

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 4th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
19/104	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, MacGregor, Mundell, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Jarvis. Three members of the public were present.
19/105	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interests.
19/106	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Statutory Parish Council meeting held on 7 th May 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
19/107	Chairman's Report The Chairman had nothing further to report. Two members of Maldon District Council (MDC)'s Community Protection Team (CPT) joined the meeting.
19/108	Clerk's Report The Clerk reported a busy month and was pleased that all the annual requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and Transparency Code had been met. The annual report had been written, printed and taken to the Church for delivery and the year's VAT claim submitted for £677. Flyers and a banner for the Neighbourhood Plan Group had also been designed and ordered. In response to reports from residents, the Clerk had arranged for the English Rural Housing Association to replace some dead saplings at Mackmurdo Place and reported a nightly noise nuisance in the village hall carpark to the Beacon Hill Sports Association. Essex County Council (ECC) had been asked to inspect an oak tree at Snows Corner and to maintain the finger-post sign. Sadly, the latter request was refused. Action: The Clerk to contact Essex Highways to establish whether volunteers could repaint the sign.
19/109	Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) Cllr Williams was pleased to report that three residents had joined the NHP group, one of whom was a senior policy planner at Braintree DC and had suggested adding several policies. A landscape character assessment was needed and quotes were being gathered to support a grant application. Cllr Williams presented the flyer and banner designs and thanked the Clerk for her efforts. The flyers would be distributed at the Church fair on 8 th June and its welcome evening on 20 th June; it was hoped they would produce further supporting evidence for the NHP environmental policies. Data on the graveyard use and capacity had also been obtained. Cllr Mundell had set up a Facebook page "Wicki Watch" to collect images and sightings of local wildlife and the Spring Essex Wildlife Trust biodiversity audit had been completed so the invoice could be paid. Action: The Clerk to update the NHP budget tracking. The next NHP meeting would be held in the library.

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19/110	<p>Library Strategy Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Bates stated that the building valuation had not been supplied. The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP continued to press ECC to provide the figure. Cllr Barker CC had asked to share the draft business plan with colleagues; Cllr Bates would find out who those colleagues were.</p> <p>Despite great interest and many suggestions, no local groups had been set up to operate in the library. Cllr Bates made an appeal for volunteers with legal experience to advise on a possible charitable trust.</p>
19/111	<p>Traffic Calming Report</p> <p>Mr Adrian Rayner and Mr Pat Mackshea of the CPT introduced themselves to the meeting. Around 2300 vehicles had been recorded exceeding speed limits in the Maldon district, by their TRUCam team over the previous year. New technology was expected in the Autumn which would allow the team to be more mobile and to operate during darker hours. There was a particular focus on drug-related activities and Public Space Protection Orders were being explored.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop queried the discrepancy between the quantities recorded by TRUCam and the higher quantities recorded by Speedwatch, for the same locations. The majority of the difference was thought to be due to shorter TRUCam sessions.</p> <p>Action: Mr Rayner and Cllr Wardrop to conduct simultaneous sessions at Birch Rose and Maypole Road.</p> <p>Action: Mr Rayner to confirm that Essex Police is pursuing persistent and high-speed offenders captured by Speedwatch.</p> <p>There had been several incidents of fly-tipping and dog control and fouling issues in Wickham Bishops, all of which the CPT had investigated. Those thought responsible for the latest fly-tippings in Grange Road had been located; formal warnings and a court summons had been issued to two dog owners not in proper control of their pets. Cllr Nicholas led the Councillors in thanking the CPT for their work.</p> <p>Action: Mr Mackshea, Cllr Wardrop and the Clerk to liaise on the possible addition of dog waste bins at the Kelvedon Road end of Handley's Lane and near the library.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the CPT could take action against dog fouling on the BHSA's sports field and against poor parking, where it constituted anti-social behaviour.</p>
19/112	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>A member of the public, representing the BHSA, thanked the Parish Council for its efforts to reduce dog fouling. The resident stated that Essex Police had failed to respond to the reports of late-night noise nuisance in the village hall carpark, and was referred to the CPT.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to advise the resident affected by the noise that the CPT and BHSA may be in contact.</p> <p>Mr Rayner and Mr Mackshea left the meeting.</p> <p>A parishioner reported that author and television personality Mr David Walliams and Cllr Barker CC had been interviewed by BBC Essex regarding the planned library closures and recommended that Councillors listen to the recording.</p> <p>The BHSA representative confirmed that the wildlife area in the sports field along Handley's Lane would be kept for wildlife and managed by the BHSA. The Chairman of Maldon Croquet Club was introduced, who was happy to confirm that the 'right to sole use' in the signed Memorandum of Understanding referred to being the sole sports club with rights. Access to the general public wishing to cross the field would not be impeded and few vehicles would require access.</p>
19/113	<p>Parish Sign</p> <p>Councillors praised the excellent restoration of the parish sign and the generous gift of the pole and its installation by volunteers</p> <p>Action: Cllr Bass to arrange an informal re-dedication ceremony.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p>

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19/114	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions <u>Applications</u></p> <p>19/00508/HOUSE - Orchard Cottage 11 Handleys Lane Wickham Bishops No letters of representation had been received. The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr MacGregor, explained that the plans were for a replacement gate, and the immediate neighbour raised no objection. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>19/00538/FUL - Wickham Grove Langford Road Wickham Bishops No letters of representation had been received. It was reported that the application was a re-submission of an expired, approved application which the Parish Council had supported, and the resulting footprint would be smaller than an even earlier, also approved, design. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Bass, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p> <p>The delegated response made by the Parish Clerk and the decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted. Cllr Wardrop, on behalf of the Parish Council, had spoken against the approval of <i>OUT/MAL/19/00345 - Land Adjacent Little Hill Farm Mope Lane Wickham Bishops</i> at MDC's Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Wardrop stated his concern that the limited arguments for refusal given on the decision notice would leave the decision open to challenge. Action: <i>Cllr Wardrop to raise the matter with D/Cllr Jarvis.</i></p> <p>There were no local decisions from the Planning Inspectorate.</p>
19/115	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries There were no visitors to the 18th May Surgery, which was attended by D/Cllr Durham CC. Attendees at the 15th June surgery would be Cllr Mundell and D/Cllr Jarvis.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p>
19/116	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Report There had been no Wickham Bishops incidents of note. A report of a prowler in Great Totham near the parish border had been received.</p>
19/117	<p>District Council Report The Clerk read out a report from D/Cllr Jarvis. The Conservative majority on the District Council had been reduced to three Councillors; the majority meant that the Council and all committees had Conservative Chairmen and Vice Chairmen. As a newly-elected District Councillor, D/Cllr Jarvis's immediate involvement would be limited to Full Council, Full Council Planning and North West Area Planning Committee meetings.</p>
19/118	<p>Salt Bag Scheme Winter 2019-20 Due to existing stocks of salt, no motion was put forward to participate in the scheme.</p>
19/119	<p>Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p>The Internal Auditor's report had not been received prior to the meeting.</p>
19/120	<p>Governance: Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notices Review Resolved: The Data Protection and Data Breach Policies and General and Staff, Councillors & Role Holders Privacy Notices were reviewed and re-adopted without amendment. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bates.</p>
19/121	<p>Correspondence The parishioner complaint of frequent late-night disturbances at the village hall carpark, and the 75th Anniversary of VE Day Celebrations 8th – 10th May 2020, were noted.</p>

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19/122	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Nicholas reported that the Parish Paths Partnership team had strimmed the weeds around most of the footpaths; FP12 and FP24 still required attention due to a lack of volunteers. There was no news on the strimmer training course which was required to ensure sufficient trained personnel. Reports of a fallen tree and FP22 being overgrown would be checked out.</p> <p>Cllr Bass advised that there had been no progress by the Maldon Local Highways Panel Liaison Officer in providing the planings for Handley's Lane, and so he had escalated it to D/Cllr Durham CC. Cllr Bass would be attending the next Braintree LHP meeting to continue to press for the extension of the Blue Mills Hill traffic lights' working hours, which would cost up to £10,000.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to re-issue the email sent in May to Cllr Louis CC which had not been received.</i></p> <p>Cllr MacGregor and the Clerk had attended Great Totham Parish Council's May meeting and put forward Wickham Bishops' request to extend speed restrictions to the Five Corners junction. Cllr Wardrop stated that Great Totham PC was progressing the request and had the support of D/Cllr Durham CC and both Ward Members.</p> <p>The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council could not lawfully pay for grass cutting of a private property.</p>
19/123	<p>General Village News to Note</p> <p>Green and red paint spots appearing around the village were explained to be the work of Essex and Suffolk Water, checking drainage flows and detecting leaks.</p> <p>The Mitre was forecast to open its licensed premises in July.</p>
19/124	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Friday 21st June 2019 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">- Tuesday 2nd July 2019 Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm</p>
19/125	<p>Close of Meeting 9.50pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the Internal Auditor's report and agree any actions - Review of Publication Scheme - Approval of new dog waste bins at Handley's Lane and by the library