

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28th November 2016

in West Wickham Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Charlton (Chairman), Grieve, Hall, Licence and Schuilenburg and District Councillors Fraser and Turner.

1. Apologies: Councillor Cornish and Mrs J Richards (Parish Clerk)

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016 were signed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Matters Arising:

(a) Dean Road/ A1307 trees: Councillor Hall had been informed by Nicola Burden that funding had been allocated for cutting back the trees at this junction. It was expected that the work would be carried out this financial year

(b) Dean Road/Mill Road/Balsham Road crossroads: There had been flooding at this location on a number of occasions. The County Council had agreed to dig out the grips. There was also a need for the landowner to clear the adjacent ditch.

In discussing this item the Parish Council considered it would be advantageous if a plan could be produced showing respective responsibilities for roadside ditches, hedges and grips between Highway authority, Environment Agency and Landowner. The Council asked Councillor Hall if the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party would undertake this task.

(c) Maypole Croft overhanging branches: Councillor Licence reported that the branches obscuring the road had been cut back and that BT had indicated that they were not concerned about any interference with telephone lines.

There were also overhanging branches in the High Street opposite the Village Hall and Councillor Licence agreed to raise this issue with the farmer.

(d) Signage Repairs: Nicola Burden had indicated that all the damaged signs the Parish Council had reported would either be replaced or monitored.

(e) Pavements: All pavement repairs had been carried out with the exception of the pavement outside 71 High Street which required dropped kerb and strengthening

(f) Recreation Field Hedging: The most recent cut had been carried out satisfactorily.

(g) Drop Box: This facility was not yet being used by all members of the Parish Council but could improve the processing of planning application consultations if all members used it.

5. Broadband: Councillor Schuilenburg reported that there was to be a further delay of a few weeks to the availability of superfast broadband but he was continuing to press Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT on the matter.

6. Planning:

S/2821/22	M Cameron	37 High Street, Streetly End	Annexe facility replacing garage	Supported by PC (Approved by SCDC)
S/2334/16/FL	N Smith	Spring View, High Street	Single-storey rear extension	Supported by PC (Approved by SCDC)

7. Correspondence

Precept: South Cambs DC had written to seek comments on the tax base for 2017/18 and ask how much the Parish Council required as a precept . The comments were to be made by 9th January and the precept requirement by 3rd February 2017.

8. Finance

(a) *Authorised Payments:*

£372.14 Reissue to Mrs J Richards as cheque lost (chq 762)

£372.34 Mrs J Richards salary for Oct/Nov (chq763)

£159.15 A Morris for July/August/September issues of Village Voice (chq 764)

£10.00 Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath (chq 765)

£120.00 PKF Littlejohn for external audit (chq 766)

£517.50 CGM Invoice 201268 plus earlier delayed payment (chq 767)

The Chairman thanked the editors, distributors and contributors of the Village Voice for keeping the village informed of events etc.,

(b) *Monies received:*

£5,500 2nd tranche of precept

£143.75 Allotment rents for 2017

(c) *External audit:* Payment has been made to the auditor – see above.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hall reported that Cambridgeshire ACRE had been appointed to conduct the Housing Needs Survey. Representatives of ACRE would be attending the next meeting of the Working Party. The survey documents would be delivered to all households in early January and collected after 16th January. Arrangements had been made for a drop-in meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday, 14th January to address any questions which people wanted answering prior to completing the form. ACRE would carry out the analysis. All information contained in the forms would remain confidential.

In the earlier survey there had been an indication that there was a demand for housing from people wishing to return to the village, but the response to the recent request for information had so far produced only two completed forms. Contact details of people outside the village wishing to return were needed so they could be supplied with the Housing Needs Survey form.

Councillor Hall also referred to the expenses of the Working Party (printing, use of the Village Hall, etc) for which there was provision within the budget but would ultimately be met by grant aid, when received.

10. Maintenance - Gritting

Councillor Schuilenburg reported on his communications with the County Council with regard to the gritting of pavements in West Wickham, and the lengths of path to be gritted in Maypole Croft and the High Street, continuing round the corner as far as the church. Special wheelbarrows would be supplied for volunteers. Councillor Licence agreed to cover the section from Maypole Croft down the south-east side of the High Street as far as the village hall. It was noted that the High Street roadway was not on the County Council's gritting route.

11. Allotments

It was noted that there was currently a vacant half allotment (12b) available for letting.

12. Key Parish Priorities & Parish Nurse Proposal

These matters had been discussed at the last meeting. It was felt that the priorities would emerge from the Neighbourhood Plan process and that further information was still needed about the costs and effectiveness of a Parish Nurse proposal, which the Council was not able to support at this stage.

13. Local Forum Meetings

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council, Councillors Hall and Schuilenburg had attended two meetings of the Balsham Parishes Forum and commented on the positive outcome, especially in relation to highways issues, resulting in action being taken or planned for the near future (see minutes 4(a),(d) and (e) above.

In relation to planning, although the District Council's Planning Officer had not attended the meeting on 27th October, arrangements had been made to ensure representation from the Planning department at these meetings, which were held on the last Wednesday of each month.

In discussing this item the Council also noted the County Council's Community Highways Volunteering Scheme which encouraged Parish Councils to sign up to certain low priority tasks such as cleaning road signs and clearing minor obstructions to pavements and public rights of way. It was noted that such tasks were already carried out by individuals from time to time on an informal basis. It was agreed that an item be included in the next Village Voice seeking people who would be willing to take part in such voluntary action.

Some parishes had raised the issue of speeding at these meetings and it was noted that Castle Camps, Shudy Camps and West Wrattling were proposing to acquire inter-active speed indicator signs and were looking for other parishes to share the cost with them. The Parish council were supportive of this idea in

principle and Councillor Hall made a suggestion about four sites where such signs could be affixed. Use of the signs would be rotated round the participating parishes. It was agreed that this matter should be further investigated.

The separate speedwatch scheme had attracted a number of volunteers but it was noted that the equipment had currently been returned to Camborne for repair. Members also discussed the idea of 30mph stickers on recycling bins but it was agreed to proceed with the interactive signs and speedwatch at this stage.

14. Playground

It was noted that some minor maintenance was to be carried out in order to comply with RoSPA recommendations.

15. Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Schuilenburg had attended a Neighbourhood Watch conference and circulated a summary. Currently there was no Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Wickham and it was agreed there should be an item in the Village Voice to see if there was any interest in reviving it. In the meantime, information packs with booklets on how to avoid being a victim of crime and front door stickers to deter cold callers etc were available. It was agreed that a number of these should be obtained and made available to anyone in the village, via their nearest Councillor.

16. Other meetings attended by Councillors

None

17. Reports from County and District Councillors

It was noted that ultimately these reports would be supplanted by meetings of the Balsham Parishes Forum.

County Councillor Hickford was not present.

Councillors Turner and Fraser reported on a number of matters including:

- The Local Plan, which was now unlikely to be adopted until the end of 2017, leaving villages vulnerable to some planning applications, which may not have previously been approved
- Devolution, which had been approved by all Cambridgeshire Councils and would involve the creation of a new combined strategic authority with a mayor (to be elected in May 2017)
- The progress on the City Deal with regard to the A1307. Consultation on proposals for bus lanes, cycle lanes and park and ride was in progress. A preferred option would be decided on 8th March and be the subject of further consultation.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 23rd January 2017

