

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors:

I S F MacGregor (Chairman)
 Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chairman)
 H M Bass
 P J Bates
 Mrs W Jacob
 Mrs R Johnson
 Mrs R M Pink CBE
 B F Sayers
 I D Wardrop



Parish Clerk:

Mrs L J Rowland
 Wickham Bishops Parish Council
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MINUTES	
Of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
14/65	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr MacGregor Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jacob, Johnson, Mickelsen, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop Apologies for absence: Cllr Durham, Maldon DC 8 members of the public were present.</p>
14/66	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no declarations of personal or personal and prejudicial interests.</p>
14/67	<p>Approval of Minutes Resolved. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2014 were approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Pink seconded Cllr Mickelsen. It was noted that in 14/59, the April surgery will now be held on 26th April.</p>
14/68	<p>Matters Arising Following complaints about irresponsible parking in the area, the chairman visited Gt Totham Road and reported two registration plates of cars with no tax to the Police. The cars were removed within two days however there is still a problem with parking.</p> <p>Following complaints about the state of Church Green, research shows that the road is the responsibility of the council but MOAT Housing Association is responsible for the green and will investigate the damage.</p>
14/69	<p>Chairman's Report Resolved. The council will appoint Liane Rowland as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Pink.</p> <p>The council has concerns about the best way to manage emails sent to and from the councillor's parish email addresses, ensuring that the councillors did not give the impression that they were speaking on behalf of the council. A draft email protocol would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting.</p>

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14/70	<p>Correspondence Email from new pressure group concerned about the effects of the proposed Heybridge development on traffic volumes through Hatfield Peverel and Danbury. To be considered later.</p>
14/71	<p>Police Report None</p>
14/72	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Report None</p>
14/73	<p>Public Speaking Residents spoke of the deterioration in Wickham Hall Lane. Photos were shown illustrating the flooding and the condition of kerbs, passing places, drains, fences and potholes. The residents requested that the kerbstones are reinstated to original height above the road surface, and the drains cleared. The matter was reported to Highways and a visit was promised in March. At the time of the meeting, the visit had not happened and the residents were advised the matter was a County Council concern, and the difficulty was to persuade them of the significance of the problem. The main cause of the problem was the heavy vehicles causing damage to the banks and a request was made for a weight or width restriction. The Clerk would report this to Essex County Council and make a request for this restriction. The District Councillor would approach the Rangers to see if they would remove the excess mud and debris. The damage to the naming sign was the District's responsibility and that would be pursued.</p> <p>A resident reported that they considered the library triangle an eyesore after the recently-undertaken work, with poor finish to the grassed area and the kerbstones being out-of-keeping for that area. Cllr MacGregor advised that the kerbstones were picked to match the ones at the other end of Grange Road and would prevent damage by cars cutting the corner. The County Council will continue to seed the ground and the condition of the site was expected to settle and improve.</p> <p>With reference to application FUL/MAL/14/00181 & 00183, the owner of Lamberleys reported they have difficulty in selling the current property due to the proximity of the Outward Bound centre and the intention was to build further away; this will also improve traffic management.</p>
14/74	<p>Planning The minutes of the 14th March planning meeting were noted with a correction that the minutes incorrectly reported the event as a council meeting rather than planning meeting.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/14/00181 – scheme 1 and FUL/MAL/14/00183 – scheme 2 Replacement dwelling, garage /store and additional driveway, Lamberleys, Station Road, Wickham Bishops.</p> <p>No comments on the property. Landscaping would be addressed by a planting scheme including native hedge plants like hawthorn blackthorn and dogwood but this could be changed if wanted. The residents reported that the footpath had been returned to the road but better signposting would help.</p> <p>Having considered the outstanding issues, the preferred choice would be scheme one, as that is to be built within the existing curtilage. Scheme two would be recommended for refusal.</p>

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	<p>Resolved. The council would support scheme one with the condition that no business use would be permitted. Carried with one abstention.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/14/00188 21 Roots Lane, Wickham Bishops. Extension, swimming pool etc.</p> <p>There appeared to be no material difference from previous application. Provided that was the case, the application had already been approved.</p> <p>The weekly decision lists were noted.</p> <p>Any other planning issues. The Snows Corner planning application was delayed in going to MDC as more information was needed.</p>
14/75	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>The District Councillor reported that the Wickham Bishops name sign that was stolen from Station Road some time ago has now been approved for replacement.</p> <p>In answer to the concern that refuse freighters are being damaged by trees affected by storm damage, the Rangers are going to cut-back the branches that are causing the problems.</p>
14/76	<p>EALC Report</p> <p>Cllr Pink reported that there was a concern about poor attendance at the evening AGM and would be requesting the EALC to revise the programme to improve the turnout.</p>
14/77	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolved. The council would note the balances and agree the cheque list for payment. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor.</p> <p>The council considered renewing the contract for street lighting and the matter was deferred until further information was received about the benefits of contract versus pay as you go and LED replacement.</p> <p>To discuss any further spending proposals</p> <p>A proposal has been made to resurface Handleys Lane which is believed to be a highway maintainable at the public expense. In the first instance the council has contacted Highways who does not have the funds to do the work. The next step will be to contact the Rangers and ask for support with any work that is undertaken.</p>
14/78	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>Cllrs Wardrop and MacGregor to attend the next surgery on the 26th April. Cllr Wardrop will contact other councillors to arrange cover for the later meetings.</p>
14/79	<p>Reports from Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Sayers reported that his email inbox is full, and cannot receive any further plans. Cllr Bates advised that email is not a suitable medium for storing large documents. If needed, they should be stored in the computer's filing system and not the inbox. The clerk advised that the plans need not be stored by the Parish as it was the district council's responsibility to make them available. The council would consider a document retention policy at a later meeting.</p>

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Cllr Bates reported that the website was not available to the public for several days last month. On investigation, it was shown that the site had been hacked and malicious code was inserted. The ISP blocked the page to prevent the problem being spread. The site management software is out-of-date and needs to be updated to prevent recurrence. Unfortunately, migrating the website is not a trivial matter and the site will have to be recreated in the new software. This is an opportunity to refresh and update the site for the council to consider.

Spam is becoming an issue and the councillors were advised to set their local spam filters to minimise the nuisance.

Cllr Wardrop reported the Traffic Calming shopping list for highways expenditure. Based on agreed Highways expenditure and possible additional expenditure from reserves the preferred items were:

30 mph restriction in Church Road to Mope Lane;

30 mph in Kelvedon Road to footpath;

smiley Speed Indicating Devices (SIDS) instead of flashing numeral speed signs;

Additional SIDS in Kelvedon Road and Beacon Hill;

Pursue white gate entry points – this will require advice from Highways on siting.

Cllr Wardrop attended Gt Totham Parish Council to make a presentation on Speedwatch. Later feedback confirmed that the presentation was very well received.

Events noted: BHSa Quiz, Summer Fair, Christmas Quiz 17th Oct, Christmas Fair 28th Nov, 100 Club.

Litter-picking has been organised for Witham Road and Tiptree Road.

The clerk was asked to write to the landowner of Fernbrook Hall requesting that the ditch is cleared.

The pond at the old rectory is still due a visit to consider the effects of the overflow channel.

The council wishes to repeat the request for listing the air raid shelter.

Footpaths in Wickham Bishops will be reviewed by Highways in the next month.

A resident reported that they have cleared the ditch by the old railway line.

14/80

General Village News

Village clear-up day is 12th April.

A resident reported that the noticeboard outside The Chequers is being used for commercial use. It was noted that the board is divided into three, and one part is for the public use. It was suggested that the noticeboard was restricted to laminated signs only for short-term local items.

The M.P. will be visiting the parish on April 4th and the councillors were asked to advertise the matter.

Following research, a complete list of the past chairmen is now available and the council will write to the BHSa requesting an honour board be installed.

The church will be holding a service on 3rd August to commemorate the outbreak of the first world war and the intention is to involve the youth of the village.

14/81	Dates of Next Meetings Friday 11 th April 2014: Planning Meeting at 11.30am Tuesday 6 th May 2014: Annual Parish Assembly at 7.30pm and Statutory Annual Meeting at 8.15pm
14/82	Close of meeting 22.00 Items for later agenda – June: Church Green; Traffic Calming.

Notice is hereby given that, should there be plans to discuss, a Planning Meeting will be heard on **Friday 11th April 2014** at 11.30am in the Village Hall Boardroom. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Please Note any plans to be discussed will be listed on the Parish Council noticeboard (outside One Stop) prior to the meeting.