Wickhambrook Parish Council

Minutes

Of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 28th November 2024

Present: A Grimes, K Grimes, M Karunaratne, M Lavelle (Chair) L Smith, T Turner

Attending: Clerk Hilary Workman, WS Cllr Sarah Pugh

- 24.11.01 **Noted**: Apologies for absence to be noted or approved:
 - Cllr Paul Couzens personal commitment approved
 - SC Cllr Bobby Bennett noted
- 24.11.02 **Noted**: That when invited, there were no
 - 2.1 Members' Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and/or other
 - 2.2 Declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda their nature, including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25
 - 2.3 Requests for dispensations
 - 2.4 Additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests.

24.11.03 Noted:

3.1 Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th September, and the Extra-ordinary Meeting held on 14th November 2024, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.

- 24.11.04 **Noted**: Reports from Representatives of the Council on External bodies, Ward Members and other external bodies as appropriate.
 - 4.1 Cllr Mrs Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council previously circulated
 - 4.2 Cllr Mrs Sarah Pugh, West Suffolk Council previously circulated. Cllr Pugh further advised that:
 - if anyone is aware of any issues of people being cold, to please let her know, there is a lot of help available to which she can signpost.
 - She had recently dealt with an interesting ancient planning problem Coltsfoot Green – the drain going across the BOAT 31.
 - WSC briefing on Tuesday on government white paper re potential devolution turning into a unitary with elected mayor. Suffolk CC had been in negotiations with the previous government.
 - Both traffic and street lighting issues fell under the purview of the county councillor, Bobby Bennett.
- 24.11.05 **Public Forum** (Open Session) 1 . 19:16

That when comments or questions on any Agenda item or matter of concern from those members of the public present, there being none, the session was closed.

24.11.06 **Noted**:

The meeting considered correspondence to this meeting not dealt with as an Agenda item or in the Clerk's report (previously circulated as report **WPC.24.11.01**) and noted oral updates from the clerk. The meeting agreed in respect of the grant to the Local History Society, where there was an underspend of £234.61, that £200 be returned back to the parish council, with the remaining £34.61 to be used by the Recorder for stationery materials. Any future contributions to the Village Recorder to be funded from an annual donation.

¹ The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

7.1 Highways/VAS reporting Cllr Paul Couzens

Cllr K Grimes advised that he was happy to move the VAS. The clerk updated the meeting that Cllr Couzens had been resolving an issue with the small charger on the VAS which was preventing data from being stored and downloaded. The meeting asked the clerk to chase Lidgate PC for return of the shared VAS.

- 7.2 **Emergency Planning** Cllr **Mike Lavelle** Cllr Lavelle reported no issues or updates identified.
- 7.3 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Cllr Tracey Turner
 The meeting considered an update on preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan
 (previously circulated as WPC.24.11.02) and
 Resolved

Subject to the incorporation of any required changes arising from the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment or any updating as a result of the publication of a new National Planning Policy Framework before the Plan is submitted;

- i. the Parish Council approves the proposed modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan, and
- ii. agrees the submission of the Plan to West Suffolk Council
- 7.4 **Road Safety Working Group**The meeting considered an update on the establishment of a Community

 Speedwatch (previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.03**) and noted the following
 - updates:
 Suffolk Constabulary responsible for the administration of Community Speedwatch Groups.
 - The concern of councillors that the difficulty in egressing from the C route adjacent to the Plumbers Arms at Wickham Street was a contributory factor in vehicle accidents at this site.
- 7.5 **Cemetery Records Project Cllr Andrea Grimes**

An oral update from Cllr Grimes that with the winter weather there was now a hiatus in recording. Work had progressed on the southside of the Old Cemetery, but that it had been identified that some of the rows do not appear to line up as expected.

7.6 SALC & Social Media Cllr Linda Smith

An oral update from Cllr Smith who had recently attended councillor updates and the forum at Haverhill, which drew attention to:

- Property flood resilience grant
- Suffolk Good Neighbour Scheme loneliness in villages is very high at 25% over 65's. (Cllr Smith drew attention to the great work of the Warm Winter Wednesdays team in Wickhambrook)
- SCC 10 years backlog
- Withdrawal of bus services across rural parishes one option raised at the forum was for developers to be responsible for establishing or maintaining services to new developments under s.106
- The benefit of homes designed for and by the community, one example being Peak Close at Lavenham. Cllr Turner drew councillors' attention to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan which includes a Community Action 1 – Community Land Trust and its aspiration to establish a Community Land Trust to plan, build and manage a group of affordable homes designed to meet local housing needs

24.11.08 **Noted**: Resolutions of Extra-ordinary and Estates Committee meetings on 14th November 2024

WPC.EC.24.11.09

WPC.EC.24.11.09

WPC.EC.24.11.09

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WPC.EC.24.11.09

WPC.EC.24.11.09

WPC.EC.24.11.09

WPC.EC.24.11.08

That the Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 12th September 2024, as tabled, be agreed as a WPC.EC.24.11.03

WPC.EC.24.11.03

WPC.EC.24.11.05

That the Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 12th September 2024, as tabled, be agreed as a WPC.EC.24.11.05

The meeting considered a proposed submission to West Suffolk Council in respect of bus Service

DC/24/1424/CUT - Outline planning application – (means of access, appearance, layout and scale to be considered) for single storey building consisting of store, workshop, office, garage and cart lodge Easterwood House Baxters Green Wickhambrook CB8 BLY

See report WPC-Planning 24.11 DC24.1424.OUT

The parish council considered this application and having considered:

"The application and additional supporting documents available on West Suffolk's planning portal

"A briefing paper (Report WPC-Planning 24.11 DC24.1424.OUT) prepared by the clerk

WPC.ED.24.11.52

WPC.ED.24.11.52

WPC.ED.24.11.54

Single storey extension to the south elevation

a. single storey extension to the south elevation

b. single storey extension to the west elevation (following demolition of existing single storey elements)

c. two storey extension to the west elevation (following removal of existing conservatory)

d. alterations and conversion to existing barn to provide detached garage and gym with first floor bedroom

Australia Farm Meeting Geen Wickhambrook CB8 BURG

See report WPC-Planning.24.11.DC.24.10909.HH

The meeting determined to support the application and ask West Suffolk to condition the maintenance and reinstatement of the briddleway and its junction with BOAT 31 based on the advice of Suffolk PROW, and having regard to Policy WHB 18 of Wickhambrooks Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

24.11.09 **Noted**: Clerk's report that:

- 9.1 VAT Claims for the months of September and October had been submitted in the sums of £616.97 (received) and £435.26.
- 9.2 Nominations for the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel award are considered at the January parish council meeting. Last year nominations were opened to residents, with a large majority nominating the late Mr George Woods for the pleasure he brought with his Christmas lights. It was proposed to open nominations to residents again this year.
 - Nominations from Councillors included: Cathy and Alan Cordy; Mary Jolland and Julia & Phil Horne.
- 9.3 Work had progressed on developing a shared grant application to WSC with SC PROW in respect of upgrading of Footpaths in Wickhambrook. Advice recently received indicated that any application would need to be submitted by a charity, and initial conversations with a local charity were positive. SC PRoW submitted an outline application to West Suffolk with draft costings but had not yet heard back from them.
- 9.4 The clerk had completed an expression of interest for the Warmer Homes thermal imaging project to take place next spring. Free energy champion training was offered as part of this project, and Cllrs A & K Grimes attended this online training. There was additional in person training on December 4th (18:30 20:30pm, with back up dates of 4th and 5th December). The clerk had booked a space for the training on behalf of councillors but was advised that no-one was available to attend.
- 9.5 Following the parish council's decision in September, its planning consultant, Places4People submitted Hearing Statement pursuant to the earlier representation and in response to the Inspectors' questions in relation to the proposed allocation in the Draft West Suffolk's Local Plan. He subsequently attended the Local Plan Hearing session which dealt with the proposed allocation off Bunters Road. He was able to update the Inspectors on the stage that the Neighbourhood Plan had reached and confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan identifies the nature of and community facilities and/or retail or local employment as referred to in the Local Plan policy. Planning Inspectors' hearing earlier this month, where in response to a representation from the owner of the allocated site WS, he confirmed that Wickhambrook's draft NP reflected the intent of the West Suffolk Local Plan when specifying the use classes development. The landowners requested that the small area of the site adjoining the existing access to Claydon Drills be removed from the allocation and the Inspectors have asked the District Council to prepare such a modified Plan for their consideration. This minor amendment would bring the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan site boundary into alignment. It remains unlikely that the Local Plan will be adopted before Spring 2025.

- 9.6 Councillors had brought to the clerk's attention Suffolk CC's No Cold Calling Zones (summary previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.04**), which were referenced in recent county/SALC updates. Councillors shared the view that such zones might help deter some of the unwanted callers particularly to older residents and noted that there was not currently a Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating in the parish. Cllr Smith advised that she had co-ordinated a Neighbourhood Watch scheme previously in Whepsted, which had proved effective and had no cost implications to the parish council. The meeting asked the clerk to signpost both schemes on the website and in parish news letters
- 9.7 An update on various ICT issues (previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.05**). Cllr Lavelle reported that an ambition of Wickhambrook Primary Academy was to create a digital hub but in the meantime it might be possible to provide some additional support to residents through a presence at the Warm Winter Wednesdays.
- 9.8 A Festive Warm Winter Wednesday would be held on 11th December at the WI Hall, Cemetery Road. A further 6 Warm Winter Wednesdays were planned throughout January and February, and it was hoped that West Suffolk Families and Communities team may be able to provide some additional financial support for this.
- 9.9 Work to parish trees was scheduled to start w/c 18th November but had been delayed to w/c 2nd December.
- 9.10 Work to Chapel Roof was scheduled to be completed by Christmas 2024
- 9.11 The orders for barriers onto the Recreation Ground and Six Acres were being produced and suppliers anticipated delivery w/c 2nd December. The meeting asked the clerk to request that the existing chains be returned to the parish council on installation of the barriers.

24.11.10 Noted:

10.1 The following income received

Voucher	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total
1117	18/09/2024	Credit Note 5062	Credit Note against invoice 3518	Everflow	506215	Miscellaneous Receipts	£6.29
1118	18/09/2024	Credit Note 5062	Credit Note against invoice 3601	Everflow	506216	Miscellaneous Receipts	£6.51
1129	01/10/2024	WC/CR008	WC/NEW/CR008/TransferDeed	Bereaved Family		Cemeteries	£60.00
1135	07/10/2024		VAT refund from HMRC			VAT Repayments	£616.97
1136	31/10/2024	PG2.397_N23(a)	Transfer of Deed - Statutory Dec	Bereaved Family	Invoice No 5	Cemeteries	£60.00
1137	11/11/2024	GS.317L Intermen	Interment WC/NEW/GS.317L	Dignity Funerals Ltd	Invoice No 4	Cemeteries	£300.00
1140	30/09/2024	Credit Interest	Credit Interest to 30.09.2024	Unity Trust Bank		Bank Interest	£81.31
1156	16/10/2024	WPC.EC.24.09.8.1	Partial Refund on V1155 Fleece J	SR Workwear	CN-GB-1943900125-2024-35	Miscellaneous Receipts	£42.00
1162	12/11/2024	WC/ERB	ERB	Cemetery Receipts Individuals		Cemeteries	£300.00
1164	28/10/2024	WPC.TennisClub	Wickhambrook Tennis Club	Wickhambrook Tennis Club	Invoice 24.01	Ground Rents	£35.00
1165	24/10/2024	WPC.Wickhamrook	Ground Rent WOBC	Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club	Invoice 24.02	Ground Rents	£10.00
							£1,518.08

10.2 The payments to be made as listed below:

Vouche	r Date Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total
1143	02/12/2024 WPC.24.11	Councillor Basics: Smith L	Suffolk Assn. of Local Councils	#29319	Training	-£76.80
1151	22/11/2024 24.11.12	McAfee Protection 2024-2025	McAffee	CS3596527119	Other Software Subscriptions	-£129.99
1172	29/11/2024 WPC.24.11.10.2	krb-dg[15 Economy Dispenser Dog	JRB Enterprise Ltd	#27749	Bin and Dog Waste Collection	-£99.54

10.3 Resolved:

That the payments to be made, listed above at 11.2 be authorised.

10.4 The following payments previously authorised.

Vouche	Date	Ref.	Description	Supplier / customer	Supplier ref.	Account name	Total
1119	01/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Replacement Invoice period 13/09	Everflow	#3630563	Water - Bowling Green	-£35.85
1120	01/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Replacement Invoice period 13/10	Everflow	#3630613	Water - Bowling Green	-£13.90
1121	16/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Clerk Mobile 16/08/2024 - 15/09/	3 Business Services, Hutchison 3G UK Ltd	#985101303041	Phone and Internet Services	-£22.00
1122	05/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	TaxNI Period 6 Contributions	HMRC	TAX/NI period 6	HMRC/NI Contributions	-£173.93
1123	27/09/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Clerk Salary period 6	Hilary Workman	Clerk Salary period 6	Clerk/RFO Salary	-£1,189.65
1124	27/09/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Clerk Pension Period 6	Hilary Workman	Pension Contributions Pe	Pension Contributions	-£55.88
1125	09/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Electricity 22/08/24 - 22/09/24	British Gas	#8835279	Electricity - Chapel of Rest	-£13.92
1126	08/09/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Electricity 22/07/24 - 22/08/24	British Gas	#8554044	Electricity - Chapel of Rest	-£13.92
1130	18/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	September Cuts	Top Garden Services	#2511	Grounds Contract	-£1,626.02
1131	03/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	September Meetings	Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre	#1599	Meeting Room Hire	-£40.00
1132	29/11/2024	24.02.10.1 LODP	Administration of Payroll to 30/	Suffolk Assn. of Local Councils	#29310	Administration of Payroll and Pension	-£57.60
1133	07/10/2024	24.02.10.2 DD	Microsoft Basic Charges 07/09/20	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd	#E0100TV6GE	Microsoft Office Subscriptions	-£52.92
1134	13/10/2024	24.02.10.2 DD	Water 13/11/2024 - 12/12/224	Everflow	#3682266	Water - Bowling Green	-£21.07
1138	25/10/2024	WPC.24.09.18	Royal British Legion Poppy Appea	Royal Brigish Legion	EJE41	Charitable Donations	-£50.00
1139	30/10/2024	WPC.23.11.19	TRANSFER LAND BURY ROAD WICKHAMB	Excello Law	#070215	Parish Lands	-£642.00
1141	31/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Charges 04/09/2024 - 30/09/2024	Unity Trust Bank	Statement 073	Bank Service Charge - Unity Trust	-£5.40
1142	13/09/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	ICO renewal registration	Information Commissioner's Office	ZA074439	Other Software Subscriptions	-£35.00
1144	31/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Salary Period 7.2024.25	Hilary Workman	Salary Period 7 2024.25	Clerk/RFO Salary	-£1,189.65
1145	31/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Pension Contributions Period 7 2	NEST Pensions	Pensions Period 7 2024.2	Pension Contributions	-£55.88
1146	05/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	TaxNI Period 7 Contributions	HMRC	Tax/NI Period 7 2024.25	Clerk/RFO Salary	-£173.93
1147	22/09/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Adobe Pro 22.09.2024 - 21.10.202	Adobe Systems Software Ireland Ltd	#IEN2024049701629	Other Software Subscriptions	-£19.97
1148	22/12/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Adobe Pro 22.10.2024 - 21.11.202	Adobe Systems Software Ireland Ltd	#IEN2024055585928	Other Software Subscriptions	-£19.97
1150	07/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Microsoft Basic 07/10/24 - 06/11	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd	#E0100U8N3N	Microsoft Office Subscriptions	-£52.92
1152	16/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Clerk Mobile Invoice period to 1	3 Business Services, Hutchison 3G UK Ltd	#985101303042	Phone and Internet Services	-£22.00
1153	24/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Electricity 22/09/24 - 21/10/24	British Gas	#9109940	Electricity - Chapel of Rest	-£12.79
1154	16/10/2024	WPC.EC.24.09.8.1	Grass Seed - Children's Pla	Grass Seeds Uk Ltd		Services and Supplies	-£27.98
1155	16/10/2024	WPC.EC.24.09.8.1	Workwear Fleece Jackets Branded	SR Workwear And Merchandise Ltd	#INV-GB-1943900125-2024-	Services and Supplies	-£124.90
1157	16/10/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Oct'24 Corporate Multipay S	Lloyds Bank PLC	Monthly Fee	Corporate Multipay Service Charge	-£3.00
1158	04/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Nov'24 Corporate Multipay S	Lloyds Bank PLC	Monthly Fee	Corporate Multipay Service Charge	-£3.00
1159	12/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Website Updates June'24 - A	Mdsign	#2425	Website	-£225.00
1160	12/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Events Calendar PRO	Mdsign	#2426	Website	-£277.86
1166	30/11/2024	Statement 074	Bank Service Charge October	Unity Trust Bank	Statement 074	Bank Service Charge - Unity Trust	-£6.00
1167	05/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Print Toner Yello	Printerland.co.uk	#SOA2721557	Office Supplies	-£94.80
1168	21/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Water 13/12/2024 - 12/01/2025	Everflow	#3765844	Water - Bowling Green	-£65.62
1169	28/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Salary Period 8.2024.25	Hilary Workman	Salary Period 8 2024.25	Clerk/RFO Salary	-£1,189.65
1170	28/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	TaxNI Period 8 Contributions	HMRC	Tax/NI Period 8 2024.25	HMRC/NI Contributions	-£173.93
1171	28/11/2024	Min. Ref 24.02.1	Pension Contributions Period 8 2	NEST Pensions	Pension Contributions Pe	HMRC/NI Contributions	-£55.88

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10.5 The current account balances and reconciliation to 31 October 2024 and the Chairman's confirmation that they were supported by relevant bank balances.

24.11.11 **Noted**:

The meeting noted the review of income and expenditure against budget and any proposed adjustments to the approved budget (previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.06**) and identified no actions.

24.11.12 **Noted**: Planning results as notified by West Suffolk summarised below

12.1 <u>DC/24/1366/HEDGE</u> - Hedgerow Removal Notice

Removal of 35 metres of hedgerow across 7 locations

Lords Lane Ousden Suffolk

WSC: No Objection **WPC:** Not in Wickhambrook Parish

12.2 DC/24/1106/HH - Householder planning application

Bi fold and sliding doors to rear elevation

White Gables Ousden Road Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8UT

WSC: Application Granted **WPC**: No Comments – delegated authority

12.3 DC/24/1045/FUL - Planning application

Detached garage and store

The Greyhound Inn Meeting Green Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8XS

WSC: Application Granted **WPC**: No objections (Min. 24.09.13.1)

12.4 DC/24/0777/LB - Application for listed building consent

a. reinstate one original window

b. replace internal plasterboard walls with chestnut lathes and lime plaster Westlea Cottage Attleton Green Wickhambrook Suffolk CB8 8YA

WSC: Application Granted **WPC**: No Objections – delegated authority

24.11.13 Noted: Planning applications notified by West Suffolk Council for comment

13.1 DC/24/1621/HH - Householder Planning application

Detached cartlodge and detached annexe

Mokefield, Baxters Green, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8UY No objection

13.2 Resolved

That the Clerk make known the Council's comments on planning applications above to the Corporate Manager, Growth & Sustainable Planning at West Suffolk Council.

24.11.14 **Noted**:

That when any other Planning matters for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda were invited, there were none.

24.11.15 Noted:

The meeting considered quotes submitted in respect of grounds contracts for the next financial year - 2025/2026 (previously circulated as **WPC.21.11.07**) and determined that R H Landscapes be awarded the contract (at a cost of £15,198 plus VAT) for the following reasons:

- The quote submitted was according to the specification
- The contractors would be likely to require less management time; and
- The contractors were situated closest to Wickhambrook thus being more likely to reduce the carbon impact of the contract and increase sustainability.

Resolved:

That the Clerk draw up a contract for groundworks for the financial year 2025/26 as determined by the meeting following their consideration of quotes for the specification and areas identified in Appendices to report WPC.24.11.07.

24.11.16 Noted:

The meeting considered the proposal put forwards by the Estates Committee (previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.08**) to adopt revised Cemetery Fees and Charges as set out at Table 2 and

Resolved:

The parish council adopt the proposed fees and charges, (taking into account any revisions agreed at the meeting) set out at Table 2 to WPC.24.11.09) with effect from 1st April 2025.

24.11.17 **Noted**:

The meeting received and discussed draft Budget for 2025/26 (previously circulated as **WPC.24.11.09**) and had no questions.

24.11.18 **Noted**:

The meeting noted Chair's report with respect to Clerk's salary and the approval of annual pay award for 2024/25 (previously circulated as **Chair's Report**).

24.11.19 **Noted**:

The meeting approved dates for the Parish Council Ordinary Meetings, Annual Meeting, Annual Parish Meeting and Estates Committee meetings for the next year (2025), as set out below:

Ordinary Meetings of the Parish Council (@ 7:00pm):

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 27th February

Thursday 24th April (at 6:00pm)

Thursday 31th July

Thursday 25th September

Thursday 27th November

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 29th May @ 7:00pm Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 24th April @ 7:30pm

Estates Committee Meetings (at 7:00pm):

Thursday 6th February

Thursday 3rd April

Thursday 3rd July

Thursday 4th September

Thursday 6th November

Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council – Thursday 15th January 2026 @ 7:00pm

- 24.11.20 **Noted**: That when any other matters for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda were invited, the following:
 - Neighbourhood Watch
 - No cold calling zones
 - Facebook deletion of cross posting of parish posts in some circumstance
 - Wickham street junction

24.11.21 **Noted**:

Confirmation that the scheduled date for the next meeting would be Thursday 16th January beginning at 7:00pm at the Pavilion, Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre.

24.11.22 **Noted**: Close of meeting. 20:26