

**WICKHAM BISHOPS PARISH COUNCIL
STATUTORY ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY 7th MAY 2013 at 7pm**

Present: Councillors Johnson, MacGregor, Pink, Mickelsen, Bass, Jacob, Bates. Members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Councillor Sayers.
2. Election of Chairman: Councillor Iain MacGregor, proposed by Cllr Mickelsen, seconded by Cllr Jacob and agreed unanimously by all present. Cllr MacGregor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. Appoint Vice Chair: Cllr Mickelsen: proposed by Cllr Jacob and seconded by Cllr Pink. Agreed by all present.
4. Approval of minutes: minutes of meeting of 2nd April agreed and signed. Minutes of planning meeting of 19th April received.
5. Matters arising: Cllr Mickelsen had put notes of the previous meeting in the Maldon Standard. Dog bins in Back Lane and Grange Road had been ordered and Cllr Jacob would chase up.
6. Committees and responsibilities: postponed to June meeting.
7. Annual Audit: Accounts to be presented at June meeting.
8. Chairman's Report: The Clerk had resigned with immediate effect prior to the Finance committee meeting, committee members and Cllr Johnson as Chairman had researched temporary options and proposed Mike Letch be asked to cover until new clerk appointed. This was agreed by all present. Cllr MacGregor as new Chairman thanked Cllr Johnson, outgoing Chairman, for all her work over the last difficult year. It was proposed, and agreed by all present that the Parish Council change its address to the Village Hall, and that the Council should purchase a mobile telephone on a PAYG tariff, for the council's official telephone line.
9. Declarations of Interest: book signed by Cllr Pink (BHSA Trustee) and Cllr Mickelsen (tennis club member) re planning application 13/00313.
10. Police report: read by Cllr Johnson.
11. NHW report: none.
12. Public Forum: A member of the public spoke in support of their planning application, 13/00346 Fairplay House. 2 further members of the public voiced their opposition to these plans. The tennis Club Chairman spoke in support of the club's application 13/00313. A question was asked about timing for speedwatch, and progress on traffic calming. Cllrs responded that PC Keene was working towards getting speedwatch implemented, and that feasibility studies of the traffic calming proposals agreed was on going.
13. Planning: RES/MAL/13/00338, Heath House, Little Braxted, Councillors agreed to recommend approval. FUL/MAL/13/00346 Fairplay House, erection of zip wire etc, Councillors agreed by a majority vote, and one abstention, to recommend refusal. It was suggested that owners and neighbours worked together on a compromise solution. LDP/MAL/13/00367 Little Hill farm, Mope Lane, Councillors agreed to recommend refusal; it was felt that inadequate information had been provided. FUL/MAL/13/00313 WB Tennis Club, this had been

discussed at the planning committee where no decision was reached, after a short discussion two Councillors voted for and two voted against. The Chairman declined to use his casting vote and it was agreed to let Maldon DC know that the Council had been unable to reach a decision on this application.

The meeting was then adjourned for the Annual Parish Assembly

At 9.05 pm the meeting was re-opened.

14. Correspondence: in box.
15. District Council report: Cllr Bass commented that MDC receive Business Rates now, and are reviewing empty properties. The LDP work is ongoing. It was requested and agreed that District Councillor Durham should be sent an agenda for our meetings.
16. EALC: Nothing to report.
17. Finance: monthly report showing bank balances and cheque schedule received from Cllr Mickelsen. Payments agreed as listed, and it was agreed by all present that Cllr MacGregor should be added as a cheque signatory. It was further agreed that the cheque for Insurance (estimated £616.09) should be signed outside of the meeting once minor aspects of the cover had been clarified.
18. Cllr Jacob wished to visit a recycling plant, and to report back to the council. Cllr Bass agreed to organise this. Cllr Mickelsen asked who owns the land opposite Snow's Corner where the bus shelter stands, as in the Parish Assembly a resident had asked about an untidy tree there. Cllr Henry Bass suggested the land belonged to Highways, however it was considered that it would take too long to get Highways to agree to do work there so it was agreed that the Parish Council would ask its own contractor to attend to the tree. The LHP had asked for any further proposals to be submitted and it was agreed to resubmit the tram crossing on The Street, extra poles for the flashing signs, and an extension to the 30mph limit in Church Road as a reserve. With the passing of Councillor Dennison it is now opportune to update the Council's Emergency Planning procedures. Website: Cllr Bates reported that the new email addresses are up and running. Instructions on accessing these have been circulated.
19. General village news: The biennial village picnic has been arranged for the 26th August 2013 at the sports fields, with a 12.30 start. An entertainer has been booked at a cost of £350.00, this was agreed.
20. The meeting closed at 9.55pm.