

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
J Williams



Winner Best Kept Village 2009, 2015
3rd Place Essex Village of the Year 2015

www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

Parish Clerk

Mrs L J Rowland
Wickham Bishops Parish Council
The Village Hall
Church Road
Wickham Bishops
Essex
CM8 3JZ
07542 190176

info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17/119	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass (arr. 7.35pm), Bates, MacGregor, Mundell, Nicholas and Wardrop; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Williams. Four members of the public, including Tree Warden Mr Chris Cooke, were present.
17/120	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interest.
17/121	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 th June 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 rd June 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
17/122	Public Forum A member of the public questioned why the new footway along Tiptree Road didn't run the full length to Snows Corner. It was explained that the footway had been stopped short due to concerns over root damage to an oak tree. Cllr Bass, on his arrival, stated that this could be overcome and that he had arranged for County Councillor Mark Durham to look into the issue. Action: The Clerk to write to Essex County Council's (ECC) Highways Liaison Officer highlighting the lack of safe access to the village for residents of Mackmurdo Place and Tiptree Road.
17/123	Chairman's Report The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Parish Council to Cllr Bass and Mr Chris Cooke for watering the 90 th Anniversary tree whips at Rainbow Field, and to Cllrs MacGregor and Mundell for finishing the internal clearing of the air raid shelter. The Chairman reported on a meeting that she, Cllr Bass and the Clerk had attended, with ECC's Watercourses team, at two flooding sites on Grange Road and Church Road. Following the meeting, the blocked drains and gullies on Church Road were cleared and ECC had agreed to use CCTV to investigate the cause of the Grange Road flooding. The Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) team had a stall at the Village Hall fair, which was supported by both Cllr Mickelsen and Cllr Wardrop who answered queries from interested residents. The Chairman noted that Cllr Paul Edwards had resigned and thanked him for his support of the council and the NHP. Cllr Mundell would therefore join the Planning Committee and Cllr Mickelsen remain on the Finance team until the council seat was filled.

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
17/124	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk's month had been busy with the ongoing developments of the 'Land Behind 9 Church Road' application. The Annual Return had been received by the External Auditor in good time.</p> <p>In response to two complaints raised with ECC, the County Council had advised that the poorly reinstated verge at Snows Corner verge was the responsibility of UK Power Networks and that UKPN had six months to effect a permanent repair.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to follow up with UKPN.</i></p> <p>Regarding the damage to the daffodils, ECC had no records of employing contractors to mow the grass in the vicinity of the library, however Mitie had since been seen grass-cutting again by a concerned resident. The resident reported to the Clerk that the Mitie contractor had readily agreed not to mow the area in future, leaving it to the Parish Council's contractor.</p> <p>The Clerk noted that The Mitre was being refurbished and expressed a hope that the grass verge outside would once more be maintained by The Mitre's tenants.</p> <p>Finally, the noticeboard outside The Chequers was reported as needing minor maintenance.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Mundell to re-attach the loose trim.</i></p>
17/125	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>Cllr Mickelsen explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the applications due to the potential for him to vote at the District Council planning meeting.</p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/17/00642 - Lauren House 14 Blacksmith Lane Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Councillors noted that the proposal would result in a two-storey, unrelieved blank wall, possibly overbearing to the neighbouring dwellings on Byron Drive, and had concerns that the residents of those dwellings may not have had time to review the application.</p> <p>For this reason, the decision was deferred to the next Planning Committee meeting.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/17/00695 - 5 Beech Green Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr MacGregor, reported that the properties in the area were substantial and the proposal would neither be overbearing nor seem out-of-keeping.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr MacGregor.</p> <p>LDP/MAL/17/00720 - 5 Beech Green Wickham Bishops</p> <p>The Parish Council acknowledged the application for Permitted Development and was grateful to Maldon District Council for bringing it to its attention. Councillors had no further comments.</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor stated that a re-submission of the plans for 16 Blacksmiths Lane had been received and would be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting. Due to short timing, the Planning Committee meeting will be held on 14th July.</p> <p>There were no decisions by the Parish Clerk, Maldon DC or the Planning Inspectorate to note.</p> <p>Re-determination of 'OUT/MAL/15/01342 - Land Rear of 9 Church Road, Wickham Bishops'</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop explained that the Parish Council had sought legal advice as to whether a Public Inquiry or Hearing was advantageous to the Parish Council, and, if an inquiry was to be held, whether seeking Rule 6 status was advisable. A report from Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP had been obtained.</p>

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
	<p>Councillors noted that Rule 6 status would make the Parish Council a full party to the inquiry and able to introduce reports and cross-examine the applicant. It would also require the Parish Council to engage a barrister's services and expose itself to an award of costs against it, which would be beyond the Council's means. For this reason, Councillors considered Rule 6 to be financially imprudent.</p> <p>Councillors acknowledged that without Rule 6 status, the Parish Council would be less likely to be heard by the Inspector at a Public Inquiry, however an inquiry would demonstrate the high public interest in the proposal and it was Maldon District Council's preferred option. It was thought that the Parish Council would be more likely to be heard at a Hearing due to the relative informality.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would not seek Rule 6 status and would not send a letter to the Planning Inspectorate urging a Public Inquiry. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Nicholas.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to circulate the legal advice to the residents of Mope Lane who had offered to fund expert reports, and to report the latest developments to all interested residents.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to advise the Chief Executive of Maldon DC that the Parish Council's financial commitment, which was solely related to the judicial review, was now concluded.</i></p> <p>Planning Committee's Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Clerk presented the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference, which would delegate to the Clerk, decisions on non-contentious works to Tree Preservation Order-protected trees and Listed buildings and applications seeking Permitted Development status.</p> <p>Resolved: The revised Terms of Reference were adopted. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p>
17/126	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were no visitors at the Surgery on 17th June. Cllrs MacGregor and Mickelsen will attend the Surgery on 15th July and Cllrs Bates and Mundell on 19th August.</p>
17/127	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>D/Cllr Bass was pleased to report that the Local Development Plan had progressed to being found sound by the Planning Inspectorate, and was now with the Secretary of State for final approval and signing.</p> <p>The improvement works to Middle Watch on Blacksmiths Lane were being considered for nomination for a Maldon DC conservation award.</p>
17/128	<p>Local Highways Panel</p> <p>Cllr Bass reported that the extension of the Church Road 30mph zone to Mope Lane, which had been delayed, would now be re-examined and progressed if possible. The possibility of reviving the feasibility study, this year, into build-outs on The Street had also been raised.</p> <p>Cllr Bass and the Clerk had raised a request with the Braintree LHP to enable full time operation of the traffic lights at the junction of Blue Mills Hill and Maldon Road, and it was expected to be considered at the Braintree LHP meeting of 6th July. As the Braintree LHP was open to the public, Cllr Bass would try to attend.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to County Councillor Mark Durham, Chairman of the Maldon LHP, requesting that the Maldon LHP's meetings also be held open to the public.</i></p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors discussed a parishioner's request for measures to reduce the speed of vehicles turning left into Tiptree Road from Witham Road. It was suggested that if the bend were tightened it may encourage buses to swing out across oncoming traffic to negotiate the corner.</p>

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
	<p>Councillors considered that the extension of the footway to the corner might alleviate the parishioner's concerns.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to respond to the parishioner advising that the issue would be considered once the footway was completed.</i></p>
17/129	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Bates, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p> <p>The receipt of the £1092 Neighbourhood Planning grant, and the requirement to return any unspent portion, was noted.</p> <p>Resolved: The decision to appoint Fisher Jones Greenwood LLP to advise on the re-determination of 'OUT/MAL/15/01342 - Land rear of 9 Church Road Wickham Bishops' under the <i>General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 S.1(1)</i>, at a cost of £666 + VAT was agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p>
17/130	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Cllr Nicholas volunteered to be the Parish Council's representative on the Tiptree Parish Facilities Forum with Cllr MacGregor deputising as necessary.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to advise the Clerk for Tiptree Parish Council.</i></p>
17/131	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – No Decisions Required. To include:</p> <p>The remaining internal debris had been removed from the air raid shelter and was bagged up awaiting disposal. The Clerk had donated two pallets for the road salt.</p> <p>Action: <i>Interested parties to attend at 2pm on 19th August to clean the interior.</i></p> <p>Cllr MacGregor reported that Village Hall's wifi service was still unavailable. The telecoms mast on the BHSA sports field had been erected but was not yet operational.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr MacGregor to report the overgrown verge on Witham Road to the BHSA.</i></p> <p>Cllr Nicholas stated that footpaths 2 and 3 would be cut back as part of ECC's annual cutting programme. The resurfacing material for FP1 was still stored in the Blue Mills bridge layby and Cllr Nicholas would walk FP1 to check progress, and also Bridleway 19 from Langford Road to the Blackwater Rail Trail. FP17 was still blocked and had been reported to ECC for enforcement. Cllr Mickelsen reported a footpath sign lying in the grass along the 6th fairway at Benton Hall.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Finance Committee to consider a request for a bench at the new bus stop.</i></p>
17/132	<p>General Village News</p> <p>Great Totham Primary School's annual Summer Fete will be held on 14th July and the PTFA had agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan team could have a stall at the fete.</p>
17/133	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Friday 14th July 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am</p> <p>Friday 18th August 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></p> <p>Tuesday 5th September 2017 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm</p>
17/134	<p>Close of Meeting 9.20pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas (additional items to Chairman and Clerk by Friday 25th August):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air raid shelter final tidy-up planning (September) - Website refresh and Local Council Award Scheme (October)