

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on

Monday

25th January 2016 in the Village Hall at

7.30pm.

Those present were: Chairman Cornish, Cllrs. Charlton, Hall, Grieve, Licence & Schuilenburg

Dist.Cllr. Fraser, County Cllr. Hickford, 2 parishioners & the Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Dist.Cllr. Turner.
2. **Minutes of the** meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015 were signed as correct.
3. **Planning:**
 - a) Ulrike Maccariello of Hastoe Housing Association explained how providing affordable housing worked. First of all there would be a need to do a survey to find out the need but of course the Neighbourhood Plan showed in its questionnaire that there is a need for seven homes, however more details would be required. Horseheath has 3 new units built through Hastoe. Priority is given to local people. There are also starter homes and a "right to buy" for most of these homes and Hastoe are also allowed to offset costs by building open market property. Mark Deas from Cambridge ACRE then spoke about their part in helping deliver affordable homes in rural areas. He explained how the survey would be carried out with a questionnaire sent out to each household with a letter from the Parish Council, the survey to be returned within 3 weeks. Forms could also be sent to people living outside the village but with a village connection who would have a right to an affordable house. Cllr. Hall and Schuilenburg said they would be happy to put forms into letterboxes and then to collect them in order to get a better return. The Parish Council agreed to have an open meeting to explain what might happen and find out whether the village agreed to go ahead with some affordable housing.
 - b) **S/3019/15/FL - Proposed single dwelling on land between 39-47 High Street.** There was discussion about the size of the proposed property and its impact on the houses around it, especially the windows to both sides of the house which looked into properties on both sides but it was agreed that if the size of the house was scaled down and the side windows issue was resolved they would give their approval. Cllr. Hall will compose comments to be returned with the Planning Application form.

4. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Dean Road:** Cllr. Hickford said he would look into the problem of flooding and the clearing of gulleys and ditches to prevent this. The Parish Clerk had emailed Nicola Burdon about this problem. Several accidents occurred when the water froze at the crossroads and no gritting had been carried out.
- b) **Signage repairs:** Both 30mph signs had been repaired but there was still one broken sign at Burton End to be dealt with.

5. **Correspondence:** None

6. **Finance:**

a) *Authorised payments:*

- £ 139.60 HM Inland Rev. 3rd qrt. PAYE \ (cheque 728 paid)
£1,794.00 CGM for hedge cutting Inv. 6979 (cheque 729)
£ 894.00 CGM for hedge cutting Inv. 191059 (cheque 730)
£ 156.00 A. Morris for 3 issues of Village Voice costs (cheque 731)
£ 372.14 Mrs J Richards salary for De/Jan. (cheque 732)
£ 33.60 Parish Online annual fee. (cheque 733)
£ 52.00 A.Morris for Dec. issue of Village Voice (cheque 734)

It was agreed not to send CGM the cheque for £1794.00 as the council were not happy with how the hedges had been cut. The Chairman took the invoice and said he would write a letter.

b) *Monies received:* None

c) *Budget & Precept:* To be discussed and set.

Cllr. Charlton went carefully through the proposed budget for 2016/17 and it was agreed that the precept should be increased by 2.8% bringing it to £11,000. He felt it was necessary in order to keep ahead of the increasing cost of maintenance of parish property. This past financial year the cost of cutting back the hedges on the recreation field and village hall had been £2000 and the donation of £1500 towards the refurbishment of the Church clock which had been unforeseen. Cllr. Charlton proposed 2.89% which was seconded by Cllr. Cornish. The Council agreed this figure. It was agreed that a new printer is purchased for use by the Parish Clerk.

7. **Neighbourhood plan:** Cllr. Hall said an open meeting would be held on Saturday 27th February in the village hall and slips advertising this would be delivered to householders. He and the Chairman had had a meeting with Alison Talkington who is coordinating the Neighbourhood Plan process.

8. **Broadband:** Cllr. Schuilenburg said that 29 people had joined up with Air Broadband and a further two told him they had put a cheque in the post bringing the total to the required 30+. Airbroadband will provide free broadband to the village hall if the Parish Council is prepared to pay for the cost of the installation at £159.00 + £30.00. It was agreed to put this into the village hall. Air Broadband will expand and they are already talking to Withersfield.

9. **Maintenance:**

- a) *Land down to old Sewage Farm:* Cllr. Licence had spoken to David Spencer who although he knew nothing about the boundaries is quite prepared to cut the hedge whilst using the land.
- b) *Footpath 21:* The “environmental stewardship area” sign has now been removed.

- c) *Request from Edward Fairhead:* He wished it to be known that Footpath 13, 14 and 16 run along his boundary but people are using a path between 13 and 14 and also between footpaths 14 and 16 which is not a public footpath and he doesn't wish for it to become a public footpath but he is happy for people to use it. He would like this mentioned in the Village Voice.
- d) *Hedging:* The Chairman will write to CGM about the hedge cutting round the recreation field as they have not cut it back severely enough as was requested.

10. Traffic issues: It was agreed that some form of traffic calming was needed at Burton End and to help with this the Speed Watch team could carry out some speed checks there. Cllr. Licence said she would organise this and suggested something should go into the Village Voice about this problem.

11. Reports on meetings attended by cllrs: Cllr Schuilenberg had attended a meeting on broadband organised by Lucy Fraser (MP). BT are now forecasting provision of broadband by the end of October 2016.

12. Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

- a) **A1307** survey report will be published in February
- b) **Budget** - this has been set at an increase of 1.9%
- c) **Waste recycling** - important to use the blue bins to capacity to cut down on land fill waste.

13. Report by Dist.Cllr. Fraser:

- a) **Community Chest** - this has been oversubscribed but will be available again in July. Each parish will be restricted to three requests (£4000).
- b) **SCDC** have started a housing project called Ermine Street Housing with a five year business plan period with the aim of owning and managing 500 properties by the end of that period.
- c) **Green bin** collections return to fortnightly collections in March.

14. Any other business:

- a) The most popular footpaths are in a terrible state due to the very wet weather and the volume of users nearest the village. Complaints have been made about horses being ridden on the footpaths but this is allowed with permission from the landowner.
- b) Cllr. Grieve said it was time for another Village Clean Up in March and he will get all the necessary gear from SCDC. Cllr. Licence will put something in the Village Voice about the litter.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st March due to Bank Holiday Monday 24th March. Half the hall will also be in use by the Gardening Club.

Chairman.....