

# Wickham Bishops Parish Council

## Parish Councillors

I D Wardrop (Chairman)  
Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chair)  
H M Bass  
P J Bates  
P D Layley  
S Morgan  
C Nappo  
J Williams



Winner Best Kept Village 2009, 2015  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Essex Village of the Year 2015  
[www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org](http://www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org)

## Parish Clerk

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

[info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org](mailto:info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org)

Minutes of Meeting of Wickham Bishops Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
25/001	<b>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</b> In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop Present: Cllrs, Bass, Bates, Layley, Mickelsen, Morgan, Nappo, Williams and the Clerk County Cllr Durham was not present. There were 11 members of the public in attendance. MDC had declined to be represented at the meeting in connection with 25/006
25/002	<b>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</b> Cllr Morgan declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning matters and would not take part in voting as he may be called upon to do so in his role on the NW Area Planning Committee.
25/003	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Wardrop, seconded by Cllr Williams, all in favour.
25/004	<b>Chairman's Report</b> Nothing to report.
25/005	<b>Clerk's Report</b> A resident had safely disposed of 8 nitrous oxide canisters dumped in a hedge in Wickham Hall Lane and the Clerk had reported it to the local Police who said they would patrol the area.  The pothole at the entrance to One Stop had been filled temporarily but this had gradually dispersed. The Clerk had reported it again to County Cllr Durham.  MDC had written to confirm that the Library and Air Raid Shelter had been placed on their list of Assets of Community Value.  After a reminder, One Stop confirmed they had given their landlord confirmation to proceed with the extended dropped kerb and reimburse the costs. They would chase this up.
25/006	<b>Land rear of 9 Church Road – Planning Appeal</b>  The Chairman said this was a topic of particular interest. Whilst technically the meeting would normally be suspended to allow members of the public to make representations, he was content to open the discussion to the public as well as have the Council debate the various issues.

	<p><u>Planning Inspectorate letter to MDC asking whether changes to National Planning Policy Framework have a bearing on the Appeal and MDCs response</u></p> <p>Members were disappointed to note that MDC had called an emergency meeting following the 2-week deadline issued by the Planning Inspectorate, leading to a rushed and unsatisfactory response by officers. Members questioned why the letter was classified as an emergency and commented on a lack of balance at the meeting.</p> <p>District Cllr Morgan addressed the meeting and outlined the background to MDC’s response. Many points were raised by members of the public most of whom were members of the Wickham Bishops Action Group which had been working independently of the Council. The Action Group and the Council had been keeping each other informed of developments.</p> <p><u>Consider and agree next steps including whether or not to write to MDC, Dame Priti Patel MP and PINS to express our concerns</u></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Following much discussion, members resolved unanimously to write to the Planning Inspectorate, Dame Priti Patel MP and Maldon District Council questioning whether PINS 2-week deadline was reasonable and fair, why MDC felt an emergency meeting was warranted and why they didn’t just comment on the possible implications of the new Framework, and asking Dame Priti Patel’s continued support in establishing why this appeal had remained outstanding for so long.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Freedom of Information requests would be made to MDC and PINS in respect of the above. The WB Action Group to be kept informed of all the above.</p>
<p><b>25/007</b></p>	<p><b>Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person</b></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to notify ECC of the broken boardwalk at Blue Mills Bridge which linked the footpath from Witham and enabled walkers to cut across the golf course.</p>
<p><b>25/008</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications and Decisions</b> Cllr Bass took the Chair for this item.</p> <p><b>24/00808/LBC Primrose Cottage 2a Arbour Lane</b> Replacement of two front elevation windows. <b>Resolved:</b> Members had no objection to the works and recommended APPROVAL, provided the Conservation Officer was happy with the proposals.</p> <p><b>24/00953/HOUSE 20 Holt Drive</b> Replacement of existing conservatory with single rear extension with addition of rooflights. <b>Resolved:</b> Members had no objection to the proposals and recommended APPROVAL.</p> <p><u>The following withdrawn Application was noted:</u> <b>24/00851/COU Land between Back Lane and Maypole Road, Great Totham.</b> Change of use of agricultural land to accommodate two shepherd huts for holiday lets.</p> <p><u>To following Appeal decision was noted:</u> <b>23/01016/OUT (Appeal Ref APP/X1545/W/24/3342289) Land rear of The Chantry, Tiptree Road.</b> Outline planning permission for development of existing garden with erection of a detached dwelling. <b>APPEAL DISMISSED</b></p> <p>The following application to be considered by the North-Western Area Planning Committee on 14 January 2025 was noted: <b>FUL/MAL/24/00253 Five bedroomed house, Lane rear of The Green Man Inn, Little Braxted</b></p>

25/009	<p><b>Traffic Calming &amp; Highway Matters</b>  <u>Update on pedestrian crossing request, if any</u> Members were uncertain as to whether a monitoring strip across Maypole Road was connected to the proposed traffic survey. <b>Resolved:</b> The Clerk to ask ECC for an update.</p> <p><u>Community Speedwatch and response to approach to Essex Police about warning letters</u> The Chairman reported on further correspondence on this subject between Dame Priti Patel MP, Roger Hirst, Police Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner and the Head of Community Speedwatch.</p>																																																																																																																																
25/010	<p><b>District Councillor Report</b>  District Councillor Morgan reported on continued talks aimed towards devolution. In March a decision would be made as to what kind of structure would exist.</p>																																																																																																																																
25/011	<p><b>County Councillor Report</b> County Councillor Durham was not present.</p>																																																																																																																																
25/012	<p><b>Draft Housing Needs Survey</b>  <b>Resolved:</b> The Clerk to invite RCCE to our February PC Meeting to discuss the next steps</p>																																																																																																																																
25/013	<p><b>Footpath Volunteers</b>  <b>Resolved:</b> As the two main volunteers had stepped down, members agreed to recruit more help with footpath clearance and ideally a co-ordinator. The Clerk to advertise locally. It was noted that the Church Parish Magazine was not currently being published monthly and its future looked uncertain. <b>Action:</b> The Clerk to make enquiries of nearby parish councils (Hatfield Peverel and Great/Little Braxted) as to their publishing methods.</p>																																																																																																																																
25/014	<p><b>Finance</b>  The following bank balances at 31 December 2024 were noted:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1153 1268 1344"> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>31/12/2024</td> <td>0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>31/12/2024</td> <td>8,654.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Instant Access</td> <td>31/12/2024</td> <td>10,520.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debit Card</td> <td>31/12/2024</td> <td>26.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: right;"><b>19,201.18</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The following payments, receipts and transfers were approved, proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Nappo, all in favour:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1545 1436 1836"> <thead> <tr> <th>Voucher</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Bank</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Supplier</th> <th></th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>75</td> <td>Unity Bank charges</td> <td>31/12/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Unity Bank charges</td> <td>Unity Bank</td> <td>6.00</td> <td>6.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>76</td> <td>Planning Appeal</td> <td>07/01/2025</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>9 Church Road Planning Appeal</td> <td>Planning Direct</td> <td>550.00</td> <td>110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77</td> <td>Streetligh Elec</td> <td>07/01/2025</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Streetlighting Electricity</td> <td>NPower</td> <td>83.16</td> <td>4.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>78</td> <td>Outsourced Payroll</td> <td>29/11/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Payroll services November</td> <td>J&amp;M Payroll Services</td> <td>27.50</td> <td>5.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>79</td> <td>Outsourced Payroll</td> <td>07/01/2025</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Payroll services December</td> <td>J&amp;M Payroll Services</td> <td>27.50</td> <td>5.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80</td> <td>HMRC NIC &amp; 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8	Bank Interest	31/12/2024	Unity Trust Instant Access	Bank Interest	Unity Bank	69.99	69.99
<b>25/015</b>	<b>Progress Reports from Councillors – no decisions required</b>						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PFCC Rural Crime Summit, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Cllr Bass reported on his attendance.</li> <li>• Footpath Booklet. Cllr Williams passed further amendments/additions to the Clerk for processing</li> <li>• Love Your Bus grants. Cllr Layley asked members to give some thought as to improvements in the WB bus service. The Clerk would make enquiries into the pilot scheme for DigiGo and whether there were plans to include Wickham Bishops.</li> </ul>						
<b>25/016</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>						
	Correspondence received on first aid courses for residents was noted.						
<b>25/017</b>	<b>Parish Council Surgeries</b>						
	<b>December surgery</b> One resident had thanked WBPC for filling the One Stop pothole (which had since eroded – see 25/005).						
	<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January surgery</b> – Cllrs Nappo and Wardrop to attend.						
<b>25/018</b>	<b>General Village News and Events to Note</b>						
	Members acknowledged uncertainties around the sale/re-opening of Olios.						
<b>25/019</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings:</b>						
	Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom						
	Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom						
<b>25/020</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b> There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36pm.						