

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

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Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Wickham Bishops Parish Council held on Monday 25th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall, Village Hall

Item	Subject
24/046	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop. Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Layley, Mickelsen, Morgan, Nappo, Williams, and the Clerk. There were approximately 150 members of the public present.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dame Priti Patel MP, and County & Ward Councillor Mark Durham.</p>
24/047	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>There were none.</p>
24/048	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained that with such a large number of residents in attendance, the time allowed for members of the public to speak would be extended.</p> <p>Kevin Walter, Chair of WB Action Group took the opportunity to give a presentation outlining the history of the site, the current proposal, appeal process, how approval could set a precedent for other sites in the village and urged residents to write to the Planning Inspectorate with their objections/material considerations. He compared the situation between the planning consultant for the applicant and Maldon District Council as Manchester City FC v Beacon Hill Rovers. The Action Group had appointed a planning solicitor to contest the Grounds for Appeal at a cost of between £7,000 - £10,000 and asked if residents would consider contributing financially to help overturn the appeal.</p> <p>Several members of the public asked questions and Kevin Walter was thanked for his very useful presentation.</p>
24/049	<p>Land rear of 9 Church Road, Planning Appeal APP/X1545/W/23/3333081</p> <p><u>Consider whether to engage a planning expert and, if so, who</u></p> <p>The Clerk had approached 3 planning consultants used by nearby parish councils and with short notice, two had replied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant 1 offered to put together a Statement of Case at a cost of £2,750. • Consultant 2 suggested he assist the PC in drafting a statement at £2,000.

	<p>After consideration and discussion, the Clerk was asked to approach Consultant 2 for a price for producing a statement himself.</p> <p>Resolved: Cllr Wardrop proposed WBPC engage a planning expert to challenge the Grounds for Appeal, seconded by Cllr Bass, all in favour. Members noted that £1,000 had been earmarked for planning appeal representation and the remainder would be taken from General Reserves. It was noted that residents present were in full support of using WBPC funds to pay for a planning expert.</p> <p><u>Agree documents to send to Planning Inspectorate</u> This item was not appropriate now that agreement had been reached to employ a planning consultant to act on WBPC's behalf.</p> <p><u>Consider and agree as appropriate any further issues in relation to the Appeal</u> Several points had been raised, and these were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drawing online showing the entrance to the development had been changed since the original planning application. Questions were raised as to whether this was allowed. Action: WBPC to make the planning expert aware of this. • It was clarified that the appeal for funds made earlier would be for the Action Group's solicitor. The Parish Council to pay for their own consultant. • It was noted that letters and emails to ECC Highways questioning their conclusion that the proposed development was acceptable on highways and transportation grounds had not dealt with points raised. A resident suggested that WBPC make a Freedom of Information request to ECC on this subject. Action: WBPC to take up the suggestion.
<p>24/050</p>	<p>Date of Next Meetings: Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2024, 7.30pm Village Hall Boardroom Annual Litter pick – Saturday 6th April 2024, 11am Library Annual Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7pm Village Hall Boardroom</p>
<p>24/051</p>	<p>Close of Meeting The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The number of residents present showed the strength of feeling in the village that development on this site was not welcomed.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm</p>