

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 26th January 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Those present were: Vice Chairman Charlton, Cllrs. Hall, Grieve, Licence, Morris & Plumb, County Cllr. Hickford, 3 parishioners and the Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Chairman Cornish, Dist.Cllrs. Barrett and Fraser.
2. **Declaration of interest:** Cllrs. Morris declared an interest under item 7a.
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held on Monday 1st December were signed as correct.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - a) (i) *Dean Road* – only one gully has been cut into a ditch. Cllr. Hickford said he was not happy with the situation but Dean Road is on the work programme and the work should be carried out in two or three months (see also Minute 9.3).
(ii) *A1307* – the overhanging branches have still not been cut back and Cllr. Hickford said this job was not on the work programme and he would look into why it had been left off. The Parish Clerk had spoken to the Mr Kiddy, who is farming the land on the left hand side of the road and was told that overhanging branches had been cut back.
 - b) *Allotment accessibility signage:* This had been erected but in the wrong place, however it has now been moved to the appropriate site.
 - c) *Possible move of Post Office to Village Hall:* BT had done a survey and checked what would be required. A new telephone pole outside on the right hand side of the hall and a box in the Hall situated near the bar would be needed and a lockable cupboard to store the computer. Cllr. Licence asked about security and was told that no money would be left on the premises and the computer would be kept under lock and key. Claire Butfield intended to open the Post Office once a week on a Monday afternoon. All work needed to be done would be paid for by BT. In principle the Parish Council is happy about it but needs to make sure exactly where everything is going to be placed before making final decision. No financial support is required.
 - d) *92 High Street contravention of planning application:* The new build has wood cladding which was not asked for in the planning application. Cllrs. Barrett and Fraser were going to look into this. Cllr. Hickford said sadly this happened all the time. Cllr. Hall said he would bring this up at the next Neighbourhood Planning meeting.
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Planning:**
 - a) S/2521/14/LB – Vicarage Cottage – application approved by SCDC.
Tree Work at Birch House, Streetly End approved by Parish Council.
 - b) S106 payments: Cllr. Hall had learnt that the S106 payments were no longer being paid on new developments. He was very disappointed as this was one of the reasons why he is setting up the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Hickford confirmed this and said only developments of 11 houses or more would pay the S106 duty

and it had been discontinued by the government in order to encourage builders to provide more housing.

7. Finance: All councillors had received a budget report and spread sheet.

a) *Authorised payments:* Updated accounts distributed to Councillors.

£1400.00 T Licence – erection of Village Sign (chq.680) paid

£ 136.60 HM Rev.& Customs PAYE 3rd qrt. (chq.681) paid

£ 172.50 CGM Ltd. Inv. (chq.682)

£ 364.52 J.Richards Dec/Jan 2015 salary less PAYE (chq. 683)

£ 52.00 A.Morris (Village Voice costs) (chq.684)

£ 25.00 STP Stationery - half share of AVG Security 2 yrs) (chq. 685)

£ 60.00 West Wickham Village Hall re Hire of V.Hall 7/10/14, 4/11/14,
2/12/14. (chq. 686)

£ 100.00 J. Richards backpay (chq.683)

£ 35.00 A.Morris (additional Village Voice costs) (chq. 687)

b) *Monies received:*

None

c) *Budget & Precept to be set:* Cllr. Morris went through his budget report notes for the benefit of the members of the public. With particular reference to:

i) To consider an increase from £10 p/a allotment fee – it was agreed that these should not go up.

ii) Wildlife conservation: £150 was reserved for next year. Cllr. Licence said she would like to have some signage in the Wild Life area to show what is there and had a quote for £670. It was agreed she needed to get further quotes for this amount of expenditure before making a decision. Her husband had recently attended a course on scything and would be pleased to scythe the wild life area, which was the best way to cut it. She requested that a scythe be bought. Cllr. Grieve said he had one that could be borrowed. A Footpath map was discussed but it was agreed this should be planned and costed this year and put on the budget for 2016/17. A pdf map of the footpaths could be put on the website.

iii) Hedge cutting was needed round the village hall and a quote of £1200 had been received. The Parish Clerk was asked to request a quote from CGM who cut the hedges in 2011.

iv) Cllr. Charlton proposed that the allocated reserve of £3500 (Streetly End speed limit reduction cost) be placed in the unallocated reserves, seconded by Cllr. Morris and agreed by Council.

Cllr. Morris proposed a Precept increase of 1.9% from £10,500 to £10,700, seconded by Vice Chairman Charlton and agreed by the Parish Council.

8. Election in May 2015: Cllr. Morris said it was desirable to know who wished to stand for re-election in May and to publicise details of the election and profiles of those wishing to stand mainly through the Village Voice, but also by councillors talking to people to encourage them to take an interest and possibly stand. Due to the fact that following the election there had to be a meeting not later than 18 days after 7th May in order for the elected council to sign the necessary forms etc. it was therefore agreed that this meeting should be held on 18th May. Although hopefully most of the existing Council will wish to stand for re-election it was agreed that having an election was important despite the cost.

9. Maintenance:

- a) Road closure: The Parish Clerk had been told the work would start today 26th January for two days but there is no sign of anything being done.
- b) Silver Street closure for 4 weeks from 26 Jan: Cllr. Morris asked Cllr. Hickford whether any arrangements had been made about re-routing HGV's who would normally use this route via West Wrattling Common. Cllr. Hickford could not help.
- c) Gulley cleaning: Cllr. Morris mentioned flooding in many area of the Village due to insufficient gulleys being cut and ditches not being cleared out. Council was told that the County Council is asking landowners to clear out their ditches.
- d) Hedges: The hedge cutting carried out by Thurlow Estate in the High Street and Burton End had been badly done with the ditches now full of debris from the cut. Many complaints had been received. However the village had not been charged for this and the hedge owners had been requested to cut back their hedges but most had not done so. Cllr. Hall is drawing up a list of landowners so if something needs attention we are aware of whom to get in touch with. It was suggested that a working party up was organised expressly to clear out the ditches, but where the debris would be disposed of was a problem. Cllr. Charlton said letters from the Parish Council should go to the landowners asking them to clear their ditches and hedges.

10. Neighbourhood/Village Plan: Cllr Hall now has all the data from the survey forms typed out and ready to be collated under the various questions asked in the survey and he thanked Liane Moncur for helping with this job. Any grant money left over this year will be returned to Acre. He told Council that he has been visiting land owners and businesses to collect contact details and once the survey has been completed he will notify by letter to these contacts that the Neighbourhood Plan is under consideration and they will be kept informed.

11. Telephone Kiosk: The Parish Clerk had received a form to be completed and signed for Streetly End kiosk but is still waiting to hear that SCDC have approved the adoption of the West Wickham kiosk.

12. Traffic issues:

- a) Cllr. Hickford told the Council that there was an A1307 meeting on 2nd February at 7.30 at Linton Village hall. Cllr. Hall told Cllr. Hickford that the 100m Give Way sign approaching the A1307 Dene Road junction from Bartlow has been flattened and needs re-establishing. Also a sign to the East of the same junction on the West bound A1307 has also been hit and turned around. He also said the finger post at the Dene Road and Balsham to West Wickham cross roads has been run down but although it has been picked up the foundation has moved by the impact and needs re-siting.
- b) Skippers Lane – agreement has been reached with the necessary land owners and work will start in April.
- c) Speed issues: Cllr. Hall had been to Jelly Warehouse and the Manager told him that the road had not been gritted as agreed, between the junction and the Suffolk boundary towards Withersfield and vehicles visiting the warehouse were experiencing difficulties. Cllr. Hickford said he would look into this.

- d) 30mph stickers: This was discussed several years ago and it was felt now as then that the impact of these stickers on 138 bins once a week at a cost of £505 was too little and it was agreed not to follow this up.

13. Reports by Councillors on meetings attended: None

14. Reports by Dist. Cllrs. Barrett & Fraser: None as they were absent.

15. Report by County Cllr. Hickford:

- a) As a Scrutiny Officer for this area he will be checking how satisfactory the bin collection was over the Christmas period. There was general criticism of their being no collection in the week after Christmas. Please let him know of any complaints.
- b) A1307 is now a priority following the City Deal.

16. Any other business:

- a) Cllr. Licence asked if the concrete plinth where the Clothes Bin had stood could be covered with earth and grassed over as the bench which had been promised in 2014 has not materialised. This was agreed.
- b) Cllr. Grieve would like to arrange a Litter Pick Up Day in March. It was suggested we contact the Scouts in Balsham to see if they could help with this. The Parish Clerk will speak to Cllr. Barrett.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd March 2015.

Chairman.....