

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I D Wardrop (Chairman)
S J Nicholas (Vice Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
K W Jarvis
P D Layley
M Mickelsen
R Mundell
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 Online Meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom and YouTube Broadcast held on Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Item	Subject
20/191	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, Layley, Mickelsen, Mundell, Nicholas and Williams and the Clerk, Lorraine Bailey. Cllr Mark Durham CC, Acting Police Sergeant Matt Dalby. There were 9 observers on the YouTube stream.</p>
20/192	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>There were none.</p>
20/193	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: The Minutes of the Online Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2020 were approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bass, all in favour.</p>
20/194	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Chairman had nothing additional to report other than items already on the Agenda.</p>
20/195	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk had attended a New Clerks Webinar on 3rd & 10th September 2020 and had circulated a short report. She reported that Cllr Layley had successfully adapted the worn PC Notice Board locks, for which he was thanked.</p> <p>Issues List</p> <p>Action: The Clerk was asked to chase Highways regarding three areas which continued to flood during wet weather - outside 10 Church Road, outside 40 Church Road, outside 2 Blacksmiths Lane and The Old Rectory Station Road which was causing erosion to the carriageway. In the case of The Old Rectory, Cllr Bass advised that the householder needed assistance from ECC to locate the storm drain. Cllr Durham agreed to look into these items if the PC could provide him with detailed locations and photographs if possible.</p>
20/196	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>No questions had been received from the public or press prior to the meeting.</p>
20/197	<p>Essex County Cllr Mark Durham</p> <p>Local Government Reform Cllr Durham explained that the intention of the Government to create unitary authorities was not anticipated until the middle of 2021. In the meantime, it was business as usual for MDC while they were waiting for the official Government White Paper. He would keep us abreast of developments.</p>

	<p>Planning for the Future White Paper This radical change to the planning system had caused much debate at MDC and Cllr Durham urged WBPC to respond to the consultation. He directed WBPC to the comments made by MDC and briefly outlined the proposals to abolish the CIL and S106 in favour of a national infrastructure levy which would not be payable until the end of a development.</p>
20/198	<p>Planning for the Future, White Paper – Government Reform of Planning System Cllr Jarvis advised that at a Meeting of MDC Minutes on 1st October 2020 Planning Officer Matt Leigh had presented his comments and these could be helpful to us in formulating our response. Action: <i>The Chairman agreed to draft a response taking this into account as well as the advice received from NALC and others on the subject.</i></p>
20/199	<p>Acting Police Sergeant Matt Dalby – Local Police Matters The meeting thanked A/PS Dalby for attending and raised two matters currently causing concern to residents – hazardous parking close to the junction of Wellands/Witham Road and general speeding through the village. A/PS Dalby advised that he had been made aware of these issues prior to the meeting and had set up Operation Moonlight to deal with these two items, to commence Sunday 11th October.</p> <p>On the question of a single point of contact for the Police for non-urgent matters (someone who is familiar with Wickham Bishops), PC Chris Major had been newly appointed to the role of Community Support Engagement Officer and would endeavour to improve relations going forward. A/PS Dalby promised to provide a direct email address that we could use in future.</p>
20/200	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions <i>It was noted that District Councillor Jarvis would not take part in voting on Planning Applications as he may be required to do so at MDC.</i></p> <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>20/00837/FUL, Erection of stable block/car port and construction of manege for personal use, Bouncers Farm, Wickham Hall Lane Consideration was given as to whether the stable block would be built forward of the building line/roadway. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL, proposed Cllr Bass seconded Cllr Wardrop, all in favour.</p> <p>20/00928/HOUSE, Single storey garden room, Middle Watch, Blacksmiths Lane (Cllr Bass knew the applicant and declared a personal interest). Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL, proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop, all in favour.</p> <p>20/00860/FUL, Alterations to approval 19/00203 (Proposed new dwelling and garage), Land adj Shamrock Cottage, Tiptree Road The meeting noted that the proposals were for a dwelling larger than the original and the proposed garage was located in front of the building rather than behind. The garage would be a visible intrusion from Tiptree Road and contrary to the Village Design Statement. Siting the house further back in the plot would result in it being visible from the byway of Handleys Lane and would constitute a visible intrusion to the countryside. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL, proposed Cllr Bass, seconded Cllr Mundell, all in favour.</p> <p>To note activity in relation to land behind 9 Church Road Although the grass had been kept very short, there had been no activity.</p> <p>Works to the rear of The Mitre, update Cllr Nicholas had paid an informal visit to The Mitre after reports that the tree had been cut down. He had noted the new owners plans for outdoor seating areas, the Mulberry tree <i>had</i> been pruned back under the supervision of MDC in an attempt to prevent fruit dropping on the decking beneath and causing a health and safety hazard. He had been made aware that next year the Coffee Lounge had intentions to usefully harvest the fruit.</p>

	<p>The following decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted:</p> <p>20/00665/HOUSE, Alterations to front elevation including new fenestration/glazing, alterations to existing front dormer and new roof light to front roof slope, together with redesign of steps to front door. Two storey timber clad extension to rear elevation with a Juliet balcony and new fenestration, and replacement of existing windows. Renovation of driveway and new decking and paving to rear garden. Extension to existing garage. Willowbank, 4 Heathgate, Wickham Bishops. REFUSED.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/20/00278, Rear extension, front extension & alterations to fenestration, 32 Byron Drive Wickham Bishops. APPROVED.</p>
<p>20/201</p>	<p>Demolition of existing stable block and construction of 5-bedroom detached house, Land north west of Fernbrook Hall, Mope Lane - To discuss MDC's decision and to consider and decide what, if any, action should be taken</p> <p>Councillors had viewed the MDC North West Area Planning Committee Meeting online and most believed the decision taken to recommend approval had been reached without due care for the legal planning principles and process, the National Policy Planning Framework or the Local Development Plan. The Chairman read out a detailed letter from resident Juliet Kirkaldy who felt that the decision of MDC's Planning Committee was flawed and not based on clear reasoning.</p> <p>The Chairman invited Cllr Jarvis to comment on the application and the process that lead to him proposing its recommendation for approval by NW Area Planning Committee of MDC. Cllr Jarvis advised that he considered all applications on individual merit. Although he did not think it fair to any applicant to discuss the details of any application, after a decision had already been made, he was happy to talk about the process at MDC, the committee and about his general opinions on planning principles. A general discussion followed. Cllr Jarvis, in response to a letter from a member of the public that claimed that the reasons for approval were not given during the meeting, pointed out to Cllrs that the reasons for approval were indeed proposed by Cllr Durham and determined at the meeting; being "an acceptable design, replacing an existing building and not causing undue harm to the area". Although sustainability was discussed as a possible reason for approval, officers advised against giving that as a reason as they believed there was insufficient weight and Cllrs took that advice onboard. It is common practice to take advice from the Senior Planning officer on such matters, at that stage of deliberation.</p> <p>All other Councillors took the opportunity to voice their opinions. Cllr Durham, also a member of the MDC NW Area Planning Committee, contributed his views.</p> <p>After much discussion during which Councillors' concerns were evident, Cllr Nicholas proposed that WBPC write to the Leader of Maldon District Council, the Chief Executive and Head of the Planning Department to express: the Parish Council's deep disappointment with the MDC Committee's decision to approve the application; our concern regarding the factual inaccuracies in some of the statements made by Councillors at the MDC committee, and not corrected there; and the lack of due weight given to the policies regarding sustainability in the LDP, which should lead the planning system; and to ask MDC to take steps to train Planning Committee members to enable them to make future decisions in a more informed and considered manner. A particular concern to be expressed by the Parish Council in the letter was the weakening of the LDP and Planning Policies that could result from the MDC decision, that could impact future planning applications across the Maldon District. Motion seconded by Cllr Bates, 7 in favour.</p>
<p>20/202</p>	<p>Traffic Calming & Highway Matters</p> <p>Tiptree Road Footway extension update It was noted that Highways had still not cleared the vegetation. Cllr Durham apologised for this and agreed to press the Highways Officer on this point. In the meantime, Cllr Bass had noticed that the 'new' pavements had cracked. The level of workmanship</p>

	<p>was called into question and Cllr Durham would ask the Highways Officer to establish whether the developer or Highways had constructed the pavements. He reported that the cost of the survey to determine utilities beneath the proposed footway had been put into this year's budget.</p> <p>White Gates – speed and volume surveys update Cllr Wardrop had reminded the Highways Officer that the survey had been put off during lockdown and it should now be re-organised.</p> <p>Five Corners Junction Cllr Durham reported that the redesign of this junction had been brought forward to Christmas 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Durham reported on other LHP matters – the warning signs in Langford Road would be erected soon, and the Maypole Road speed limit was currently 'in validation'.</p> <p>Cllr Bates notified the meeting that a central crack had appeared in the carriageway along Mope Lane. It was noted that Back Lane was suffering with the same problem. Action: <i>Clerk to report to Highways.</i></p>
20/203	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Update Cllr Williams reported that the Regulation 16 examination was due to begin on 15th October.</p>
20/204	<p>Library Strategy Working Group Update Cllr Jarvis had received a letter from ECC reiterating that it would not consider selling the Library to the Parish Council, which was disappointing. Priti Patel MP had written to offer her involvement. The meeting agreed that Cllr Jarvis and the Working Group should continue to press ECC to themselves invest in the Library building in order to attract more users, social groups etc. Cllr Durham offered his support.</p>
20/205	<p>Clerk's Salary Councillors noted the issue of National Joint Council pay scales for 2020/21 and agreed implementation (backdated to 1st May 2020), of a 2.75% increase.</p>
20/206	<p>Finance The following balances were noted, and the meeting agreed to authorise the payments below. It was noted that the remaining balances had been transferred, as agreed, from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank.</p>

Status as at 1 September 2020		Debit	Credit	Balances B/F	Balances C/F
				0.00	
	Unity Trust Current Account			129.32	
	Unity Trust Instant Access Account			0.00	
	Barclays Current Account			361.03	
	Barclays Premium Account			20,375.57	
	Petty Cash Float			0.00	
	Unbanked Cash			0.00	
	Stamps			16.92	
	Total Funds Held 01/09/2020			20,882.84	
Barclays Business Premium Account Transactions September					
INTEREST	Interest received 07/09/2020		3.16		
TRANSFER	TRANSFER TO Barclays Community Account	-20,378.73			
	Total Transactions	-20,378.73	3.16		
	Business Premium Account Balance as at 30/09/2020				0.00
Barclays Community Account Transactions September					
TRANSFER	TRANSFER from Business Premium Account		20,378.73		
TRANSFER	TRANSFER to Unity Trust Current Account	-20,739.76			
	Total Transactions				
	Barclays Community Account Balance as at 30/09/2020				0.00
Unity Trust Current Account Transactions October					
TRANSFER	TRANSFER from Barclays Community Account		20,739.76		
CHARGES	Quarterly bank charge	-18.00			
IP0439	Cllr Layley Expenses - Notice Board lock adaptation	-42.80			
IP0440	Wise Maintenance, Grasscutting	-90.00			
IP0441	L A Bailey, Clerk's Salary (inc £92 backpay)	-792.77			
IP0442	L A Bailey Reimbursements:	-83.58			
	Fasthosts - Website Domain Renewal (1 year) - £19.19				
	Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreath - £50.00				
	Zoom monthly subscription - £14.39				
	Total Transactions	-1,027.15	20,739.76		
	Unity Trust Current Account Balance				19,841.93
Stamps October					
	Stamp Purchase	0.00			
	Stamp Use	-4.01			
	Total Transactions	-4.01	0.00		
	Stamp Balance 30/09/2020				12.91
	Total Funds Held 01/10/20 Including Stamps				19,854.84
20/207	Essex Forest Initiative Cllr Bass reported that 25 trees on Queens Avenue on the playing field had failed to thrive and would need replacement. Action: <i>The Clerk to check the timescale for the Essex Forest Initiative which may not fit with our wish to re-plant in Spring 2021. If not, the Clerk would identify other grant funding sources.</i> (Cllr Bass left the meeting at this point)				
20/208	Delegated Powers The delegated powers in respect of Covid-19 would remain in place.				
20/209	Neighbourhood Watch Update It was agreed that this item should be raised when PC Chris Major was in attendance next month.				
20/210	District Council Report Cllr Jarvis had circulated a full report of current District Council business prior to the meeting. MDC would need to use its reserves to manage the additional expenses and loss of income as a consequence of Covid-19. With regard to the Bradwell B consultation, a situation existed where Planning Officers at MDC did not agree with Councillors reasons for refusal, counsel opinion had been sought and at an emergency meeting, Councillors had again voted for 'refusal'. At the next planned review of the LDP, the Council will review its current position of support (in principle) for a new nuclear power station.				

	<p>Cllr Jarvis' report also updated the meeting on MDC's Covid-19 High Street Recovery Plan, financial support being given to local leisure centres and his continued work to follow up outstanding enforcement cases.</p> <p>Michael Johnson at MDC had finally responded to Cllr Jarvis in respect of plans/drawings accompanying WTPO applications and agreed to encourage applicants to provide better quality drawings. Councillors would monitor this in future.</p>
20/211	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Nicholas reported that parish volunteers had cleared a tree which had fallen into the road at Roots Lane. Deep holes which had been pointed out in the railway footpath FP19 would also be filled in by volunteers.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop hoped that Speedwatch could be resurrected soon but was awaiting confirmation. Trucam had caught 38 people speeding in September, 14 of these near Birch Rise at an early morning session.</p> <p>Cllr Mickelsen asked when the Blue Mills Bridge would be repaired. Action: <i>The Clerk to check with Highways.</i></p>
20/212	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Bus Shelter at Snows Corner Councillors were asked to give consideration to this request received from a resident. To be discussed further at the November Parish Council Meeting.</p>
20/213	<p>General Village News and Events to Note</p> <p>Cllr Williams reported that she had learned of proposals that Rectory Field could be managed for a re-wilding project in the future.</p>
20/214	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2020, 7.30pm</p>
20/215	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.11pm.</p> <p>Items for future agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standing item to consider whether the delegated powers in respect of Covid-19 can be lifted - Consider request for bus shelter at Snows Corner