

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
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 4th September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
18/162	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass (arr.7.35pm), Bates, MacGregor, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mundell. Four members of the public were present.
18/163	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework Cllr Bates declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18/168 appeal application <i>17/00910/OUT Land South of the Old Rectory</i> due to his friendship with the applicant.
18/164	Approval of Minutes Cllr Bass joined the meeting. Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 th July 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Resolved: that the minutes of the additional Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20 th July 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 th August 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
18/165	Public Forum A member of the public spoke on behalf of his application <i>17/00910/OUT Land South of the Old Rectory</i> , explaining that it would fulfil a housing demand by being designed for future old age and disability needs. Two members of the public joined the meeting. Noting that Maldon District Council (MDC) had approved application <i>RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane</i> , a member of the public thanked Cllr MacGregor for attending the decision meeting and speaking against the proposal. Expressing disappointment that the district councillors agreed the proposal without debate, the resident urged the Parish Council to seek assurances that its comments are given due consideration at the District Council's planning meetings. D/Cllr Bass denied the suggestion that the district councillors had formed their opinions prior to hearing all representation at the meeting, pointing out that decisions had to be made for the benefit of the district as a whole, rather than the local area.
18/166	Chairman's Report The Chairman reported that, following the resignation of ex-Cllr Ellison, co-option would take place on 2 nd October. Residents were invited to apply, by contacting the Clerk in the first instance. Cllr MacGregor was thanked for completing the painting of the air raid shelter, as was Cllr Wardrop for arranging the installation of the new waste bin near One Stop. The Chairman attended a meeting in August with Cllr Nicholas and the County Council's Public Rights of Way representative to discuss the resurfacing of Handleys Lane; disappointingly, a meeting about hire of the library was abandoned when D/Cllr Mark Durham CC failed to arrive.

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18/167	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk highlighted three reports of littering. An accumulation to the rear of Finch's on Kelvedon Road was reported to, and removed by, MOAT Housing Association, and bagged rubbish to the front of Finch's had been investigated and resolved by Maldon District Council's Community Protection Team. Bagged waste on the Blackwater rail trail was removed by unknown persons following publicity on social media.</p>
18/168	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>18/00968/HOUSE - 13 Wellands Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Councillors could see no significant changes to plans from the previous application, in which Councillors expressed concern that overlooking to the rear may be an issue but that the degree of overlooking was expected to be low. The application was considered to be similar to the dwellings on Wooldridge Place and in keeping with the locality.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>17/00910/OUT - APPEAL - Land South of The Old Rectory Church Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>Cllr Bates abstained from commenting and voting due to his earlier declared non-pecuniary interest. One letter of support, from the applicant, had been received.</p> <p>Councillors considered the location to be unsustainable by being outside the development boundary, but acknowledged the dwelling would be barely visible with no harm to the character and appearance of the area. In comparing the application to a recent appeal decision to approve <i>FUL/MAL/17/00389 - Land Adjacent to Park House Wickham Hall Lane</i>, Councillors noted the <i>Park House</i> decision would provide a two-bedroomed dwelling, in line with the independently-assessed housing need identified by the 2017 Wickham Bishops Housing Need Survey. Whilst sympathetic to the applicants and their desire to plan for the future, it was concluded that the proposal would not meet the independently-assessed housing need and therefore would not mitigate the unsustainability of the location. Finally, nearby appeal sites were concluded to be poor comparisons due to the subsequent approval of district's Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council continued to recommend REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Nicholas.</p> <p>The delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk and the decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted. Additionally, the following decisions were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18/00872/HOUSE - 29 Kelvedon Road Wickham Bishops – APPROVED - 17/01474/RES - Land East of Malone Cottage Maypole Road – APPROVED - 18/00751/FUL - Maltings Cottage Maypole Road Great Totham – REFUSED <p>Further discussion of the District Council's treatment of <i>RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane</i> took place. The planning history of the site and the District Council's change in stance were noted. When asked, Cllr MacGregor agreed that there appeared to be very little discussion at the meeting and it was noted that the brevity of the minutes of the meeting supported Cllr MacGregor's recollection.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to schedule a fuller discussion of the decision.</p>
18/169	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Williams reported the draft plan would soon be ready for sharing with residents for informal review.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Williams to provide the draft plan to Cllr Bates to add to the website. Cllr Bates and the Clerk to publicise and request feedback.</p> <p>Resolved: The Clerk would apply for a grant from Locality for up to £5000 for environmental assessments, consultancy and renewal of the survey software licence. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that Mr Mick Buckingham had left the Steering Group and expressed the Council's gratitude for his hard work and significant input to the process.</p>

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18/170	Street Naming – Land East of Malone Cottage Cllr Bass highlighted the Parish Council's policy to commemorate notable, deceased, residents who had been instrumental in shaping or otherwise supporting the village and its inhabitants, thereby allowing the parish to retain its history, add local colour and reward social activity. Councillors agreed that the following suggestions would be put forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some or all of <i>Rosina 'Tilly' May Pink</i> be used in naming the road off Great Totham Road; - some or all of either <i>Clifford Heron</i> or <i>Cranswick Jack Greenhill</i> for the road off Maypole Road.
18/171	"Battle's Over" Soldier Silhouette D/Cllr Bass explained that the soldier would be freely provided by Maldon District Council and was intended to invoke a sense of a villager off to war. Councillors agreed that it would be most suitably displayed in the centre of the village rather than associated with a war memorial or religious building. Action: <i>The Clerk to arrange installation of the soldier at Snows Corner, near the village sign site.</i>
18/172	Traffic Calming Cllr Wardrop advised that further parking restrictions to the lay-by on The Street were unlikely to meet with the South Essex Parking Partnership's approval. Cllrs Bass and Wardrop met with Essex Highways and the Local Highways Panel (LHP) Officer, and were informed that speed checks will be undertaken in Witham Road, The Street and Maypole Road in September. The data will be used to develop a plan for white gates at Birch Rise and in Maypole Road, after April 2019. Highways will review the impact of the gates before progressing with build-outs in The Street, and will arrange for the SIDs to be rotated and checked. Councillors expressed surprise at the relatively low number of speeding vehicles captured by TRUCam, at approximately one quarter of the numbers recorded by Speedwatch. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had to power to accept donations towards TRUCam use. Resolved: The Parish Council would increase the budget by £100 (<i>in accordance with the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s.1(1)</i>). Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Action: <i>Cllr Wardrop to look into attending a TRUCam session.</i> Resolved: The Parish Council would support the addition of a SLOW marking at the bend in Wellands. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Action: <i>Cllr Nicholas and the Clerk to submit the LHP request.</i>
18/173	Monthly Councillor Surgeries Two residents attended the July Surgery, reporting an overgrown garden, vermin and possible sightline obstruction in Leigh Drive. All issues were resolved with the support of MDC. Two August visitors, with concerns over a planning proposal in Beacon Hill, were referred to Great Totham Parish Council. The attendees at the 15 th September Surgery will be Cllrs Bates and Wardrop. Cllr Bass, in his District Council capacity, will also attend if possible.
18/174	District Council Report D/Cllr Bass introduced a member of the public, Mr Karl Jarvis, to the meeting. Mr Jarvis will be seeking election to the District Council when Cllr Bass retires in May. The reorganisation at MDC is continuing with staff and union consultation underway. Sadly, the weather was poor for Bell Meadow Day, at which D/Cllr Bass gave the opening speech. A meeting with Braintree D/Cllr Beavis CC about the operational hours of the Blue Mills Hill traffic lights was postponed due to injury, and is likely to be rescheduled shortly.
18/175	Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report Whilst crime had been low with a few opportunistic thefts occurring, there were increasing reports of "Nottingham Knockers" in the area. A resident had described a doorstep seller becoming abusive and intimidating and another had experienced a second visit despite declining to purchase at the first visit. Residents were urged not to part with money for items they did not want and to report such visits to 101. A member of the public advised his family had been victims of identity theft; the perpetrators had broken into their external letter box to gather personal details.

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18/176	September Litter Pick The litter pick will be held on 22 nd September 2018, meeting at 1pm in the library car park. Action: <i>The Clerk to publicise the event and arrange the loan of MDC's litter picking equipment</i>
18/177	Village Sign The village sign was removed and delivered to Cllr Bass's house where it has been inspected by residents of Byron Drive, keen to carry out the renovations. Resolved: The Parish Council would provide a budget of £100 to cover paints and associated materials for refurbishment of the village sign (<i>in accordance with the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s.1(1)</i>). Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Bass.
18/178	Governance: Adoption of Updated Code of Conduct Resolved: The Parish Council would adopt the updated Code of Conduct. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Williams.
18/179	Finance Resolved: The payments made between meetings were ratified, the balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor.
18/180	Correspondence to Note: The correspondence about policy S8 of the LDP, letters regarding road resurfacing, the non-breach of planning regulations at The Chequers and the emails regarding the Mackmurdo Place verge, were noted.
18/181	Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – no decisions required. To include: Cllr MacGregor completed the internal painting of the air raid shelter during August. Action: <i>Cllr MacGregor and the Clerk to begin planning the plaque and new noticeboard.</i> The Clerk reported that she had updated the governance policies in line with the Local Council Award Scheme's requirements and Cllr Bates had updated the website with the amended documents. Cllr Nicholas advised that the County Council will deliver road planings to Handleys Lane bye-way, for spreading along the central part of the route by the Parish Paths Partnership volunteer team. Resurfacing of the Kelvedon Road end will be undertaken by the LHP. A member of the volunteer team had attended strimmer training; trimming will recommence once the strimmer is provided by ECC. A report of an overhanging tree on Footpath 1 was checked and found not to require urgent action. Finally, the over-sowing of FP17 s is expected to desist with the land due to lie fallow; otherwise the County Council will take action. Patten Homes had written to Cllr Bass and to the Clerk, advising that plans should be submitted for the <i>Pine Trees, The Street</i> site within three weeks. An offer to present the amended plans was deferred to a future meeting once the application has been validated by MDC. The addition of CCTV to the Boardroom was noted. Action: <i>Cllr Williams to ask the BHSA when the CCTV will be online and whether sound is recorded</i>
18/182	Dates of Next Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 21st September 2018 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> - Tuesday 2nd October Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm
18/183	Close of Meeting 9.55pm Items for future agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget and precept approval (December)