

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

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 5th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
19/045	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, MacGregor, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mundell. There were two members of the public present.
19/046	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interests.
19/047	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 th February 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15 th February 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
19/048	Chairman's Report The Chairman advised that the source of the commercial waste, which had regularly filled the bin outside One Stop during the previous year, had been identified. Maldon District Council (MDC) would be arranging a commercial waste contract with the business responsible.
19/049	Clerk's Report Councillors were asked to monitor the streetlight at the Arbor Lane and Blacksmiths Lane junction, which had been reported as failed by a resident but observed working on inspection. A resident of Heybridge had been found to be responsible for littering in early January, and had received a £100 fine by the Community Protection Team (CPT). The Clerk stated that payment was overdue and further sanctions could be applied by the CPT if necessary. The Clerk reported that Essex Highways would be prioritising footway repairs. Councillors were pleased to note that the potholes outside 16 Blacksmiths Lane had been patched. Action: Councillors to nominate footway potholes for the priority programme, to the Clerk. The Clerk had spoken with the One Stop Area Manager regarding the parking issues and attending a possible Parish Council-facilitated meeting between the nearby businesses. One Stop staff's vehicles were now being parked at the rear of the building and options were being considered for marking out the spaces to the front to encourage efficient parking. The potholes appearing on One Stop's car park and verge damage were thought to be caused by One Stop delivery vehicles and the Clerk hoped to speak again with the Area Manager to raise these issues. Action: The Clerk to contact the CPT Leader and MDC Enforcement regarding untaxed vehicles parking on Great Totham Road and the apparent lack of customer parking at the Car Sales business. Cllr Wardrop reported that the defendant in the case of the Witham Road fatal collision had pleaded guilty to causing death by careless driving while impaired through drugs. It was therefore thought likely that Essex Highways would conclude that speeding restrictions would not be appropriate. Cllr Wardrop would be attending Braintree's Local Highways Panel meeting on 28 th March to progress the traffic light hours' extension.

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19/050	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Regarding the Regulation 14 Draft Plan Consultation, Cllr Williams, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, stated that a letter of objection had been received from a Planning Agent and a second Agent had requested additional data, otherwise the responses had raised no concerns. More responses were required from residents to ensure the Agent responses did not carry a disproportionate weight. Action: The Clerk to re-publicise the Draft Plan survey www.wickhambishopspc.org/neighbourhood-plan Action: Cllr Williams to establish the minimum acceptable response rate</p> <p>The second part of the biodiversity audit would be taking place in March and the NHP Steering Group would be meeting on 26th March. Action: Cllr Williams to contact the Trustees of Rectory Field to obtain their thoughts on the possible uses of the field, the length of lease remaining and the field's future on expiry of the lease.</p>
19/051	<p>Library Strategy Working Group Cllr Bates, the Chairman of the Library Strategy Working Group, read out a report on progress. Three members of the public had joined the group which had met twice in the month, and members had attended an Engagement Session and visited Clacton Community Managed Library (CML). Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex County Council's (ECC's) Legal Services team would provide a legal framework for a CML; • ECC would provide: - DBS checks for volunteers, the existing books and shelving, a rotating stock of books and some initial handover; • Cllr Barker CC would be available to visit Parish Councils and CML groups; • A free-of-charge valuation and structural survey of the building had been arranged; • Maldon District Council had offered its support for the library and the neighbouring parishes were being approached; • Library volunteers and ideas for additional uses of the building were being sought; • ECC Full Council would be debating an opposition motion at 10am on 12th March to withdraw the library closure programme. <p>Additionally, a letter from Witham MP Ms Priti Patel had been circulated, asking for the Parish Council's views on the future of the library and how it could be maintained. Action: The Clerk to respond to Ms Priti Patel MP and to research grant sources towards acquiring the building and meeting its ongoing running costs. Action: The Clerk to provide a copy of the air raid shelter lease to the working group.</p> <p>Cllr Bates urged the members of the public to continue to make their views known to Cllr Barker CC.</p>
19/052	<p>Public Forum A member of the public suggested a mobile banking vehicle could use the library carpark, and the building could house the Wickham Bishops branch medical surgery should the Kelvedon Road site close. Further discussion provided many interesting suggestions for community use of the library building. Two members of the public left the meeting.</p>
19/053	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions D/Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the application due to the possibility of his involvement in determining the application at Maldon District Council.</p> <p><u>Application</u> 19/00203/RES - Land Adjacent Shamrock Cottage Tiptree Road Wickham Bishops No letters of representation had been received. Councillors noted that the application had been submitted within the three-year permission period following approval of a four-bedroomed dwelling, and that the new application was for a three-bedroomed cottage in the same location. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>The following decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18/01333/FUL - Land North West of Fernbrook Hall Mope Lane Wickham Bishops – REFUSED - 19/00051/HOUSE - 17 School Road Wickham Bishops – REFUSED

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	There were no delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk, or decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate, to note.
19/054	Governance: Protocol Adoption Resolved: The Parish Council adopted the 'Death of a Senior National Figure' protocol. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Jarvis.
19/055	Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor. Resolved: The Parish Council would budget £100 for a public meeting regarding the possible closure of Wickham Bishops library (<i>in accordance with the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s.1(1)</i>). Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
19/056	Monthly Councillor Surgeries There were three visitors to the 16 th February surgery, which was also attended by two PCSOs, who stated that patrols of Mope Lane were continuing. Residents reported concerns with the possible closure of the library and a lengthy dispute with the County Council over a lack of resurfacing of the northern part of Handleys Lane. The Clerk had since referred the Handleys Lane complainant to Cllr Durham CC to ensure the byway is added to County Highways' list of maintainable routes. Action: <i>The Clerk to write to Cllr Durham CC and the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, regarding the non-delivery of road planings for the middle part of Handleys Lane and delayed invoice payment.</i> Attendees at the 16 th March surgery would be Cllrs Jarvis and Wardrop. Action: <i>Cllr Bates to update the website to show the library location for the surgeries.</i>
19/057	Neighbourhood Watch Report There was nothing to report from the NHW Coordinator during February.
19/058	District Council Report D/Cllr Bass had met with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and had been surprised at the low scale of drug misuse recorded in the district. The replacement saplings for Rainbow Field had been supplied by the District Council and planted by the Community Payback Team. The remaining tree whips had been replanted to fill any gaps by D/Cllr Bass. Action: <i>The Clerk to write to Ms Suzanne Finch of MDC to express the Parish Council's gratitude.</i> Maldon DC was waiting for final approval from ECC to take over the project and funding for flooding alleviation along Grange Road, which would be carried out before 31 st March 2019.
19/059	Correspondence to Note The letter from Witham MP Ms Priti Patel regarding the library closure plans was noted. A request from the Community Protection Team asking for the Parish Council's requirements for the year ahead was noted and would be considered by the Finance Committee.
19/060	Progress Reports from Councillors Cllr Bass had seen the pole that would be installed for the village sign during warmer weather. The village gateways were shown as 'In Implementation' by Essex Highways with a £23,000 budget, and TRUCam use had recorded 51 vehicles speeding in the parish in January and February, each likely to attract a fixed penalty notice. Cllr Wardrop was pleased to report that numbers caught by the Speedwatch team had dropped, indicating that speeding was reducing. The Vehicle Activated Signs had been moved to the Birch Rise and Kelvedon Road sites.
19/061	General Village News to Note The work to re-open The Mitre was progressing, with the pub name appearing on the sign and wall. The Parish and District Council elections scheduled for 2 nd May were noted.

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19/062	Dates of Next Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Friday 15th March 2019 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am- Friday 15th March 2019 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i>- Tuesday 2nd April 2019 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm
19/063	Close of Meeting 9.47pm Items for future agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annual review of asset register and risk assessment (Finance Meeting, 15th March)- Community Protection Team resource request (Finance Meeting, 15th March)- Consider a working group to develop ideas for Rectory Field (Full Council, 2nd April)