

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
K W Jarvis
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

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MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 nd April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
19/064	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, MacGregor, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for expected lateness were given by Cllr Mundell. There were four members of the public present.</p>
19/065	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interests.</p>
19/066	<p>Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th March 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 15th March 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p>
19/067	<p>Chairman's Report The Chairman thanked Cllr Bass for obtaining the replacement post for the parish sign, expected to be installed in late Spring, and reminded the meeting that 30mph zone warning stickers were available.</p>
19/068	<p>Clerk's Report The Clerk stated that the annual return was underway, with the Council's annual report to follow. Action: <i>Councillors to send their annual reports to the Clerk for inclusion.</i></p> <p>A broken manhole cover in Arbour Lane had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC) and nearby bushes that were obscuring sightlines had been reported to the developer of the Pine Trees site. Both had received immediate attention.</p> <p>The Clerk had received a complaint about parking on the footway in Wellands and along Kelvedon Road. The vehicles on Wellands had since been moved however obstruction along Kelvedon Road was said to be an ongoing problem. Action: <i>Councillors to monitor Kelvedon Road for on-going problems for the Clerk to report to the Community Protection Team.</i></p>
19/069	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Williams, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, reported that close to 200 responses had been received to the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation and confirmed there was no minimum response rate required. Responses were overwhelmingly in favour of the Plan, with some concerns raised by land agents over the two proposed Local Green Spaces. The Steering group would be working to obtain further evidence to support the nominated sites, beginning with a presentation at the upcoming Parish Assembly. Action: <i>Councillors and residents were asked to submit historical evidence and records, showing how the fields bordering Handleys Lane byway and the graveyard on Church Road, were special.</i></p>

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19/070	<p>Library Strategy Working Group Cllr Bates, leader of the Library Strategy Working Group, stated that the team had expanded with four members of the public joining. Specific tasks had been assigned, with a business plan in development. A building valuation and basic survey had been conducted.</p> <p>A letter of support had been received from Little Braxted Parish Council and further support was sought from other neighbouring parishes and Maldon District Council (MDC).</p> <p>The Clerk's letter to Priti Patel MP had been received and a supportive reply expected. It was understood that the County Council had noted the advanced progress of the working group and had identified the Wickham Bishops Expression of Interest as a priority to pursue further.</p> <p>Councillors were pleased to hear that strong county-wide support for the social benefits of libraries had resulted in a softening of ECC's stance on this aspect.</p>
19/071	<p>Public Forum A member of the public stated that the Five Corners junction had been the site of two recent accidents and urged the Parish Council to request a speed restriction. Queries were made about progress on traffic calming measures for Blue Mills Hill and Witham Road.</p> <p>A resident had listened to the broadcast of ECC's extraordinary meeting about the library strategy proposals, and reported that the speakers mostly sounded opposed to the changes.</p>
19/072	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions D/Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the application due to the possibility of his involvement in determining the application at Maldon District Council.</p> <p><u>Application</u> 19/00303/HOUSE - Briars Paddock Chase Wickham Bishops No letters of representation had been received. No reasons for refusal were raised. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>The decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted. Additionally, the following decision was noted: - 19/00038/FUL - Wickham Place Farm Station Road Wickham Bishops – REFUSED</p> <p>There were no delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk, or Planning Inspectorate decisions, to note.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p>
19/073	<p>Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p>Resolved: The updated 2019-20 budget was agreed. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the best practice for financial control included a quarterly review of the accounting records by a non-signatory Councillor. Cllrs Jarvis and Nicholas volunteered.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to provide the records to Cllr Jarvis once the annual return compilation was complete.</i></p>
19/074	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries At the 16th March surgery, a resident suggested SLOW road markings and warning signs for Witham Road, and it was noted that the Witham Road sign by Mope Lane was out of place.</p> <p>Two residents complained about parking at One Stop, difficulties driving through the gap between The Mulberry Tree's planter, and excessively bright external lighting on houses in The Street. An issue with obstructed sight lines at the junction of Blacksmiths Lane and Arbour Lane was also reported.</p> <p>Action: <i>D/Cllr Bass to request the District Council reinstall the Witham Road sign.</i> Action: <i>The Clerk to write to the proprietor of The Mulberry Tree asking that the planter gap be widened or moved towards The Street.</i></p> <p>Attendees at the 13th April surgery would be Cllrs Mickelsen and MacGregor.</p>

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19/075	<p>Traffic Management</p> <p>It was explained that yellow lines would not stop lawful loading and unloading by delivery vehicles, and so would not prevent sight line obstruction at the Great Totham Road and The Street junction. Problems at Snows Corner due to vehicles parked nearby were also reported.</p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to write to Great Totham Parish Council asking that the Parish Councils collaborate on an LHP request to calm traffic in the Five Corners area.</i></p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to check the law regarding parking near a junction.</i></p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to write to the Car Sales business, asking that it provide sufficient customer parking and that its practice of parking vehicles for sale along Great Totham Road be discontinued.</i></p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to invite One Stop's Area Manager again to a Parish Council-facilitated meeting, and to suggest the parking area nearest to the planter gap be widened by the part removal of One Stop's steps.</i></p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would make a new Local Highways Panel (LHP) request, for warning signs along Witham Road. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p><i>Action: Cllr Wardrop to contact Mr Jon Simmons.</i></p> <p>Cllr Wardrop presented the monthly TRUCam figures, which were substantially lower than the captures by the Speedwatch team.</p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to invite the Community Protection Team to a future meeting to understand the differences.</i></p>
19/076	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Report</p> <p>No crime had been reported to the NHW Coordinator in March.</p>
19/077	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>D/Cllr Bass conveyed the outcomes of the Maldon March LHP meeting. A £4,000 budget would be required for a feasibility study of a footway linking Mackmurdo Place to Snows Corner, and the request to widen Langford Road had been referred to the Safer Roads scheme. An explanation had been sought from the LHP Liaison Officer, of a £50,000 scheme to improve the middle section of Handleys Lane, as the Parish Paths partnership volunteers had been waiting for free road planings to apply since October. A £14,500 scheme was being considered for improvements to the Kelvedon Road end of Handleys Lane and white gates at village entry points were provisionally planned for the current year.</p> <p>The Braintree LHP request to extend the operational hours of the Blue Mills Hill traffic lights would be discussed at the upcoming meeting on 4th April, which D/Cllr Bass planned to attend.</p> <p>D/Cllr Bass was pleased to advise that MDC was progressing the Grange Road flooding alleviation plan. The refusal by the District Council of the North Heybridge Garden Scheme and other strategic developments was of some concern.</p> <p>District Councillor Bass explained that he would be stepping down on 2nd May as District Councillor and as Chairman of the District Council on 16th May and would not be seeking re-election. The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked D/Cllr Bass for his many years of service and support in the role.</p> <p>Cllr Williams left the meeting.</p>
19/078	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would invite Cllr Barker CC to meet with the Library Working Group.</p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to write inviting Cllr Barker CC</i></p>
19/079	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors</p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk and Cllr Bates to publicise the annual Litter Pick, to be held on 27th April 2019 at 1pm.</i></p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to circulate the road list responsibilities and to arrange the loan of litter picking equipment and removal of the filled bags by MDC.</i></p> <p><i>Action: D/Cllr Bass to arrange for Appleton's to conduct litter picking of Witham Road and Blue Mills Hill.</i></p> <p>A resident of Wellands had reported repeated dog fouling to Cllr Nicholas, who would monitor the issue.</p>
19/080	<p>General Village News to Note:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">- None</p>

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19/081	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 12th April 2019 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am - Tuesday 7th May 2019 Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm - Tuesday 7th May 2019 Annual Parish Assembly at 8.30pm
19/082	<p>Close of Meeting 9.35pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and appointment of Councillors to Committees (May) - Governance: to consider for re-adoption the General Power of Competence (May) - Approval of annual accounts, annual governance statement and accounting statements (May)