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**Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 19 January 2017
at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall**

Present

Cllrs. P Couzens (Chairman), K. Sammons (Vice Chairman), J. Barton, J. Claydon,
J. Midwood and J. Wilson

Borough Cllr. C. Pollington attended the meeting until 9.05 p.m.

County Cllr. M. Evans attended the meeting until 9.05 p.m.

Clerk S. Thorburn

Three members of the public were present

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. K. Merritt and J. Walker

2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 November 2016.

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

The Clerk reported

10.2 The tree overhanging the road at The Duddery has been trimmed

13. Signed copy of the terms and conditions returned by the Clerk to Mdsign

4. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr Sammons declared an interest in item 8.1.13

5. OPEN SESSION 7.35 pm

5.1 Borough Cllr Pollington reported that if devolution went ahead it would take a more local form.

The lighting at the Brown's Close footpath had been installed.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION 7.40 p.m.

6. Planning

6.1 Applications considered by Parish Council.

6.1.1 DC/16/2409/VAR + Amended application Plot 2, Columbine Cottage, Nunnery Green. Revised scale and design. Objection to both

6.1.2 DC/16/2736/HH 14 Croft Close. Single storey rear extension. No objection

6.1.3 DC/16/2499/FUL Mill Farm, Ashfield Green. Two storey building – vehicle storage and office space with change of use agricultural land to parking area. No objection

6.1.4 DC/16/2416/HH Easterwood Bungalow, Baxters Green. 3 bay garage and carport With room above. No objection

6.2 Applications Granted/Refused/Withdrawn by the Borough Council

6.2.1 DC/16/2014/TE3 Removal of public payphone. Approved

6.2.2 DC/16/2421/VAR Plot 1, Columbine Cottage, Nunnery Green. Change in materials. Approved

6.2.3 DC/16/2275/HH Field View, Nunnery Green. Conservatory to side/rear elevation. Approved

6.2.4 DC/16/2280/HH 37 Boyden Close. Single storey side extension. Approved

6.3 Other planning matters

6.3.1 An email from a resident requesting a pre-planning application opinion on a proposed new dwelling at a site in Ashfield Green.

The Parish Council felt unable to give an opinion on the possible planning application until it was presented to them as a formal document from the Planning Department.

6.3.2 Attendance St Edmundsbury Parish and Town Forum - Tuesday 31 January 2017 on planning matters. The Clerk would attend.

6.3.3 Circulation and decisions on planning applications methods and any other matters

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All agreed that the hardcopies of planning applications would be displayed for Councillors to view prior to the start of each monthly meeting for discussion and decision at the meeting. Should the return date expire before the meeting the document would be sent by email for response to the Clerk.

7. Clerks Report

7.1 Circulated documents

The Clerk had no comment as items within the agenda covered these documents.

8. Finance

8.1 Payments as listed below were approved, proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Claydon

	Cheque no.	Detail	Amount £
8.1.1	002210	S Thorburn (Clerk) salary for January	538.88
8.1.2	002211	E.On chapel electricity to 14.12.2016	9.64
8.1.3	002212	D King & Son- Bury Road playground new fence and gate	3562.80
8.1.4	002213	D King & Son – Cemetery clearance work	228.00
8.1.5	002214	D King & Son – Grounds maintenance contract	2167.04
8.1.6	002215	Newstalk (Donation)	50.00
8.1.7	002216	Suffolk Accident Rescue Services (Donation)	50.00
8.1.8	002217	Suffolk Family Carers (Donation)	50.00
8.1.9	002218	Marie Curie (Cancer Care) (Donation)	35.00
8.1.10	002219	EACH (Childrens Hospitals) (Donation)	35.00
8.1.11	002220	Villager Recorder (Donation)	30.00
8.1.12	002221	Vertas – Recreation ground mowing contract	461.18
8.1.13	002222	Rainbird Partnership Ltd – auto enrolment eligibility check - Clerk	114.00
8.1.14	002223	E.On chapel electricity to 8.1.2017	17.15

8.2 Recent income for information

8.2.1	Peasgood and Skeates memorial fee	70.00
8.2.2	Cremated Remains interment fee	55.00

8.3 Other financial matters

8.3.1 Precept bid application

Cllr Sammons explained that the bid stated that the increase in the precept for 2017-18 is only £382 but due to the withdrawal of the Parish Revenue and Local Council Tax support grants (£1,800 last year), this will show as a 7% increase from last year as the whole of the precept is now collectible from the residents.

Acceptance proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Claydon

9. SALC subscription 2017-2018 approval.

All agreed to re-subscribe proposed by Cllr Midwood and seconded by Cllr Sammons

10. Report from Chairman regarding meeting with 'The Players' Chairman Jeff Goodacre and 2017/18 rent for chapel.

Mr Goodacre had requested that the Parish Council hold the funds from 'The Players' who were to be disbanded. An amount was to be ringfenced for a future start-up fund if required with the remainder to be spent on a village project. All agreed in principle and the Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Goodacre for more information regarding the amount involved. All agree no further charges would be requested from the group for the Chapel use but an agreement would need to still be in place until the vacation was complete.

The Wickhambrook Carnival Committee had requested that the space be used to store

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items such as banners and fencing. All agreed this request with no charge to the Committee but an agreement would need to be in place for the use of the Chapel.

11. The Wickhambrook CFR group current position

Mr Peter Vince attended the meeting at 7.55 p.m. and was invited to speak on the CFR group position. A history of the formation of the group and subsequent falling membership was outlined to the Parish Council with the difficulties given as the increase in training and recruitment of volunteers able to be available at different times. The Councillors discussed the difficulties and agreed that a further effort to engage volunteers should be made and if this did not attract sufficient interest the two kits could be made available as Public Access Devices. The Chairman stated that he would liaise with Mr Vince regarding methods of advertising and co-ordination of any responses.

OPEN SESSION re-opened 8.10 pm with the arrival of County Councillor M Evans who reported that a meeting regarding rural broadband would be held at the MSC hall on Friday 3 February with Matthew Hancock M.P. It would be advertised shortly.

There had been communication from Wickhambrook Parish Council regarding a possible Speedwatch scheme in the village. Lidgate village operated such a scheme and had offered to help should a decision to go ahead be reached. A VAS machine in a local village had suffered a battery failure and lithium batteries were no longer imported. The problem had been resolved by liaising with the manufacturer and this was an alert to the Parish Council should a battery failure occur with the Wickhambrook machine.

Suffolk County Council had frozen the precept except for an increase under the Social Care heading which would be for that specific purpose. The County had a nationally high percentage of over 75 year old residents and there was a difficulty in recruitment for care providers. Mental health in the young was to be given a higher priority with an increase in Government funding for support workers and other professionals, training needs. The County had published a suicide strategy the previous year as part of an ongoing awareness programme.

Ousden had reported further damage to the By Ways by off road vehicles over the Christmas period. Wickhambrook had suffered less with the appearance of three or four solitary vehicles.

A protocol was being developed as to the responsibility of landowners for hedge and verge cutting. The new drainage team were to prioritise focusing on areas where houses had previously suffered from flooding.

CLOSURE OF RE-OPENED SESSION 8.30 p.m.

12. Highways matters

12.1 Blocked drainage ditch at Mole Hill and responsibility for clearance of other drainage ditches and pipes.

County Councillor M Evans would arrange a meeting with Cllr Midwood and Tom Nunn from Suffolk County Council to discuss the problem of blocked drains and chambers.

The Clerk was instructed to write to British Telecom and instruct them to remove the cuttings and other debris blocking the drainage ditch after the work undertaken at Thorn's Corner.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Executive Deborah Cadman and Cllr James Finch of Roads and Transport to ask for their comments regarding the lack of clearance of drainage ditches resulting in water freezing on the highway and flood risk to property.

12.2 Lighting on footpath between MSC and Browns Close. This was now in situ.

12.3 VAS report from Cllr Barton.

All the sites had now had their locations mapped ready to forward with the vehicle speed data with templates in place for each location.

12.4 Email from resident regarding speeding in the Meeting Green/Nunnery Green area

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Cllr Sammons stated that speeding throughout the village was a high priority at each Parish Council meeting and the Clerk was instructed to contact the resident to register interest in a possible Speedwatch group.

12.5 Possible formation of a 'speedwatch' group – Ashfield Green

Cllr Sammons would contact the resident who had requested support for this venture and determine who would co-ordinate the group.

12.6 Email from resident regarding parking in the area around the Surgery

No direct action could be taken although the Parish Council acknowledged the difficulties in this area and the Clerk was instructed to forward these comments to the Highways Department.

13. Estates Committee matters

13.1 Further communication from resident regarding clearance work at Coltsfoot Green. No further comments had been forthcoming and all agreed the matter was concluded.

13.2 Memorial garden update

Cllr Sammons updated the Parish Council on the plan to re-instate the memorial crosses in the Chapel and a planned area to scatter cremated remains. The Clerk was instructed to ensure quotes were available for discussion at the February Estates committee meeting.

13.3 Receipt of annual play equipment inspection reports

The Clerk reported that these were in place and no significant defects had been highlighted.

13.4 Approval for litter and dog waste bin at Bury Road playground

The costs were presented and all agreed to go ahead with the order Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Claydon seconded

13.5 Funding approval for Wickhambrook walks leaflet

All agreed to support the Footpaths Officer's request and the £300.00 required was proposed by Cllr Sammons and seconded by Cllr Wilson.

Other matters - Cllr Midwood expressed disappointment that the photograph of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday celebration was not in evidence at the MSC hall and the Clerk was instructed to request the whereabouts of the photograph and ask if the card offering thanks from the Palace would be welcomed as an addition, if framed, to be displayed nearby.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Next meeting – Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 23 February 2017.

Apologies from Cllr J Midwood

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 19 January 2017.

Chairman

Date

Chairman

Date