

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th September 2015

In the village hall at 7.30pm.

Those present were: Chairman Cornish, Cllrs. Charlton, Hall, Grieve, Licence, Plumb & Schuilenberg Dist.Cllrs Fraser & Turner, County Cllr. Hickford & 3 parishioners and Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies: None.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th July 2015 were signed as correct.

3. Matters arising:

a) *Dean Road* – Cllr. Hickford had emailed the suggestions made by Highways to deal with overhanging branches by just cutting straight down. It was agreed that it would be far better if the trees were cut back from the base of the trunks and as far back as the chain fence, otherwise in a couple of years time the growth will be back. Cllr Hickford said he was pleased that Highways had at last gone and looked at the problem after a year has passed since the problem was raised.

b) *Signage needing possible repairs:* The Parish Clerk had sent an email to Nicola Burden but received no reply. She will email again with details of two particular signs which require replacement one being the 30mph sign at Burton End and another sign between 35/37 High Street which is broken.

c) *Wildlife & Footpath interpretation maps:* Cllr. Licence has now spoken to “We Do Signs” who is happy to carry out this job at a cost of approx.. £150.00. Cllr. Licence and Perla will be doing a design for the wildlife area and footpaths and would like to include the length of each footpath as a guide It was agreed that she go ahead with this project.

d) *Church clock repairs:* The total cost for refurbishing the clock is £6540 + VAT. The Chairman said the PCC were hoping to get a grant of £1000 from the Wind Farm Fund but asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to give a donation as the clock very much belongs to the village not just the Church. The Parish Clerk circulated a letter the PCC had written to the Parish Council making this request. Fund raising is only just getting started with Cllr. Licence & Janet Morris doing a coffee morning. The Chairman said he would put an item in the Village Voice about the clock to raise awareness and interest. As there was money available due to underspending on the Village Sign, Cllr. Grieve proposed a sum of £1500 should be donated, made under Section 137 as being of benefit to the village, seconded by Cllr Charlton, all agreed. Work has begun with the scaffolding being erected.

e) **Hedging:** The Parish Clerk was requested to write to Mr Henry to ask if the hedges on his land could be cut back as there had been complaints.

4. Correspondence: Dist.Cllr Turner explained that the consultation on proposed changes to the Local Elections system from thirds to all-out elections every 4 years is likely to go ahead and Parish Council elections will be expected to be held at the same time. There is likely to be a reduction in district councillors from 57 to 45.

5. Finance:

a) *Authorised payments:*

£372.14 Mrs.J Richards salary for Aug/Sept. (Chq.712)

£517.50 CGM Grass Cutting Inv. 6744 (chq. 713)

£119.96 A. Morris for costs incurred for Village Voice (cheque 714)

£ 45.65 T. Hall for expenses re "Neighbourhood Plan" (chq. 715)

£370.91 Sapient IT – for replacement and installation of new computer (chq.716)

£ 49.90 A Morris for costs incurred for Village Voice (cheque 717)

£139.60 HM Inland Rev. PAYE for July, Aug, Sept. (cheque 718)

b) *Monies received:* None

c) Authorisation required for the purchase of new computer.

Parish Council authorised the purchase of the new computer, the cost to be shared with West Wrattling Parish Council.

d) Cllr. Schuilenburg needs to upgrade the website and requested funds of between £65 & £70. This was agreed.

6. Planning:

S/2108/15/FL – Change of use of stables to a single dwelling, small connecting link, reopening of access – Mr W Stone, The Meadow, Streetly End.

This application has just been received and it was decided that a meeting should be fixed to discuss it on Friday 9th October at Manor Farm.

7. Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Hall said the submission had gone in and the posters are to go up on the noticeboard and there will be a consultation period ending on 30th October.

8. Broadband:

Cllr. Schuilenburg received an update regarding the provision of "Superfast" Broadband to West Wickham and surrounds from Connecting Cambridgeshire. 1) The telephone street cabinet located on The Common Road will have fibre connectivity by the end of 2015; 2) A new "Onesie" telephone street cabinet with fibre connectivity is to be installed at Burton End, subject to planning permission. The net effect of the is that a small number of Burton End residents may have access to broadband speeds in excess of 22Mbps by the end of 2015, while the rest of the village should have access by the end of 2016.

Cllr. Schuilenburg was also tasked with registering the Village's interest in having a mobile phone mast erected within the village with a suitable agent. A small fee may be payable to the agent which was approved by all those present. It was agreed that Clls Schuilenberg should go ahead with registering. Cllr Charlton thanked him for all the work he had undertaken.

9. Maintenance:

- a) Cats eyes removal: Cllr. Fraser thought it very unlikely that these would be put back.
- b) Electrical recycling: Cllr. Licence had spoken to the person who organises this and he is happy to come to the next meeting. The Parish Clerk will notify other parish councils in case they might be interested in the scheme.
- c) Hedging & boundary clarification:
 - i. Kate Keen would like to know when CGM are going to cut the hedges on the recreation field as she wants to check they don't cut down the wrong trees. The Parish Clerk will find out when they intend to come.
 - ii. Cllr. Charlton asked if the correct boundary was ever established between the land belonging to Mr Pearson and the Parish Council path to the old sewage plant. The answer was no although many attempts to get it sorted had been made. The Chairman said he would cut where he thinks the boundary is and cut the hedge.

10. Children Play Area: Cllr. Plumb said that there was nothing needed doing as it was all very low risk. He asked the Parish Clerk to check with RoSPA what wording was required on the sign mentioned in the report.

11. Reports on meetings attended by Councillors: None.

12. Report by Council Cllr. Hickford:

- a) He reiterated the comments made by Cllr. Fraser regarding the cats eyes. It is not a legal requirement and will save them money, even though the road carries a great deal of traffic it is a C road. Parish Council asked him to look into how to upgrade this to an B road and would this entitle it to cats eyes?
- b) Because the green bins are being contaminated by items other than waste it cannot be composted. He asked if something could be put into the Village Voice to raise awareness.
- c) Local Highways Improvement Scheme: He was told that West Wickham had nothing in mind to apply for.

13. Report by Dist.Cllrs. Fraser/Turner

- a) Consultation re local elections already mentioned above.
- b) Local Plan: Work is in progress and it is hoped that by Dec/Jan there will be a public consultation so completion in 2016.
- c) The Local Development plan reconstruction is also ongoing.
- d) There is a petition regarding willingness to accommodate a proportion of refugees and the council will urge the government to participate with Europe. 1bn has been donated to the Syrian refugees in camps by the British government.
- e) Sustainable parish energy.
- f) £190,000 has been provided for new IT system as existing one 10 years old. It will enable linking up with other local government groups.
- g) Planning applications may only be available on-line, but nothing decided.
- h) Cllr. Turner thanked West Wickham for their support of the Mobile Warden Scheme.

i) Cllrs. had noticed when looking on-line at planning apps. that the village envelope seems to have been moved. How could this have been done without notification and approval from the Parish Council and who would have authorised it?

14. Any Other Business:

a) Some concern had been expressed by a parishioner about gritting in the High Street. Will this be carried out regularly. Cllr Fraser said yes it would.

Next meeting is **Monday 7th December 2015.**

Chairman.....