

10399

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 23 February 2017  
at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion of MSC Hall**

**Present**

Cllrs. P. Couzens (Chairman), J. Barton, J. Claydon, K. Merritt, J. Walker and J. Wilson

County Cllr. M. Evans

Borough Cllr. C. Pollington

Clerk S. Thorburn

There was one member of the public present

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**1. Apologies for absence** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. J. Midwood and K. Sammons and County Cllr. M. Evans

**2. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 January 2017**

The minutes were signed as a correct record

**3. Matters Arising (for information)**

3.1 Item 8.10 of previous meeting – Thanks received from all recipients of charity donations. The Clerk listed thanks received

3.2 Item 12 of previous meeting – BT reported they had cleared the cuttings left in the ditch

**4. Declarations of interest in agenda items**

Cllrs. Barton and Merritt declared an interest in 11.2

**5. OPEN SESSION 7.35 pm**

5.1 Presentation of Local Council Award Scheme, Foundation Award by Shona Bendix, Chief Executive Officer of Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Postponed as requested by Shona Bendix due to travel problems

5.2 **Borough Cllr. C. Pollington** – A report on finance was presented with problems creating a budget within the funding figure. Cut backs had been made providing a £4 million saving and a freeze on Councillors salaries had been voted for.

**A report from County Cllr. M. Evans** – The Chairman presented the report to the meeting:

Broadband

I think the meeting at the beginning of the month went well. Some residents are keen to set up a local group to work on what we can do to deliver superfast broadband to the area quicker and more comprehensively – do please keep me in touch as I am very happy to help

At long last the cabinet in Nunnery Green has been activated – which is excellent news

Drainage .... And Attleton Green

I met the two officers leading the Suffolk wide drainage team last week and they explained how they are prioritising work – in the first instance on schemes to prevent flooding of homes and then looking at flooding which blocks roads. Last Friday I got Guy Smith, West Area assistant highways manager out to Attleton Green and we met Julian (Parish Cllr Wilson). Guy feels the chamber is pretty clear – yes there are some leaves in it. He very much understood the problem on Mole Hill with water coming out of the ditch and down the road – damaging the road edge and discussed with us how this could be piped.

I especially asked Guy to visit last Friday as I knew he was meeting the drainage team on Monday to review all the drainage issues in West area

Police

I met Insp Danny Cooper recently. The police are looking to run a crime reduction event in the near future, probably in Clare, where advice will be available on issues such as making garden sheds secure by fitting alarms, which are relatively cheap.

The PCSOs in our local Safer Neighbourhood Team are not now assigned to cover a number of parishes but instead work in a more focussed way addressing specific issues so there are individual officers working on mental health; anti-social behaviour; crime reduction; the chronically excluded; domestic violence; retail and licensing; young people; and vulnerable communities.

The officers can be contacted via email to the SNT email address

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Chairman

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Date

10400

#### VAS & Speeding

Thank you for the data, I have compiled a huge file of data from across the villages for the speed enforcement team and also for Haverhill police locally. Insp Cooper wants to be able to send out his team locally to help us tackle speeding. I know there are residents keen to start a speedwatch group in the village and I am happy to support them. The police, incidentally, are very supportive of speedwatch and will come out more often on speed patrols where they have a speedwatch group in the area.

#### County-wide

The scrutiny committee, which I chair, looked earlier this month at blue light collaboration. We were especially impressed by the effectiveness of the current pilot project between the fire and ambulance services whereby fire crews at a group of five stations across Suffolk (our nearest our Long Melford and Sudbury) have been given advanced training to enable them to go out as first responders. They have saved lives. We are asking for a cost-benefit analysis to be conducted to demonstrate the value of this project so we can get the funds to roll it out further and make it permanent. SCC is also stepping up its campaign to employers to promote the benefits of having retained fire crew on their staff.

We have voted to switch control and enforcement of parking from the police to the borough and district councils from next year. SCC now has to make sure there are legal orders backing up every double yellow line, review where and whether we need more double yellow lines – and make sure we get the faded ones re painted!

SCC is developing a strategy – Suffolk Lives Matter - to combat suicide especially in places like Newmarket where the rate is higher than elsewhere in the county

A presentation and discussion took place brought forward from Item 9 of the agenda, School Development Plan from Headteacher, Ros Towns due to travel difficulties.

An application had been made for the provision of two additional classrooms by Wickhambrook Primary School and a photograph of the building was shown to the meeting, an eco-friendly, thermos timber framed building to be located at the rear of the school behind the swimming pool. The Headteacher explained the need for expansion due to the number on role of 152, with a current PAN of 20 but there were presently over 20 in each year group. The pupil results were excellent and in order to maintain the high standards additional space would be needed. The funding was in place for the project with an earmarked carry forward from the school and financial support from the Academy. Questions were taken and a discussion took place during which the Parish Council expressed support for the planning application but had concerns over the traffic and parking issues. The Headteacher stated that responsible parking needed to be encouraged and the school had put in place measures to do this but there was more to be done. All agreed to work with the school to try and resolve the issue.

#### **CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION 8.00 p.m.**

Borough Cllr C Pollington and the member of the public left the meeting.

### **6. Planning**

#### 6.1 Applications considered by Parish Council.

- 6.1.1 DC/16/2802/FUL Land adj. Whitehouse, Church Road. Change of use Agricultural to Equestrian. No objections
- 6.1.2 DC/17/0003/CLE Annexe Peacocks Farm, Farley Green. Use of bungalow as single dwelling. No objections
- 6.1.3 DC/17/0189/LB Rolfes Farm, The Duddery. Structural repairs of outbuilding listed building. No objections
- 6.1.4 DC/17/0215/HH Giffords Hall, Giffords Lane. Open air courtyard including pavilion. No objections
- 6.1.5 DC/17/0210/FUL Wickhambrook Primary School. New timber buildings to provide two Classrooms. No objections
- 6.1.6 DC/17/0196/FUL Boyden End House, Boyden End. Equestrian workers dwelling. No objections

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

- 6.2.1 DC/16/2736/HH 14 Croft Close. Single storey rear extension. Approve

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6.1.2 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. Approve

6.1.3 DC/16/2416/HH Easterwood Bungalow, Baxters Green. 3 bay garage and carport with room above. Approve.

6.3 Other planning matters

DC/16/2409/VAR Plot 2, Columbine Cottage SEBC Delegation Panel Decision.

Approve amendments

The Parish Council expressed their disappointment with this conclusion

The Councillors were not happy with the planning consultation method in place for the first time since the previous discussion, all agreed that the Clerk should forward the email on receipt of the notification, the plans to be circulated in the red wallet with them going to Cllr Walker last. No comments will be made on the circulation sheet but an email sent to the Clerk with a decision from each Councillor separately, once five replies are submitted a decision will be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. Clerk's Report

7.1 Circulated documents

There had been no comments by Cllrs. on circulated documents

8. Finance

8.1 Cllrs to consider payments to be made as listed below. Proposed accepted by Cllr Wilson seconded by Cllr Barton

	Cheque no.	Detail	Amount £
8.1.1	002224	S Thorburn (Clerk) salary for February	538.88
8.1.2	002225	Mdsign internet services	169.50
8.1.3	002226	D King & Son- cemetery tree work, Coltsfoot Green tree work and churchyard maintenance	564.00
8.1.4	002227	Wickhambrook MSC playground annual rent	10.00
8.1.5	002228	Wickhambrook MSC pavilion rent Nov and Dec 2016	28.00
8.1.6	002229	JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog waste bags	90.54
8.1.7		BT Phone charges Feb- Apr	91.11
8.1.8		BT Broadband charges	84.00

8.2 Recent income for information

8.2.1	Natwest interest on bank accounts 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4.76
8.2.2	Cremated Remains interment fee	85.00
8.2.3	Memorial fee	105.00
8.2.4	Exclusive right of burial fee	240.00
8.2.5	Bowls Club ground rent	11.00

9. School Development Plan from Headteacher, Ros Towns (discussed in the open session)

10. Highways matters

10.1 Vehicle Activated signs update and discussion regarding data

Cllr Barton had still not had the format of data presentation confirmed as suitable and had not been reassured that the data provided showing speeding in the village would result in a police presence and whether a Speedwatch group would receive this support. All agreed to send future data and reassess if no comeback was received. Cllr Barton would attend a public meeting organised by the police and the Clerk was instructed to locate the dates provided

10.2 Flooding at Mole Hill – covered in County Councillor Evans report. Cllr Wilson added that the site meeting may result in a pipe being installed

11. Estates Committee matters

11.1 Memorial Garden update – a quote from the contractor had been accepted for landscape work

11.2 Chapel quote for repair and redecoration – a quote had been received and the Clerk was instructed to try and obtain two further quotations

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Chairman

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11.3 Wooden pavilion water damage – this was being dealt with by the Tennis and Bowls Clubs and would probably result in the removal of the pavilion

11.4 Six Acres agreements – update regarding Wickhambrook Youth Football Club

This was referred to the Estates committee to deal with an email response from the Chairman of the club. Cllr Walker expressed the view that an invitation to the next Estates meeting should be issued and the Chairman instructed the Clerk to contact Cllr Sammons (Chair of the Estates Committee) to obtain her instructions before proceeding

11.5 Concluding comments from the Parish Council regarding resident's complaint about work undertaken at Coltsfoot Green pond:

The issue of drainage concerning Coltsfoot Green was raised by the resident in autumn 2015. The previous Clerk brought it to the attention of the Estates Committee who requested a quote from the contractor to undertake clearance work. Two prices were given, winter and summer, the committee accepted the summer price and the Clerk discussed the outcome with the resident.

After completion of the work in summer 2016 the resident complained that the ditch along the back of the green had not been cleared. The contractor was contacted who stated that this was historically cleared by the residents in the pair of cottages and the bank on the green side of the ditch was trimmed and kept clear of weeds by the contractor. Both the Chairman of the Estates Committee and the Chairman of the Parish Council visited the site and agreed that the contractor had fulfilled any obligation the Parish Council had for maintenance of the green and any further work regarding clearance of weeds on the residents' bank and ditch could not be considered the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council discussed the situation many times and the resident was informed that they may attend any meeting for further discussion.

12. Action regarding the CFR group and use of telephone box for PAD

The poster was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to display it before a further discussion would take place at the April meeting when any response would have been forthcoming. The use of the telephone box was agreed in principle

13. Local Council Award Scheme – achievement of Foundation Award. The award would now be presented at the meeting in March.

14. Annual Parish Meeting – reminders to clubs and societies to present reports. The Clerk would undertake sending the reminders and the Parish Council would give thought to any proposed recipients for the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel award

15. Broadband meeting held on 3 February 2017 reports

Cllr Claydon had attended the meeting and gave feedback that it was well attended with several people talking about working together to improve broadband speeds so that everyone had an acceptable service. Funding would need to be sought to make any improvements and Cllr Claydon enquired if the S106 fund could be used in this way, the Chairman stated it would not meet the criteria. All agreed to discuss again at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

**Date of next Parish Council meeting Thursday 30 March 2017.**

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 23 February 2017.

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Chairman

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Date