

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I D Wardrop (Chairman)
Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chair)
H M Bass
P J Bates
P D Layley
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
Wickham Bishops Parish Council
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Minutes of Wickham Bishops Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom

Item	Subject
24/165	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Layley, Mickelsen, Morgan, Nappo, Williams, the Clerk and County Councillor Durham. There were 25 members of the public present.</p>
24/166	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>Cllr Morgan would not take part in voting on Planning matters as he may be called upon to do so in his role at MDC.</p>
24/167	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop proposed the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September 2024 be accepted as a true record, seconded by Cllr Mickelsen, all in favour.</p>
24/168	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>It was reported that the library car park gates were now being locked when the library was closed. Anyone who needed access for the air raid shelter, clubs etc should ask the Chairman as he had obtained the padlock code.</p>
24/169	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>Following an email from a resident about advertising signs on telegraph poles around the village, the Clerk had reported to these to MDC again (we did so in September 2023). MDC had been unable to get a response from the company, so would remove the signs themselves.</p> <p>ECC had identified a dangerous bridge over the Blackwater Rail Trail (BR19) and had closed a section of the path. It was understood ECC had met with the landowner and agreed a field diversion, but this would take time to organise, as would repair to the bridge.</p> <p>Beacon Hill Rovers girls' team would like to thank WBPC for the recent grant towards their new kit and Cllr Wardrop and the Clerk agreed to meet them during training on 19th October at 10am.</p> <p>The Clerk had been in touch with a contractor capable of rotating the Speed Indicator Devices and was awaiting a quotation.</p>

	MDC had quoted £430 to provide and install a litter bin on Grange Road. To be considered on the November agenda for a decision as to whether funds were available this financial year or if it would have to wait until 2025/26.
24/170	Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person The Chairman suspended the meeting. Villagers expressed their concerns and objections to the proposed development at Crispins. Two members of the public representing the Plymouth Brethren Christian Group offered their services to help with anything they could in the village.
24/171	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions (Cllr Bass took the chair for this item).</p> <p>24/00604/OUT Land adjacent Crispins, Roots Lane Outline planning application with access for proposed 6 no. 3-bed bungalows with access road inc turning head off existing drive. The Chair read out an email received from the developer which confirmed that the proposed road would terminate within the application site and could not be extended. The developer advised that the current owners did not wish to provide access to the adjacent land on the western side and had placed a ransom strip on the site perimeter to stop any further development in future. Members acknowledged letters of objection from 5 residents. Members discussed the application and considered the points made by those present. Resolved: Cllr Wardrop recommended REFUSAL on the following grounds, seconded Cllr Layley, all in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is outside the village envelope, contrary to LDP Policy S8 • The development is too dense and the plots too small, contrary to LDP Policy D1 • The proposals would urbanise an area currently rural in nature and be out of keeping with this part of the village and Grange Road, contrary to LDP Policy H4 • The access road is far too narrow for this number of properties and the amount of cars/traffic that would be generated. • WBPC are gravely concerned that this could lead to further development to the west. • We have concerns as to whether drains and ditches could cope with the extra properties as during heavy rainfall nearby residents currently experience problems with sewage systems backing up. • We would like this Application called-in and considered by the NW Area Planning Committee <p>24/00744/FUL Land adjacent Fieldway, Station Road Vineyard building with first floor offices. A letter of objection from a resident was acknowledged. Resolved: After discussion and considering the previous applications, Cllr Bass recommended REFUSAL on the grounds that a two-storey building on this site close to the carriageway was considered to be over-development and intrusive in the countryside. The proposed building was close to the carriageway and incongruous in the street scene and MDC would be reminded that they had refused a two-storey building 22/00935. WBPC accepted the need for storage in connection with the vineyard but did not approve of a two-storey building. Seconded Cllr Wardrop, all in favour. MDC would be asked that this application be called-in to be considered by the NW Area Planning Committee.</p> <p>24/00746/VAR The Folly, Mope Lane Variation of Condition 15 on approved planning permission 24/00440/FUL. The variation concerned the removal of permitted development rights. Resolved: It was agreed that members did not want the development rights removed, and Cllr Bass recommended REFUSAL, all in favour. A query would be raised over the land outside the red line on the plan.</p>

	<p>24/00748/HOUSE Fairview House, Back Lane Demolition of detached garage to facilitate a two- storey front and side link extension with Juliet balcony to front, single storey projection to side. Two storey front extension with front glazed gable end and canopy projection with pillars. Alterations to bay windows to front, part two storey, part single storey rear extensions, alterations to fenestration. Resolved: WBPC unanimously recommended APPROVAL.</p> <p><u>The following delegated response was noted:</u> 24/00410/RES_ Land adj Five Corners, Maypole Road The revised plans make no difference to the comments submitted in May 2024 and therefore we recommend REFUSAL.</p> <p><u>The following decisions made by MDC were noted:</u> NMA/MAL/24/00714 Linden, 8 School Road Amendment to rear elevation APPROVED</p> <p>VAR/MAL/24/00558 Wickham Art Barn, Station Road Variation of Condition 2 on 24/00211/HOUSE APPROVED</p> <p>WTPO/MAL/24/00554 26 Blacksmiths Lane Works to Sycamore tree. APPROVED</p> <p>RES/MAL/24/00410 Land adj Five Corners, Maypole Road. APPROVED. Councillors were surprised to hear that this had been approved and wondered why it had not gone to NW Area Planning Committee as requested.</p> <p><u>The following withdrawn application was noted:</u> 24/00593/LDP Pine Trees, The Street Replacement conservatory roof including roof lights.</p>
24/172	<p>Land rear of 9 Church Road – Planning Appeal – update if any Nothing to report.</p>
24/173	<p>Traffic Calming & Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Email correspondence from a resident with general traffic concerns</u> Acknowledged. • <u>Five Corners junction, proposed 40mph limit – update on current position.</u> Cllr Durham explained that this would not now go ahead due to there being no funds available. • <u>Pedestrian crossing and The Mitre junction – update on current position.</u> Cllr Wardrop had written to Cllr Durham (as agreed at the last meeting), requesting a site meeting with Jon Simmonds. Cllr Durham to chase. • <u>To note response from freeholder re extended dropped kerb, One Stop.</u> The One Stop freeholder confirmed that approval had been received for the extended dropped kerb, with payment expected by One Stop. The Clerk had chased. • Give consideration to 20's Plenty. Cllr Durham advised that the scheme could not operate in this area. <p>Cllr Bass suggested, and members agreed, that our priorities should be a) the meeting with Jon Simmonds and b) Maypole Road/Witham Road through road – clearing vegetation from Blue Mills bridge, improving signage etc</p>
24/174	<p>District Councillor Report</p> <p>District Councillor Morgan reported that MDC were expecting a new Chief Executive this week, the St Peter's consultation had been postponed until February 2025, a robust response had been</p>

	<p>submitted to the NPPF consultation, the Finance Working Group would be looking at the budget and the next Full Council Meeting would take place on Tuesday.</p> <p>A query was raised over MDC's decision to discontinue supplying food waste bags and whether residents would be informed. Cllr Morgan reported that the decision had been a straightforward matter of economy.</p>																																																																																													
24/175	<p>County Councillor Report</p> <p>County Councillor Durham reported that ECC were currently budget-setting, devolution had been raised again and local government reform during this parliament was likely. The LHP budget had now been spent although money was available in his Locality Fund. More patching and resurfacing works would take place between now and March and Cllr Durham would add <i>Blue Mills Bridge vegetation cutting and improved signage, HGV and other along Witham Road</i> to his maintenance list.</p>																																																																																													
24/176	<p>Remembrance Sunday arrangements and agree to order wreath</p> <p>Cllr Morgan reported that the Little Braxted PC Clerk had organised the road closure etc. Action: The Clerk to order a wreath as usual for the Chairman to lay on Remembrance Sunday.</p>																																																																																													
24/177	<p>Firework Night – agree ‘Rocket o’clock’ notice as in previous years</p> <p>Members agreed to encourage residents to limit their fireworks to Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd and Tuesday 5th November to create as little disturbance as possible. Action: The Clerk to put up posters.</p>																																																																																													
24/178	<p>Village Notice Board outside Olio – Consider quotes for replacement</p> <p>Members agreed to forward the prices to BHSA for consideration. Action: The Clerk to forward to Cllr Williams, for liaison with BHSA. A second letter had been sent to Olios asking if they were OK with the notice board being installed in their boundary.</p>																																																																																													
24/179	<p>Consider quote from contractor for trimming back Platinum Footpath conifers</p> <p>The contractor had quoted £280. Resolved: Members were mindful of the offer from the owner of the trees. However, Cllr Wardrop proposed we accept the quote, seconded by Cllr Bates, all in favour.</p>																																																																																													
24/180	<p>Finance</p> <p>The following bank balances were noted, a total of £25,285.72:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td style="width: 20%;">30/09/2024</td> <td style="width: 20%; border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">14,821.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Instant Access</td> <td>30/09/2024</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,378.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Debit Card</td> <td>30/09/2024</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">86.15</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following payments were authorised, proposed by Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop, all in favour:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Code</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Date</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Bank</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Supplier</th> <th style="text-align: left;"></th> <th style="text-align: left;"></th> <th style="text-align: left;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>52</td> <td>Unity Bank charges</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Unity Bank charges</td> <td>Unity Bank</td> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>53</td> <td>Grasscutting</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Grasscutting</td> <td>D W Maintenance</td> <td>X</td> <td style="text-align: right;">85.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">85.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>53</td> <td>Platinum footpath</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Strimming Platinum f/p</td> <td>D W Maintenance</td> <td>X</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>54</td> <td>HMRC NIC & Tax</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Tax & NI</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.86</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55</td> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Clerk's salary</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: right;">842.18</td> <td style="text-align: right;">842.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55</td> <td>PC Office Allowance</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>PC Office Allowance</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>E</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>56</td> <td>Printing & Postage</td> <td>01/10/2024</td> <td>Unity Trust Current Account</td> <td>Hp Instant Ink</td> <td>Mrs L A Bailey</td> <td>S</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.99</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7" style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,045.03</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,047.03</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Unity Trust Current Account	30/09/2024		14,821.29	Unity Trust Instant Access	30/09/2024		10,378.28	Debit Card	30/09/2024		86.15	Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier			Total	52	Unity Bank charges	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Unity Bank charges	Unity Bank	E	18.00	18.00	53	Grasscutting	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Grasscutting	D W Maintenance	X	85.00	85.00	53	Platinum footpath	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Strimming Platinum f/p	D W Maintenance	X	30.00	30.00	54	HMRC NIC & Tax	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Tax & NI	HMRC	E	34.86	34.86	55	Clerk's Salary	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Clerk's salary	Mrs L A Bailey	E	842.18	842.18	55	PC Office Allowance	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	PC Office Allowance	Mrs L A Bailey	E	25.00	25.00	56	Printing & Postage	01/10/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Hp Instant Ink	Mrs L A Bailey	S	9.99	11.99	Total							1,045.03	2.00	1,047.03
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	<p><u>Schedule date for November Finance Committee Meeting</u> To be agreed between Cllrs Mickelsen, Wardrop, Williams and the Clerk.</p>
24/181	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors – no decisions required <u>Footpath Walks booklet</u> – Cllr Williams had recruited a resident to walk and measure the paths. Action: A meeting would be organised to discuss finalising the booklet.</p> <p><u>Housing Needs Survey distribution</u> – Councillors had distributed these by hand. The Chairman had retained spares if anyone had not received a copy.</p>
24/182	<p>Correspondence Woodland Trust – Free Trees. Noted.</p>
24/183	<p>Parish Council Surgeries <u>Note September surgery requests and consider action if required</u> Two residents raised concern about the Crispins proposals and one of those also expressed lack of action to repair damage to the carriageway of Grange Road. Another visitor to the surgery expressed concern about the condition of the Silver Birch tree in the library verge. Action: The Clerk to ask the Tree Warden to take a look.</p> <p><u>Saturday 19th October surgery</u> – Cllrs Wardrop and Layley to attend.</p>
24/184	<p>General Village News and Events to Note</p> <p>Cllr Bass had noticed that 4 Hand Post Cottages appeared unoccupied and with social housing in demand, asked if the Clerk could notify MDC Housing Department</p> <p>Handleys Lane excavation works – enquiries had been made through BHSA and ECC footpath team as to who had carried out the works, which were unfinished. BHSA had no knowledge of it. ECC thought it might be Essex & Suffolk Water and would investigate.</p> <p>It was noted that the Post Office was still not opening at regular times.</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that a replacement Editor had been found for the Parish Magazine albeit for only a year.</p> <p>Members noted that a rough sleeper was in a red car in the Church car park. The Church had no objection to him being there and had notified the authorities in case he needed assistance.</p> <p>Bus Service Improvement Scheme - Cllr Layley gave a brief outline.</p>
24/185	<p>Date of Next Meetings: Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 5th November 2024, 7.30pm, Village Hall Boardroom Finance Committee Meeting – date to be confirmed Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 3rd December 2024 (agree earlier start time)</p>
24/186	<p>Close of Meeting There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.</p>