

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I D Wardrop (Chairman)
 H M Bass
 P J Bates
 K W Jarvis
 P D Layley
 M Mickelsen
 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 7th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom

Item	Subject
23/044	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop</p> <p>Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, Layley, Mickelsen, Morgan, Nappo & Williams and the Clerk.</p> <p>There were approximately 50 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were received from County Cllr Durham.</p>
23/045	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>In connection with his involvement with Witham Constituency Conservative Association, Cllr Bass declared that, along with Priti Patel, he had met with and visited residents objecting to 23/00123/OUTM but had made no comment.</p> <p>As he now sat on MDC's NW Area Planning Committee, Cllr Morgan declared that he would not take part in discussion or voting on Planning matters under 23/049.</p>
23/046	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2023 were approved as a true record, proposed by Cllr Wardrop, seconded by Cllr Mickelsen, all in favour.</p>
23/047	<p>Chairman's Report Nothing specific to report not already on the Agenda.</p>
23/048	<p>Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person</p> <p>The Chairman explained that this was the opportunity for residents to express their views about items on the agenda. Normally, 15 minutes would be allowed in total but in view of the large number of residents present, the Chairman was quite happy to allow extra time to give everyone the opportunity of having their say.</p> <p>Several residents spoke to voice their strong objections to Planning Application 23/00123/OUTM and gave detailed reasons why 50 new dwellings should not be given consent. The Chairman checked with those present that no-one wished to voice opinions in support of the application.</p> <p>One resident raised continued concerns over traffic issues since the gap had been closed between Mrs Salisbury's Tea Room and One Stop car parks.</p>

	<p>The Chairman thanked all those for attending and assured residents that their comments and concerns would be taken into account when WBPC submitted their response to MDC. He urged them to also write to MDC as they would make the final decision. He advised that Priti Patel MP opposed the Application and had offered her support.</p>
<p>23/049</p>	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions <i>It was noted that Cllr Morgan would not take part in discussions or voting on Planning Applications as he may be required to do so at MDC.</i></p> <p>As Planning Committee Chair, Cllr Bass took the Chair for this item.</p> <p>23/00123/OUTM Land rear of 9 Church Road. Outline planning permission with matters of access for consideration for the demolition of 9 Church Road, creation of new access and development of up to 50 dwellings including associated car parking, open space and landscaping.</p> <p>Over 70 letters of objection had been received to date by the Parish Council. Following discussion and taking into account all the comments received both from those present at the meeting and by letter/email, Resolved: Cllr Bass recommended REFUSAL seconded by Cllr Williams, all in favour (Cllr Morgan abstained).</p> <p>The following Action Points were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDC to be asked for more time to comment, to enable a full and comprehensive submission to be drafted and consideration given to this at the 4th April 2023 PC Meeting. (The Clerk to write to MDC) • A local resident involved in the NHP Steering Group and with planning expertise had offered to draft a response for WBPC and members agreed to accept this offer. (The Clerk to write) • A list of valid reasons for objection to this Application would be placed on WBPC’s website to assist residents with letters to MDC. (The Clerk and/or Cllr Bates to action) <p>To give consideration to appointing a planning consultant to assist the Parish Council with the Land rear of 9 Church Road Planning Application</p> <p>One resident who had used the services of a consultant when this Application had been submitted and went to Appeal in 2017, offered to update the previous documents and make these available to the Parish Council, for which he was thanked. Resolved: Councillors agreed unanimously to seek professional help from a planning consultant to assist with a possible Appeal should the Application be refused. The impact of additional traffic created by 50 new dwellings would be unacceptable and therefore a highways/road safety expert would also be sought.</p> <p>23/00139/HOUSE 8 Buckleys Close Erection of two storey rear extension and infill of existing passageway. Resolved: The Parish Council had no objections and recommended APPROVAL.</p> <p><u>The following decisions made by MDC were noted:</u> FUL/MAL/22/00607 Former Timber Yard North of Grove Wood, Mope Lane. Erection of a detached dwelling. REFUSED.</p>

	<p>PDE/MAL/22/01270 29 Holt Drive. Single storey extension. APPROVED.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/22/01163 8 Buckleys Close. Erection of two storey rear extension and infill of existing passageway. REFUSED.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/22/01152 19 Church Green. Two storey side extension, part single and part two storey rear extension and loft conversion. Photovoltaic panels to main roof on front elevation. REFUSED.</p> <p>The following Appeal Decision was noted: Appeal Ref APP/X1545/W/22/3305860, Little House, 8 Witham Road. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two storey detached replacement dwelling and detached bungalow. APPEAL DISMISSED.</p> <p>The following Appeals made to the Secretary of State were noted: Appeal Ref APP/X1545/D/23/3316313, 8 Buckleys Close. Erection of two storey rear extension and infill of existing passageway.</p> <p>Appeal Ref APP/X1545/D/23/3315390, 14 Roots Lane. Proposed two storey front, side and rear extension to dwelling including building over existing single storey attached garage. Widening of existing vehicular drop kerb access.</p>
23/050	<p>Mrs Salisbury's Tea Room/One Stop Car Parks</p> <p>To note further correspondence and review current situation Members noted correspondence from several residents who continued to be concerned about motorists and pedestrians in this area. Members were reminded that the One Stop freeholder was away but hoped to have a site visit on her return with a view to considering possibilities and solutions. Due to the success of Mrs Salisbury's Tea Room, cars were now parking on the pavement and along Great Totham Road. Whilst members wanted all local businesses to flourish, concerns remained over traffic and pedestrian safety. Cllr Durham had been chased again about the possibility of Highways carrying out a Road Safety Assessment. The Chairman suggested we wait for a response from Cllr Durham and the One Stop freeholder and continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>Formally give consideration to making an application under S31 of the Highways Act 1980 Cllr Morgan explained the very long and potentially extremely expensive process. Resolved: After full consideration and noting this was not something a Parish Council would normally undertake, members agreed not to make a Section 31 Application, proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bates, all in favour.</p>
23/051	<p>Traffic Calming & Highway Matters Members were pleased to note that Highways had cleared the gullies along Wickham Hall Lane which hopefully would improve the drainage situation in periods of heavy rain.</p> <p>Pedestrian footway, Tiptree Road Following notification that Highways planned to install the pedestrian footway from Mackmurdo Place to Snows Corner, two Tiptree Road residents had contacted WBPC to complain that they had not been consulted about the works. The Clerk had put them in touch with Cllr Durham.</p> <p>Gigaclear cabinet, Snows Corner A resident had written again still unhappy about the location of this cabinet outside their property with Gigaclear vans churning up the grass. They asked</p>

	<p>that the cabinet be moved to the Church Road verge. Councillors agreed to remind Gigaclear of their offer to provide additional screening to the boundary of the affected property and to ask that they should not park their vehicles on the grass verge because of the damage being caused. However, Councillors did not feel it was justified to ask Gigaclear to spend a large sum to move the cabinet to another location.</p> <p>There were areas of pavements and roads which had been unsatisfactorily reinstated due to recent works by Gigaclear and Cadent Gas and it was agreed that this matter be considered fully at the April PC Meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to contact Gigaclear and make sure that the black property connection covers were fitted flush to the pavement/highway as some were currently considered to be a trip hazard.</p>																																																																																																			
23/052	<p>District Councillor Report District Councillor Morgan reported that following a review of MDC’s budget, there would be a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, MDC were now offering an ‘open door policy’ 9am – 4pm at their offices, and the first week of Hearings for the A12 widening scheme had taken place which had included a site visit by the Inspector to Blue Mills Nature Reserve.</p>																																																																																																			
23/053	<p>County Councillor Report County Councillor Durham was not present.</p>																																																																																																			
23/054	<p>Three Parishes Remembrance Day Traffic Control Committee The meeting formally considered and agreed in principle to share the organisation and implement suitable traffic control measures with Great Braxted and Little Braxted Parish Councils, proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen, all in favour.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Morgan was looking into the insurance implications involved in the three parish councils sharing the organisation of Remembrance Day and hoped to find a solution.</p>																																																																																																			
23/055	<p>Finance Members received and acknowledged the Budget Performance document provided by the Clerk. The following bank balances on 28th February 2023 were noted: Unity Trust Current Account - £10,140.61; Unity Trust Instant Access Account - £10,000; Debit Card - £58.76. Resolved: Cllr Bass proposed that the following payments be authorised, seconded by Cllr Layley, all in favour.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="9">PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Voucher</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Bank</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Supplier</th> <th>VAT Type</th> <th>Net</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>108</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Clerks Salary</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>E</td> <td>800.29</td> <td></td> <td>800.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>108</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Clerks Salary</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>E</td> <td>25.00</td> <td></td> <td>25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>109</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>HP Instant Ink</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>S</td> <td>8.32</td> <td>1.67</td> <td>9.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>110</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Scribe Accounts Annual Subscription</td> <td>Scribe Accounts</td> <td>S</td> <td>311.04</td> <td>62.21</td> <td>373.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>111</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Payroll Services</td> <td>J&M Payroll Services</td> <td>S</td> <td>27.50</td> <td>5.50</td> <td>33.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>112</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Payroll Services</td> <td>J&M Payroll Services</td> <td>S</td> <td>27.50</td> <td>5.50</td> <td>33.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>113</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Payroll Services</td> <td>J&M Payroll Services</td> <td>S</td> <td>27.50</td> <td>5.50</td> <td>33.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>114</td> <td>07/03/2023</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Pond Liner</td> <td>Cllr Jane Williams</td> <td>X</td> <td>41.60</td> <td></td> <td>41.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>1,268.75</td> <td>80.38</td> <td>1,349.13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>King Charles III Coronation – to note any local events and consider contributing financially It seemed that there were no official events being organised locally. Members were asked to direct any enquiries to the Clerk should they hear of any celebrations.</p>	PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST									Voucher	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total	108	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerks Salary	Mrs L A Bailey	E	800.29		800.29	108	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerks Salary	Mrs L A Bailey	E	25.00		25.00	109	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	HP Instant Ink	Mrs L A Bailey	S	8.32	1.67	9.99	110	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Scribe Accounts Annual Subscription	Scribe Accounts	S	311.04	62.21	373.25	111	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Payroll Services	J&M Payroll Services	S	27.50	5.50	33.00	112	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Payroll Services	J&M Payroll Services	S	27.50	5.50	33.00	113	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Payroll Services	J&M Payroll Services	S	27.50	5.50	33.00	114	07/03/2023	Unity Trust Current Account	Pond Liner	Cllr Jane Williams	X	41.60		41.60	Total						1,268.75	80.38	1,349.13
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23/056	<p>Governance Review Members agreed unanimously to re-adopt, without the need for any changes, the Standing Orders & Financial Regulations.</p>																																																																																																			

23/057	<p>Parish Council Monthly Surgeries Cllr Mickelsen reported the following queries raised at the February Surgery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident concerned about the status of the trees in Chantry Wood (the section that met Tiptree Road where there were no TPO's). Cllr Durham agreed to check on their status. • Another resident concerned about Friday night music nights at Olios in the summer and had found it loud and intrusive. Cllr Durham agreed to look at the terms of their outside music licence. • Another resident concerned about road works in Witham Road where no work appeared to be being done. Again, Cllr Durham agreed to look this up, as it did not appear on the Highways map. <p>Saturday 18th March – Cllrs Morgan and Wardrop to attend Saturday 15th April – Cllr Jarvis and Williams to attend</p>
23/058	<p>Correspondence Parish Council Elections 4th May – The timetable received from MDC was noted.</p>
23/059	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors – no decisions required Cllr Wardrop reported that 13 Speedwatch sessions had been held during February with 138 vehicles caught exceeding the speed limit. A Police Officer had accompanied the volunteers on one session and had stopped and issued a ticket to a speeding motorist. Cllr Morgan confirmed he was now Speedwatch-trained.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis gave a brief report on Library matters, on the works which had just begun to provide an accessible toilet, and efforts to get a new Scrabble Club up and running.</p> <p>On Biodiversity Project Group matters, Cllr Williams reported on recent improvement works to the library pond. The Biodiversity Group hoped to put up more bird and bat boxes and Maypole Garden Centre were currently offering boxes at a discounted price to residents, which had been advertised on the FB page.</p>
23/060	<p>General Village News and Events to Note There were none.</p>
23/061	<p>Date of Next Meetings: Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 4th April 2023, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom Planning Committee Meeting (if required) – date to be confirmed Annual Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 16th May 2023, 7pm, Village Hall Boardroom Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday 16th May 2023, 8.30pm, Village Hall Small Hall</p>
23/062	<p>Close of Meeting There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>