

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
3rd Place Essex Village of the Year 2015
www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

Parish Clerk

Mrs L A Bailey
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Minutes of Wickham Bishops Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom

Item	Subject
24/103	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop. Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Layley, Mickelsen, Nappo, Williams & the Clerk.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Morgan. There were no MOP's present.</p>
24/104	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were none.</p>
24/105	<p>Approval of Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2024 were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop, all in favour.</p> <p>The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 28th May 2024 were noted.</p>
24/106	<p>Chairman's Report The Chairman reported that 9 Speedwatch sessions in May had caught 100 vehicles speeding, one motorcycle doing 65mph! At the next Speedwatch Co-ordinators Meeting, Cllr Wardrop would comment on the lack of feedback from the Police.</p> <p>It was noted that Great Totham PC would be lighting the beacon at 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day.</p>
24/107	<p>Clerk's Report The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the Essex Village of the Year application. Regarding Allium Triquetrum which had appeared on the Box Iron Corner verge, the grass cutting contractor recommended cutting the grass as normal.</p>
24/108	<p>Public Forum – there were no members of the public present</p>
24/109	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions Cllr Bass took the Chair for this item.</p> <p>24/00426/HOUSE & 24/00427/LBC Goldfinches, Station Road Reduction and repair of existing chimney. Resolved: Members had no objection and recommended APPROVAL.</p>

	<p>The following decisions made by MDC were noted:</p> <p>FUL/MAL/24/00207 Wickham Art Barn, Station Road Replacement of agricultural lambing shed. APPROVED</p> <p>WTPO/MAL/24/00318 Pine Trees, The Street Mature Oak – thin upper canopy by 30% and remove dead wood. Reduce lower major lateral limb back by 3m. Lift canopy by 1m. APPROVED</p> <p>A letter of objection from a resident was acknowledged in respect of 24/00410/RES Land adjacent Five Corners, Maypole Road. WBPC’s comments had been forwarded to Great Totham PC for information but Cllr Wardrop would be happy to attend their next meeting when this application was to be considered. Members noted that clearance works had already begun on site and agreed to monitor the situation.</p>
24/110	<p>Land rear of 9 Church Road – Planning Appeal – update if any</p> <p>After writing to Paul Turner, ECC’s Monitoring Officer, further correspondence had been received from ECC on our Freedom of Information request. The Clerk had reiterated the request for written evidence of site visits by Highways engineers. Members agreed it was important to press for this information.</p>
24/111	<p>Traffic Calming & Highway Matters update, if any</p> <p>ECC Salt Bag Scheme – Resolved: Members agreed to continue membership although no additional salt bags were required. The Clerk to respond to ECC.</p> <p>A road closure notice on Blue Mills Bridge was noted as well as temporary traffic lights. The Clerk had asked for more information from CCllr Durham.</p> <p>A request from a resident regarding cutting the verge on the corner of Church Close had been received. Action: Cllr Nappo volunteered to organise a trim by a volunteer ahead of the Church Fete. Cllr Nappo had emailed ECC to enquire about responsibility for verges in general.</p> <p>A resident of Kelvedon Road had contacted WBPC with concerns over speeding traffic and members agreed that the Speed Indicator Device in this location would help. Despite repeated requests to ECC, there had been no action. Action: The Clerk to ask other nearby parish councils how they managed to get their SID’s moved.</p>
24/112	<p>District Councillor Report District Councillor Morgan was not present.</p>
24/113	<p>County Councillor Report County Councillor Durham was not present.</p>
24/114	<p>Asset of Community Value</p> <p>It was understood that Olio at The Chequers was for sale and the meeting expressed concern at the potential loss of this village amenity. Resolved: After consideration, members agreed as a first step to nominate Olios as an ‘Asset of Community Value’.</p>
24/115	<p>Governance</p> <p>Resolved: Members agreed unanimously to formally re-adopt the Code of Conduct</p>
24/116	<p>Finance</p> <p>The following bank balances were noted: Unity Trust Current Account £26,593.36, Unity Trust Instant Access £10,307.61 Debit Card £109.70, a total of £37,010.67.</p>

CLlr Wardrop proposed the following payments and receipts be authorised, seconded by CLlr Mickelsen, all in favour.

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier			
21	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Payroll May 2024	J&M Payroll Services	27.50	5.50	33.00
22	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Streetlighting Call Out, Arbour Lane	A&J Lighting Solutions	80.00	16.00	96.00
23	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Grasscutting x 2	D W Maintenance	170.00		170.00
24	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Annual Report printing	Point Graphics Ltd	192.00		192.00
25	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Annual Report distribution	WB & LB PCC	100.00		100.00
26	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerk's salary	Mrs L A Bailey	842.18		842.18
26	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Home Office allowance	Mrs L A Bailey	25.00		25.00
27	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerk's Reimb - HP Instant Ink	Mrs L A Bailey	9.99	2.00	11.99
27	04/06/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerk's Reimb - laptop driver update	Mrs L A Bailey	60.00		60.00
Total					1,506.67	23.50	1,530.17

RECEIPTS LIST

Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier		
3	07/05/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Precept 2024/25	Maldon District Council	22,530.00	22,530.00
4	10/05/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Precept - interest for late payment	Maldon District Council	31.33	31.33
Total					22,561.33	22,561.33

Consider a grant of £100 to the PCC for Annual Report distribution

Resolved: CLlr Wardrop proposed a grant of £100, seconded by CLlr Layley, all in favour.

24/117

Progress Reports from Councillors

Update on gov.uk domain changeover CLlr Bates had no progress to report. Problems with CLlr Williams emails had been investigated with the help of an ex-Councillor, and 4 alternatives offered.

Footpath Walks booklet Walks 1, 4 & 5 had been completed and checked. **Action:** The Clerk to write a health and safety piece. CLlr Bates & Williams to find good quality photographs to include.

Action: The Clerk to report a trip hazard BT cable across FP19 near St Peter's Church to ECC.

Biodiversity/Climate Change CLlr Williams reported that 5 or 6 families had attended the Pond Workshop, and it was looking good. A meeting organised by Claire Williamson of MDC to co-ordinate climate change efforts and explain MDC's net gain obligations had taken place and CLlr Williams had signed up to the new Community Nature Forum.

24/118

Correspondence

A grant application had been received from Beacon Hill Rovers Football Club for home and away kits for the U10's Beacon Hill Girls team. **Action:** To be formally considered at the July PC Meeting. The Clerk to request a copy of their Accounts.

An email from Lord Foster's office asked for support for the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal. **Resolved:** Members agreed unanimously to offer their support.

CLlr Abdul Hafiz, the Maldon representative for EALC asked if he could attend the next WBPC meeting. It was understood he was looking for a volunteer to share the responsibility. **Resolved:** The Clerk to respond accordingly.

	Works had begun to construct a new roundabout in Heybridge as part of the Westcombe Park Development and notification had been received that in future a road closure would be needed (during the school holidays) to tie in the roundabout to Langford Road, which was noted.
24/119	Parish Council Surgeries There had been no enquiries at the May surgery. Cllrs Layley and Wardrop to attend on Saturday 15 th June, Cllrs Williams and Bass on Saturday 20 th July.
24/120	General Village News and Events to Note D-Day 80 th commemoration. Councillors resolved to recognise and thank those who lost their lives in the conflict and acknowledged commemorative events taking place on Thursday including the ringing of the bells at St Peter's Church and around the country at 6.30pm, and the lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm.
24/121	Exclusion of Press and Public Resolved: Cllr Wardrop resolved, seconded by Cllr Layley, all in favour that, in accordance with s.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as there was a likelihood that confidential or exempt information would be disclosed
24/122	Co-option of Councillor Members considered the candidate and after much discussion took a written ballot. 3 voted in favour of co-opting the candidate, 4 against. Members asked the Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer for clarification as to valid reasons an applicant could be rejected.
24/123	Date of Next Meetings: Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 2 nd July 2024, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 3 rd September 2024, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom
24/124	Close of Meeting There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.