

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 5th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
19/186	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass (arr. 7.31pm), Bates, MacGregor, Mundell, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence from Cllr Jarvis were given. The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Ms Sian Bewick was present. No other members of the public were present.
19/187	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interests.
19/188	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 st October 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bates. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 th October 2019 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr MacGregor. Cllr Bass joined the meeting.
19/189	Chairman's Report The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Mickelsen, had nothing to report from October.
19/190	Clerk's Report The Clerk stated that the benches and fingerpost sign had been painted and the Tommy soldier installed. Maldon District Council (MDC) had been asked to install the new dog bins and, following advice from County Cllr Mark Durham, the Clerk would be raising a Local Highways Panel request for 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signage at the entrances to Carters Lane. The Manager of Benton Hall Golf Club had instructed staff to look at trimming the hedge along Mope Lane. No response had been received from the residents responsible for the overgrown hedge at Hill Place Cottage on Station Road, nor from the DVLA regarding the parking of untaxed vehicles. Action: The Clerk to write to Benton Hall Golf Club asking that the Blue Mills Hill hedge be trimmed. Action: The Clerk to ask the Parish Council's insurers if it provides cover for Councillors to trim verges.
<i>In consideration of the single member of public present, the chairman brought forward item 19/196</i>	
19/196	Neighbourhood Watch Report A report was received from the Wickham Bishops NHW Coordinator, detailing several car break-ins on 28 th October around Wellands, Church Road and Witham Road. Belongings had been disturbed and small amounts of cash stolen. A progress report had been requested from the local Policing team. The Clerk had contacted PCSO Hauley and would be forwarding to him, the CCTV footage from Facebook. A parishioner had expressed on Facebook their plan to arrange a meeting of several parishes with Essex Police and private security firms, and to explore the use of instant messaging to inform residents of possible risks. The NHW Coordinator would attend the meeting and adopt any feasible process improvements.

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	<p>Cllr Nicholas stated that a vehicle had been stolen from Wellands on the morning of 3rd November and had since been recovered.</p> <p>The Coordinator concluded by explaining that Wickham Bishops remained a safe place in which to live and recommended precautions such as garaging the most desirable cars or parking them behind other vehicles and ensuring they are securely locked at night. Victims of crime were urged to report them to 999 or 101 and to their NHW Street Coordinator.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's support and gratitude to Ms Bewick and the Street Coordinators, noting that all the volunteers gave up considerable amounts of their time.</p> <p>The NHW Coordinator left the meeting.</p>
19/191	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The leader of the NHP Working Group, Cllr Williams, was pleased to announce the draft of the Landscape Character Assessment had arrived and its findings would be examined at the next meeting of the Group, on 19th November. The recommendations would be included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
19/192	<p>Library Strategy Working Group</p> <p>The report from Cllr Jarvis was noted. The Open Day had been busy with over 80 people signed up for various clubs and a quote obtained for the grant-funded furniture. The building condition and running costs reports had still not been provided by Essex County Council (ECC).</p>
19/193	<p>Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person</p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
19/194	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>19/01099/HOUSE - 17 Kelvedon Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr MacGregor, summarised the application and stated that the dwelling backed onto the sports field; it was therefore not overlooked to the rear. The garden was long and Councillors considered that it was of sufficient size for the proposed extension. The street scene was felt to be improved by the design.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>There were no delegated responses made by the Parish Clerk, or decisions made by Maldon District Council, to note.</p> <p>The decision made by the Planning Inspectorate was noted.</p>
19/195	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There was one visitor to the 19th October Surgery, expressing concerns about parking at The Mitre and Snows Corner, and the lack of footway from Mackmurdo Place to Snows Corner. Councillors updated the resident on the actions being taken on each item.</p> <p>Attendees at the 16th November Surgery will be Cllrs Bass and Mundell.</p>
19/197	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>The report from District Councillor Jarvis was noted. D/Cllr Jarvis had been selected as Vice-Chairman of the newly-created Performance, Governance and Audit committee, which had immediately called for an explanation of why MDC's accounts had missed a statutory deadline.</p> <p>The District Council's re-organisation had progressed to a substantial recruitment phase, and the North Heybridge Garden Suburb would be going ahead, after receiving approval by MDC for its latest plans and winning its earlier appeal. Finally, MDC was considering building a cinema in Maldon.</p> <p>Cllr Bass noted the Clerk's account to D/Cllr Jarvis, of MDC's Tree Consultant reportedly introducing and recommending a Tree Surgeon to residents.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to ask D/Cllr Jarvis to raise the matter formally at MDC and to provide a response.</p>

19/198	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolved: The payment made between meetings was ratified, the balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bass.</p> <p>Resolved: The volunteer celebration would be held on December 3rd; funding for the event was delegated to the Finance Committee for approval. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllrs Bass and Wardrop to organise the event, preferably to be held at the Prince of Wales pub.</i></p>
19/199	<p>Traffic Calming, Local Highways Panel and South Essex Parking Partnership Requests</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop explained that a request had been received for yellow lines at the junction of Wellands and Witham Road. Councillors concluded that the issue had recently abated and no motion was put forward.</p> <p>The Council's suggestions of a boxed junction near Five Corners and a dangerous bend warning sign to the south on Maypole Road had been submitted to the Maldon LHP Liaison Officer. The next meeting of the LHP was expected in December.</p> <p>The Braintree LHP Liaison Officer had confirmed the traffic light timing 3-month trial would likely start by the end of December and would be operational from 6am to 9pm every day.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to the occupant of the 40 Kelvedon Road asking that their hedge be cut back, as it was obstructing clear sightlines when turning right onto Beacon Hill.</i></p>
19/200	<p>BT 'Phone Box</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would object to the removal of the telephone box as it provides the only emergency access to communication within at least 3km for someone who does not have access to a working mobile phone or a landline. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Bass.</p>
19/201	<p>Trestle Bridge Scheduled Ancient Monument</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to Essex County Council, referring to the statement from Historic England and offering the Parish Council's support to any grant funding application that ECC might wish to make, to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) ensure the structure is safe for users of the nearby public footpath;</i> <i>(ii) in the national interest, secure the trestle bridge's future with essential maintenance.</i>
19/202	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>The Freedom of Information request regarding Looked After Children and the email asking for land ownership details were noted. The Clerk reminded the Council that requests for personally-identifiable information should be refused, to meet GDPR regulations.</p>
19/203	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors</p> <p>The Speedwatch team had held ten sessions in October, capturing details of 137 vehicles exceeding the speed limits. The TRUCam team in September caught 24 in three hours.</p> <p>Following a report of a resident slipping on the wooden bridge across Footpath 1, Cllr Nicholas and members of the Public Rights of Way volunteer team inspected the bridge and removed some wet leaves.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Nicholas to examine Footpath 3 behind Linton on Station Road, which had reportedly been damaged by the nearby construction works.</i></p> <p>The vandalised dog waste bag holder by Rainbow Path had been replaced by Cllr Mundell.</p>
19/204	<p>General Village News to Note:</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Wardrop would lay the Parish Council's wreath at the Remembrance Day Service on 10th November 2019 at 2.30pm at the War Memorial.</p>
19/205	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 15th November 2019 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am - Friday 15th November 2019 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> - Tuesday 3rd December 2019 Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm (<i>earlier time</i>)
19/206	<p>Close of Meeting 9.34pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of updated Financial Regulations (December) - Budget and precept approval (December)