

## WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Those present were: Chairman Cornish, Cllrs. Charlton, Hall, Grieve,  
Licence & Schuilenburg, 20 parishioners and the Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Plumb, Dist.Cllrs. Fraser & Turner & County Cllr Hickford.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on Monday 18th May were signed as correct.
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a) *Dean Road:* The Parish Clerk had emailed Nicola Burden of Highways, copied to Cllr. Hickford, with photographs showing how road sight is impeded by hanging branches. Having had no reply she again emailed her a reminder asking for an update.
  - b) *Signage needing possible repair:* The Parish Clerk had again emailed Nicola Burden asking if the rest of the village signage could be checked, but had heard nothing back.
  - c) *Wildlife & Footpath interpretation maps:* Cllr. Licence said that due to her not yet being able to drive she had not visited the people who made the maps to see what they do and get quotes. The wild life area map is being funded by a grant received by the Preschool group but she will be fully involved.
  - d) *Parish Council website requirement:* Cllr. Schuilenburg told Council that the site had been updated and the Minutes etc. will go into it. Cllr. Hall thought that the requirement by SCDC was to have a separate website for Parish Council information and should be funded by the Parish Council. It was agreed that if the Parish Council paid for the registration fee and the annual subscription fee of £100 this would cover the requirement and it will remain as it is.
  - e) *Church Clock repairs:* A quote from A.James Ltd of Saffron Walden had been received by the PCCC for £5580.00 plus £850 for the scaffolding to replace the clock face. As measurements have been taken and the clock hands and drive removed by the PCCC it is hoped the estimate will be reduced. The Parish Council agreed that some help should be given and asked that the PCCC write a letter of request with the estimate received to the Parish Council before any decision can be made. It was also suggested that some fund raising is organised as many in the parish would be pleased to donate towards something that is very much part of the village.
4. **Correspondence:**
  - a) *Letter from Lucy Fraser (MP) suggesting a visit:* The Parish Clerk wrote back giving the dates of the Parish Council meetings but nothing arranged as yet.
  - b) *The Local Planning Course:* It is hoped that there will be sufficient councillors wishing to take part in this course from West Wickham, West Wrattling, Balsham, Horseheath, Weston Colville etc. to hold the course locally, as this would be less expensive. The Parish Clerk is contacting other Parish Clerk's to see if this is possible.
  - c) *CCC Public Rights of Way grass cutting:* Letter giving details of the three proposed cuts of the footpaths this year. The next one will be in September/October. There was discussion by the Parish Council of a number of

paths which had not been reinstated and Cllr. Grieve will inform Jonathan Clarke of CCC to see whether they can be included in the next cut. The paths in question are 18 (the “campsite” owned by Mr Henry) and 17 (field owned by Thurlow Estates) and possibly footpath 8.

**5. Finance:** The updated accounts spreadsheet had been distributed to all cllrs.

a) *Authorised payments:*

£141.00 HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE) paid (chq. 706)

£372.34 Mrs.J Richards salary for June/July. (Chq.707)

£770.70 CGM Grass Cutting Inv. 6458, 6535 & 6561 (chq. 708)

£105.00 SCDC costs incurred for uncontested election (chq. 709)

£ 54.00 Wicksteed Playgrounds Inv.725737 inspection (chq. 710)

£ 46.50 J Dockerill internal audit fee (chq. 711)

b) *Monies received:* None

c) *Internal audit report:* This had been distributed to all councillors. There were no issues and the audit was accepted as satisfactory.

## 6. Planning:

Plan.App			Work	P.C.	SCDC
S/0808/15/FL	A Covey	61 Streetly End, W Wickham	Instal dormer window to rear.	Approv.	
S/1083/15/FL	Mr Power	83 High Street	Single storey side & rear ext	Approve	
S/1044/15/RM	W Stone	Land at Balsham Hill re S/2433/13/OL	App. of reserved mattero	Approve	
S/1160/15/OL*	J Pelling	95 High St.	Dem.of gar.& bldg. Construct 2 single dwell.&grgs	Refuse	
S/1726/15/LB	A Morris	21 High Street	Replace roofing felt and repair.	Approve	

A Planning meeting had been held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 to discuss S/1044/15/RM which was approved by the Parish Council and S/1160/15/OL which was opposed because:-

a) it was outside the village envelope,

b) it is “backfill” development which was deemed to be inappropriate in West Wickham, which has been designated “infill” .

c) it would have a material adverse effect on 95 High Street and the houses opposite.

Mr John Pelling, the applicant, had sent an email regarding this decision and was present at this meeting. Because it had been opposed the application will go to committee, the outcome of which will be of considerable interest as the Planning Officer had been in favour of the plans.

## 7. Neighbourhood Plan:

a) Councillor Hall presented a completed “ Application to Designate a Neighbourhood Area” form complete with supporting documentation gained from the Neighbourhood Survey and the additional contact information required by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The results from the Survey were exhibited in the room for inspection by the public.

Cllr. Hall who with his committee had put this together explained that by having a Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council will have the statutory right to influence planning policy within the designated area. He also outlined the ongoing process for developing a Plan. There was some discussion on the presentation of answers to one question in the Survey but it was agreed that at this stage it was not an issue to affect the submission of the Application document. However all the relevant information gathered in the Survey would support the Application. Once approval is given by

SCDC to proceed with a Plan then all the Survey comments will be available for the next stage of the process. The Parish Council agreed that this document should be signed by the Chairman. Cllr. Grieve thanked Cllr. Hall and his committee on behalf of the Parish Council for completing such a tremendous task.

b) Results of the survey available for viewing at end of the meeting.

**8. Broadband:** Cllr. Charlton had chased up Cambridge Connections for a speedier broadband and eventually got a reply saying that even if the cabinet were upgraded it would not solve the problem and the official line to receive superfast broadband with the most likely solution proposed by OpenReach is not until between the summer of 2016 and the spring of 2017. Cllr. Schuilenburg continued with information he had received from BT engineers where a more realistic date suggested was Spring 2017 and the current estimated cost of upgrading all three villages affected by the cabinet, West Wickham, Carlton and Weston Colville, would be £750,000. The cost of the original unsuitable solution was £90,000. He felt that SCDC/BT would not have this sort of money available. He is looking into alternatives and it was suggested that he writes a report for the Village Voice to which he agreed. Also a mobile phone mast had been approved by a majority in the village plan. It was suggested that Alex would register our interest in providing a site for a mast which could also provide a base for Broadband improvement.

**9. Maintenance:**

a) *Cats Eyes removal:* Again the Parish Clerk had written to Highways about the general concern regarding the removal of the cats eyes from the Balsham to Fulbourn strip of road but had heard nothing back.

a) *Electrical recycling:* Cllr. Licence had spoken to the man who is organising this and he would like to come to talk about it and suggested that perhaps other villages could be invited to hear him, e.g. Balsham, West Wrating & Weston Colville. It was agreed that they would be invited once a date has been fixed.

**10. Children's Play Area:** Wicksteeds report had been received and there were some issues which needed attention, mainly to do with Health & Safety. Cllr. Plumb will look into this.

**11. Report on meetings attended by Cllrs:**

a) Cllrs. Cornish and Hall had attended a "myth busting tour" on "exemption" affordable housing/shared ownership housing built outside the village envelope. It was interesting that only 10 houses to the acre were built as opposed to 30 houses to the acre on the open market and the houses were noticeably larger inside.

b) South Cambs. Dist. Council Planning Forum: Cllrs. Schuilenburg and Hall attended. SCDC Planning had received many complaints from Parish Councils about the way things were being handled.

**12. Report by County Cllr. Hickford:** He was absent.

**13. Report by Dist. Cllrs. Fraser/Turner:** Dist.Cllr. Turner had sent in his report which was distributed to the Parish Council.

**14. Any other business:** None

**The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**Chairman.....**

