

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

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

Mrs L J Rowland PSLCC
Wickham Bishops Parish Council
The Village Hall
Church Road
Wickham Bishops
Essex
CM8 3JZ
07542 190176

info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 rd March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
20/044	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the chair: Vice-Chairman Cllr Wardrop Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, Mundell, Nicholas, Williams; the Clerk. There was one member of the public present.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Mickelsen.</p>
20/045	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interests.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis reported that he owned land bordering application 19/01207/OUT - Land Adjacent 2 Grange Road Wickham Bishops and would be taking advice from the Monitoring Officer on declaring an Interest. Due to the potential for Cllr Jarvis, as District Councillor, to be involved in determining applications at Maldon District Council (MDC), Cllr Jarvis would refrain from commenting on any applications.</p>
20/046	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th February 2020 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Bates, seconded Cllr Williams.</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st February 2020 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bates.</p>
20/047	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>As Chairman of the meeting, Cllr Wardrop expressed the best wishes of the Council to Cllr Mickelsen and her family.</p>
20/048	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk reported that co-option to the vacant seat had begun, with one application received, and selection would take place on 7th April. The revised banking mandate had also been submitted.</p> <p>Sadly, there had been two more fly tipping incidents on Grange Road during February; both had been quickly removed by MDC whose Community Protection Team (CPT) were investigating. A collapsed hedge posing a risk of head injury on Great Totham Road had been reported to Essex County Council (ECC)'s Highways team and immediately rectified.</p> <p>Moody Homes had been contacted regarding the congested parking along Great Totham Road and an apology received. The affordable dwellings were due to be handed over to the Housing Association at the end of April; that organisation would be agreeing the boundary of the new footpath with the Scout Camp. The Clerk was disappointed that Moody Homes would not be dressing the footpath's surface.</p> <p>The recent heavy rain had proved that the drains along Blue Mills Hill remained blocked and the pond at the Old Rectory on Station Road had been overflowing onto the carriageway.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to report the blocked drains to C/Cllr Mark Durham and to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure C/Cllr Kevin Bentley and to raise a highways issue regarding the Old Rectory.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Wardrop to advise the householder of the Old Rectory of the Parish Council's concerns.</p>

**MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom**

20/049	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Leader of the Steering Group, Cllr Williams, stated that the Neighbourhood Plan had been informally reviewed by a local planner and favourably received with some minor revisions identified. Due to a lack of evidence to support the Church Road site as a Local Green Space (LGS), it had been classified simply as an Open Space. Historical documents and photographs supporting Handley's Lane as an LGS had been received and the Clerk had created new maps for the Plan.</p> <p>It was likely that the lifespan of the Plan would be rebased from 2029 to 2035.</p> <p>A Basic Condition Statement was considered necessary, at a cost of £1650 and approval would be sought at the April meeting. The next Steering Group meeting would be 30th March in the boardroom.</p>
20/050	<p>Library Strategy Working Group</p> <p>The Leader of the Library Strategy Working Group, Cllr Jarvis, advised that no answers had been received to the two key points raised with ECC so little progress could be made. Cllr Jarvis was pleased to note that a recent report from the County Council showed increasing book loans from Wickham Bishops library over the previous three years, contrary to loan patterns elsewhere in the county. ECC had also given lease costs for the building which were predicated on a full repairing basis.</p> <p>The clubs continued to do well with a bridge club and reading club being established.</p>
20/051	<p>Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person</p> <p>There were no comments from the member of the public.</p>
20/052	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop reminded the meeting that all applications would be determined by the Planning Authority, that being Maldon District Council; the Parish Council would be responding with its recommendations as a consultee in the process.</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>19/01207/OUT - Land Adjacent 2 Grange Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received. The Chairman reported that two similar applications had been approved; this application had been submitted following the 2016 application expiring. Councillors noted that the proposal would result in sub-division of the plot and a dwelling in the open countryside, outside the development boundary and visible from public footpath 17. For these reasons it was considered that the application was contrary to the Local Development Plan, which had not been in place for the earlier two applications.</p> <p>Against these arguments, the Council observed that the plan would replace existing dilapidated buildings and that the prior granted applications would carry weight at an appeal, as demonstrated by a Mope Lane application.</p> <p>A motion put forward to recommend approval of the application failed for lack of support.</p> <p>A motion then put forward to recommend refusal of the application failed for lack of support.</p> <p>A motion put forward to respond with no comment on the application also failed for lack of support. Following further debate, a motion was put forward to recommend refusal of the application which gained enough support to be carried. The application was therefore concluded to be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, Maldon District Local Development Plan and Wickham Bishops Village Design Statement 2010 with insufficient benefit to offset the harm caused.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p> <p>D/Cllr Jarvis agreed to call in the application for determination by Maldon District Council's Planning Committee.</p> <p>20/00157/FUL - Land East of Bradwell Power Station Downhall Beach Bradwell-On-Sea</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received. It was noted that the proposal was for preparatory works.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p>The delegated response made by the Parish Clerk was noted. There were no local decisions made by Maldon District Council or the Planning Inspectorate.</p>

**MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom**

20/053	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were three attendees at the 15th February Surgery with three queries. The proposed widening of the A12 was discussed and congestion caused by parked vehicles along Great Totham Road reported. A complaint was received about the potholes and deteriorating surface of the north end of Handley's Lane.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Council to consider, in April, whether to submit Local Highways Panels requests for yellow lines at the corner of Great Totham Road and The Street and for rectification works to Handley's Lane.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Wardrop to visit the Handley's Lane resident inviting him and his neighbours to write to the Parish Council explaining the nature of the problem and their desired outcome.</i></p> <p>Attendees at the 21st March Surgery will be Cllrs Jarvis and Mundell.</p>
20/054	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>District Councillor Jarvis was able to report that MDC's budget had been approved and a replacement interim Financial Accountability Officer appointed.</p> <p>The Parish Council's concerns about MDC representatives, who had been inviting a third party to meet applicants planning work to trees subject to Tree Protection Orders, had not been resolved.</p> <p>Action: <i>D/Cllr Jarvis to investigate reports that the direct debit option had been removed from the garden waste scheme, forcing members without internet banking to rely on neighbours to pay on their behalf.</i></p>
20/055	<p>Traffic Calming</p> <p>Councillors noted that 92% of 225 survey respondents had voted in favour of making the traffic light timing changes permanent, along with ten emails stating that the change had been very effective at improving safety when crossing Blue Mills Bridge.</p> <p>Resolved: The Council would support a permanent timing change. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to provide the evidence and Council's decision to the Braintree District LHP Officer.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Bass to attend the Braintree LHP meeting to support the Parish Council's case.</i></p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would raise a Local Highways Panel request to alleviate the footway flooding outside 40 Church Road. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to involve C/Cllr Mark Durham and raise Highways issues for: footway flooding outside 40 Church Road; overflowing ditch and carriageway flooding outside 10 Church Road; carriageway flooding outside 2 Blacksmiths Lane.</i></p>
20/056	<p>Finance</p> <p>The balances of £11595 (Business Premium Account) and £276 (Community Account) were noted. The Clerk reported that the year-end turnover was expected to be £24977 and therefore under the limit for the external audit regime, thereby avoiding additional costs. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for managing the finances to achieve this.</p> <p>Resolved: The March 2020 payments were agreed. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Mrs MacGregor would be pleased to have a plaque commemorating her husband on the Parish Council's bench on Mope Lane.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would fit a plaque to the Mope Lane bench at a cost of £25 + VAT in memory of ex-Chairman and Councillor of Wickham Bishops Parish Council, Mr Iain MacGregor <i>in accordance with the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s.1(1)</i>. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Bass.</p>
20/057	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Clerk reported the following correspondence received after the agenda was issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE)'s Rural Strategy refresh consultation - Notification of the County Council's scheme to fund its bus shelter maintenance by introducing advertising - Announcement of the launch of the Essex Village of the year competition - Confirmation of a meeting about the A12 Widening scheme hosted by Maldon District Council at 7.30pm on 11th March 2020 <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to circulate presentation materials when available, on how the bus shelter project could incorporate parish-owned shelters.</i></p>

MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
	Action: <i>The Clerk to confirm the attendance of Cllrs Bass, Wardrop and Williams to the A12 meeting.</i>
20/058	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors – no decisions required</p> <p>Cllr Bass reported on his attendance at the Thurstable 100 Meeting hosted by the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC). The CEO Designate, Charlene Slade, was introduced and various CIF grant funds discussed. Cllr Bass took the opportunity to broach the lack of public participation on the Maldon LHP, contrasting it to the Braintree LHP and was pleased to report that the EALC would be looking into it.</p> <p>11 Speedwatch sessions in February had caught 173 vehicles exceeding the speed limit, and 31 vehicles had been captured by TRUCam. A report from the Police review of Speedwatch was expected in April.</p>
20/059	<p>General Village News and Events to Note</p> <p>The Parish Litter Pick on 28th March 2020, the Garden Festival and Scarecrow Week to be held 30th May to 7th June 2020 and the expected April re-opening of The Mitre Pub and Coffee Shop were noted.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to publicise the litter pick and call for volunteers.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>Cllrs Wardrop and Bass to visit the Car Sales business prior to the re-opening of The Mitre to discuss parking issues in the vicinity.</i></p>
20/060	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 20th March 2020 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am - Friday 20th March 2020 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>(if required)</i> - Tuesday 7th April 2020 Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm
20/061	<p>Close of Meeting 9.40pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual review of asset register and risk assessment (Finance meeting, 20th March) - Request for yellow lines by the Great Totham Road and The Street junction (Full Council, April) - Request for surfacing works to the north end of Handley's Lane (Full Council, April) - Consider whether to enter the RCCE Essex Village of the Year competition (Full Council, April)