

# 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Essex Village of the Year 2015  
[www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org](http://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](mailto:info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org)

<b>MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting</b> <b>held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.33pm in the Village Hall Boardroom</b>	
Item	Subject
18/213	<b>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</b> In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass (arr. 8.15pm), Bates, MacGregor, Mundell, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jarvis and Nicholas. There were three members of the public present including the Tree Warden Mr Chris Cooke.
18/214	<b>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</b> There were no Declarations of Interests.
18/215	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <b>Resolved:</b> that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr MacGregor. <b>Resolved:</b> that the minutes of the additional Parish Council meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
18/216	<b>Public Forum</b> A member of the public reported their observations following the fatal road traffic collision on Witham Road on the night of 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, and urged the Parish Council to campaign for traffic calming measures to reduce the likelihood of further tragedies.
<i>In consideration of the members of the public attending, item 18/226 was discussed following item 18/216.</i>	
18/217	<b>Chairman's Report</b> The Chairman announced she would be reading a lesson at the 'Nine Lessons and Carols' December service at St Bartholomew's Church, and reported on a meeting about possible flood alleviation works for Grange Road. Sadly, Essex County Council had been forced to abandon the project due to one landowner's refusal to take part.
18/218	<b>Clerk's Report</b> The Clerk thanked Cllr Williams for volunteering to join a cross-parish Remembrance planning group, and asked for helpers to aid Cllr MacGregor in moving the soldier silhouette on the 12 <sup>th</sup> November. The missing Maldon Road sign by the traffic lights had been reported to Witham's Town Clerk, who would be arranging its reinstatement. A request to Essex Highways' Cyclical Maintenance Team to increase the frequency of weed suppression at Blue Mills Bridge had been raised. The Clerk reported that all the potholes identified to Cllr Mark Durham CC would be added to the priority list. Maldon District Council had agreed to provide new No Through Road signs where needed. The Clerk advised that the annual Rough Sleeper Estimate would be held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November and asked that she be informed of anyone sleeping rough in the parish that night. Cllr Bass joined the meeting.

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<b>18/219</b>	<b>Planning Applications and Decisions</b> Cllr Mickelsen explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. D/Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the applications due to the possibility of his involvement in determining the applications at MDC.  <u>Applications</u> <u>18/01172/ADV - The Chequers Inn 32 The Street Wickham Bishops</u> No letters of representation had been received. The proposed sign and illumination were not considered to be out of keeping with the building and it was noted that the Conservation Officer had raised no objection. <b>Resolved:</b> The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr MacGregor.  The decision made by Maldon District Council was noted. There were no delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk, or Planning Inspectorate decisions, to note.
<b>18/220</b>	<b>Governance: Adoption of a Pre-Application Protocol</b> <b>Resolved:</b> The proposed Pre-Application Protocol was adopted, with a minor amendment to section 3 to clarify that approaches from developers to individual Councillors would always be referred to the full Council. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Williams.  Two members of the public left the meeting.
<b>18/221</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> Cllr Williams reported that it was hoped the Neighbourhood Plan would begin its Regulation 14 consultation on 16 <sup>th</sup> November. The grant funds had been received and the order for the biodiversity audit placed. A recent meeting with Maldon District Council had looked at the nomination of potential Green Spaces; some questions remained over which would be put forward.
<b>18/222</b>	<b>Consider Nominating the Library Building and/or Air Raid Shelter as Assets of Community Value</b> <b>Resolved:</b> The library building and air raid shelter would be listed as assets of community value. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Bates. <b>Action:</b> <i>The Clerk to commence the listing process.</i>
<b>18/223</b>	<b>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</b> Visitors to the 20 <sup>th</sup> October Surgery asked for traffic calming measures to be implemented, following the fatal road traffic collision on Witham Road.  A complaint was made regarding overgrowing bushes along School Road, but upon investigation, enforcement action was not considered appropriate. <b>Action:</b> <i>Cllr Bates to include in the parish magazine, a reminder to residents to trim hedges and bushes to provide sufficient access for wheelchairs, pushchairs and emergency services.</i>  The attendees at the 17 <sup>th</sup> November Surgery will be Cllrs Mickelsen and Bates, with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Ms Sian Bewick. Attendees for 15 <sup>th</sup> December will be Cllrs MacGregor and Mundell.
<b>18/224</b>	<b>District Council Report</b> The District Councillor had met with Cllr Jo Beavis CC who had indicated some support for the extension of the operating hours of the Maldon Road / Blue Mills Hill traffic lights. The County and District Councillors had agreed that 24-hour operation would be preferable to minimise consultation costs.  The reorganisation of the District Council was continuing. As Chairman of the District Council, Cllr Bass would be attending the District Remembrance event.  Some complaints about parking near Great Totham Primary School had been received and the Enforcement team was expected to review the situation.
<b>18/225</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Watch Report</b> The NHW Coordinator had reported a quiet month in the parish, which contrasted with several burglaries in Mope Lane in September.
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<b>18/226</b>	<p><b>Traffic Calming</b></p> <p>Cllr Wardrop stated that the Parish Council's previous request for a 40mph speed limit along Witham Road had been refused by County Highways, following a December 2016 speed survey which found that average speeds were approximately 38mph. Countdown markers to the 30mph zone had also been rejected as not meeting national guidelines, and the housing density in the national speed limit section did not justify a speed restriction being imposed. In light of the fatality and previous collisions in the area, Essex Highways might now re-consider introducing a speed restriction.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Kevin Bentley CC had agreed to inform the Parish Council of the collision investigation findings, and Cllr Wardrop had been promised the same by Essex Police. No findings would be released before the inquest and criminal proceedings were concluded.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The Parish Council would raise again, the Local Highways Panel (LHP) request to introduce a 40mph speed restriction along Witham Road from Blue Mills bridge to the 30mph zone near Birch Rise.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>The Clerk to re-submit the LHP request</i></p> <p>The traffic count through the village, required for the requested build-outs and white gates, showed that average speeds along The Street did not exceed 30mph whilst averages of 35 to 37mph were observed at Birch Rise and Maypole Road. The projects were still being validated, and the LHP request for SLOW markings to Wellands at the sharp bend had been accepted into validation.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop reported that the TRUCam team had caught 23 people in October for speeding, all of whom would face possible police action. The Clerk explained that there was sufficient money in the Speedwatch budget to continue TRUCam through November, and the budget could be extended at the December meeting following the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Finance Committee meeting.</p>
<b>18/227</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Williams.</p>
<b>18/228</b>	<p><b>Correspondence to Note:</b></p> <p>The emails regarding Maldon District Council's withdrawal of funding from the County Council's Superfast Essex programme were noted.</p>
<b>18/229</b>	<p><b>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – no decisions required.</b></p> <p>As part of the Remembrance Day events, the Chairman would be ringing the church bells, laying the Parish Council's wreath and reading the names of the fallen of Wickham Bishops at the beacon lighting ceremony.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Cllr Bass and Mr Chris Cooke to establish possible options for repairing the damage done by the mower to the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday commemorative trees in Rainbow Field.</i></p> <p>The village sign painting was complete and would be transferred to Cllr Bass's dwelling for safekeeping.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Cllrs Bass and Mundell to inspect the original sign installation hole to see if it could be re-used for a new pole. Cllr Bass to obtain a quotation for pole supply.</i></p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>The Clerk to raise a request that the bent 'Welcome to Wickham Bishops' sign at Blue Mills be mended or replaced.</i></p>
<b>18/230</b>	<p><b>General Village News</b></p> <p>The parish magazine team was considering introducing a charge to the community groups for including their monthly reports in the publication.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Cllr Bates to obtain the cost for the Parish Council's two pages.</i></p>
<b>18/231</b>	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am</li> <li>- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></li> <li>- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm</li> </ul>
<b>18/232</b>	<p><b>Close of Meeting 9.47pm</b></p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget and precept approval (December)</li> </ul>