall. The Clerk would make the arrangements.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following payments were approved.

8.1.1	001947	D.R.King & Son Ltd. Grounds Maint. (2 nd payment)	3120.00
8.1.2	001948	Mdsign. Website and Internet. June to August.	169.50
8.1.3	001949	Borough of St Edmundsbury. Emptying dog bins (Oct to Dec.)	82.68
8.1.4	001950	John Crysell Repair of wooden cemetery gates.	47.50
8.1.5	001957	BDO LLP. Annual Audit	396.00
8.1.6	001958	The Rainbird Partnership. Office supplies	29.93
8.1.7	001959	Donation to Royal British Legion	50.00
8.1.8	001960	R. Medley. Salary for October	501.30
8.1.9	DD	BT Phone rental in September	29.06

8.2 The following income was noted.

8.2.1	Interest on NatWest accounts	Account No.1	7.75
		Account No.2	1.13

8.3 Other financial matters

8.3.1 Expenditure against forecast for the period April to September. Draft figures had been circulated. There were no comments.

8.3.2 Further withdrawal of precept grant. Cllrs. were reminded of the loss of a further £2,200 of grant over the 2015/2016 year.

9. Audit matters

9.1 Alternative Internal Auditor. SALC fees had been confirmed at £187 for 2015/16. The Clerk had not yet been successful in finding more competitive fees but would make further enquiries.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 Footbridge across the ford in Wash Lane. Please see Open Session.

10.2 Footpath from MSC to Browns Close. A summary of progress to date had been sent to Chris Beckley, Service Facilities Manager, on 18th October. A reply was awaited.

10.3 Vehicle Activated Signs. Details of the 5 approved sites had been circulated. Cllrs. discussed the advantages of actioning some, as opposed to all, sites. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the possibility of funding and then contact Hargrave and Depden to check progress.

10.4 Hedges. Letters had been sent to landowners with varying results. A request for precise guidance from Highways had received the answer 'In legal context the highway boundary is to the roadside edge of a 'well maintained' hedge'. If the hedge is not well maintained it is potentially an obstruction' David King would be asked to arrange for the hedge bordering Moor Green to be flailed before the perimeter posts were installed.

11. Estates Matters (Draft minutes had been circulated)

11.1 Branch hanging over playground. The broken branch suspended above the fort mound had been removed. Appreciation for the prompt action had been passed on to David King.

11.2 Moor Green – discussions with Paul Rowe. Cllrs. accepted that the metalled road surface may have been breaking up before he started his development and were willing to accept his offer of reinstatement of the green and installation of posts parallel to the road. To overcome his concern about possible litigation Cllrs. suggested that the green be adopted immediately after installation or that the cost of posts and their installation be donated to the Parish Council who would carry out the work.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

10316

11.3 Football Club request. Cllrs. approved the installation of a small storage unit behind the hedge and close to the Tennis Pavilion. Cllr. Claydon pointed out that a large unit at Gaines Hall had spare storage capacity. The Clerk was instructed to pass this information to the Club Chairman.

11.4 Memorial Garden. Cllrs. Wilson and Sammons and the Clerk would visit the Cemetery in the near future and agree a suitable site.

11.5 Cemetery Fees for 2015/2016. The suggested increases were approved. The changes would be implemented from 1st January 2015.

12. Standing Orders. Model Standing Orders 2013 incorporating changes specific to Wickhambrook and previously circulated on 24th September to all Cllrs. were approved. These were formally adopted on 23rd October 2014.

12.1 Financial Standing Orders. An amended version would be circulated for the next meeting.

13. Proposed changes to the Scene. A meeting of MSC trustees had been arranged towards the end of October and it was hoped more information would then be available.

14. Rejuvenated Village Clubs.

14.1 Older Persons Club. Donna Reeve, Team Leader for Age UK Suffolk in Bury, would attend the Over 60s Christmas Party on 17th December to promote the concept.

14.2 Youth Club. No new information was available.

15. Affordable Housing. Cllr. Wilson gave a summary of the Community Land Trust approach to the provision of affordable housing, or the adoption of other village assets such as a local shop or pub. CLT is a non-profit community based organisation owned and controlled by local people; one member having one vote on policy decisions. Everyone in the village puts in a small amount of money. The group is run on a day to day basis by a steering group of elected trustees. Some funding may be available. Cllr. Wilson would welcome suggestions for trustees from appropriate backgrounds e.g. solicitors, accountants, etc.

16. There were no reports from representatives to other village organisations

17. Quotes for replacement Biscuit Barrel box. D. Hayward had a contact who was willing to quote for a wooden version of the box. Suffolk Pet Crematorium was suggested as an alternative.

18. Remembrance Sunday. Cllr. Wilson offered to attend the ceremony on behalf of the Parish Council

19. Dates for 2015 meetings. Parish Council Thursdays – Jan. 22nd, Feb. 26th, Mar. 26th, Apr. 23rd, May 21st, June 25th, July 30th, Aug. 27th, Sept. 24th, Oct. 29th, and Nov. 26th. No Dec. meeting.
Estates Committee Thursdays – Feb. 12th, Apr. 9th, June 11th, Aug. 13th, Oct. 15th and Dec. 7th (Monday)

20. Correspondence

17.1 There were no comments on correspondence previously circulated.

17.2 Correspondence requiring responses.

17.2.1 ‘Open and Accountable’ meeting at Elmswell. There were no volunteers.

17.2.2 The Clerk was offered the chance of attending the Elections 2015 briefing in January.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th November 2014. Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 23rd October 2014.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date