

Draft

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021

By zoom at 7.30pm.

Those present were: Councillor P.Charlton (Chairman), Cllrs. M. Cornish, P. Grieve, A Hazelhurst, D.licence, A. Schuilenburg & D Sargeant. County Councillor H Batchelor, Dist.Cllr. Harvey, Trevor Hall & the Parish Clerk.

- 1. Apologies:** Andrew Morris.
- 2. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 3. Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 23rd November were approved and signed as correct.
- 4. Matters arising:**
 - a) ***Affordable Housing:*** Cllr. Cornish told Council that two of the three properties available to let are now occupied by two families with links to West Wickham, with one made available to a family from a neighbouring parish.
 - b) ***Update on branches dumped in wild life area:*** The branches have now been cleared away following a letter sent to the owner by the Parish Council.
 - c) ***Purchase of new computer for Parish Clerk:*** Cllr.Schuilenburg is looking into this. The ParishClerk has looked for any paperwork on the previous purchase but unable to find anything. The Licence No. may possibly be on the computer and Cllr. Schuileburg will investigate.
- 5. Correspondence:** None
- 6. Planning:**

20/3139/ S73	W Stone	The Meadow, Streetly End	Amendment to S/ 4286/19	12/10/20	26/10/ 20	Supt.	
20/3900/ LBC	G Ireland	19 High St.	Replace dormer windows etc.	12/10/20	26/10/ 20	Supt.	
20/04192/ FUL	Agent	Land s. of 24 High St.	Change of use to resid.	27/10/20	10/11/ 20	Supt.	
20/2565/ HFUL	Mr Jordan	The White Horse	Amendment re rear element	31/10/20	13/11/ 20		
20/04470/ PR103Q	W.Stone	The Meadow Streetly End	Prior app.of change of use of agric.bldg. to dwelling hses.	7/12/20	21/12/ 20		

Re 20/2565 – amendment – Because the original application has been turned down by Planning it is likely that this amendment is now obsolete.

Re 20/04192 – change of use of land at 24 High St. This has been turned down by Planning and the owner told she would probably be unsuccessful if she re-applied as it goes against policy as at present the land is classified as agricultural. The land can still be used as a garden.

7. Finance:

Update of Accounts distributed to Councillors.

a) Authorised payments

£156.40 HRC PAYE 3rd qtr. (chq. 0943 paid)

£398.70 Mrs J Richards Dec/Jan 2021 salary (chq.0944)

£226.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.1140, 1084, 1103, 1131, 1154 Sept./Oct./Nov./Dec/Jan
Village Voice (chq.0945)

£300.00 ABC Tree Surgery (Rob Giles) trees & hedge maintenance (chq.0946)

b) Monies received:

£351.68 VAT reclaim for 20/21.

£4,149.00 Groundwork UK – grant for Neighbourhood Plan work.

d) Precept – The amount of Precept for 2021/2022 had previously been discussed and formerly agreed that the amount remains as for last year, £12,000. A vote was taken and all agreed this figure. The budget for the new year would remain the same as 20/21 A vote was taken and all agreed.

e) Changes to donations: It was agreed that Age UK donation should be increased to £300 from £250. The Royal British Legion wreath for Remembrance Day to be increased from £20.00 to £30.00.

f) Trevor Hall, Chairman of the VHMC asked if the possible extension to the hall had been taken into account. It will cost approx.. £3000 for architects input and plans and he needs to know that the Parish Council had funding for this as they are the owners of the hall. Cllr Licence asked if the VHMC would make a donation towards costs. Cllr Charlton said there were reasonable reserves but needed to know approximate costs of architects fees, including plans. This was agreed.

8. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) Speed Indicator & Speed Watch Reports: Trevor Hall reported on the results of the Speed Indicators at Burton End and Streetly End and the figures showed some improvement, probably mainly due to people not travelling to work at present.

b) Update on LHI contracted work still to be carried out: County Cllr. Batchelor had enquired about the work not carried out on signage entering West Wickham from Streetly End but was told that the cost of completing the work would have to be borne by the Parish Council. The Chairman wondered if this was legally correct as there was a contract.

9. Maintenance:

a) Pot hole at Streetly End: matter closed.

b) Flooding at Streetly End: No further progress. There is also a small lake outside 30 Streetly End, and the owner now parks his car in the road so people don't drive

through it. ***Cllr. Batchelor will be asked to look into this; there is a drain nearby which should be cleared out. In fact a plan needs drawing up regarding clearing out all the drains in the parish and making gulleys to drain water away to be given to the new Highways Officer once appointed.***

- c) ***Further curbing of the High Street:*** Nothing had been heard from Cllr. Batchelor as to whether there was a solution to this. ***The Chairman will follow this up.***
- d) ***Dead Beech tree on triangle at Streetly End:*** Cllr. Grieve reported that Robert Giles said the tree was dead and needed cutting down. Is it the responsibility of Highways to carry this out? ***The Parish Clerk will ask Cllr. Batchelor about this as it is a safety issue.*** Cllr. Grieve had also noticed whilst out walking an old footpath in Cardinals Green (not in our Parish) a loose piece of corrugated iron which could cause a lot of damage if flying loose in a strong wind. ***The Chairman said he would mention this to the Chairman of Horseheath P.C.***

10. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- a) ***Extension to Village Hall:*** The Chairman of the VHMC is seeking three quotes for building the extension. He is continuing with his plan for better security and safety with 4 CCTV cameras being placed outside to cover all areas. These are on continuously.
- b) ***Climbing Wall:*** It has been too wet to demolish this. Instead of removing it, Cllr. Schuilenburg suggested using treated wooden sleepers placed on end and fixed in concrete, which would be far cheaper than plastic wood and better than the original construction which used some of the wood from the old play area before the refurbishment, and were not set in concrete. That construction passed the Safety Inspection so he could not see why this new construction would not pass. He realized that it was essential that it did pass the safety criteria. Cllr. Licence said she would ask Tom Licence to have another look at the possibility of keeping the wall and to have a talk with Cllr Schuilenburg. Cllr. Sargeant asked whether or not the hazard taping put round the mound needed replacing. ***This will be checked.***

11. Zero Carbon Funding: Trevor Hall said the application made by the Village Hall was not successful. He understood that there was money being made available for small businesses sometime this year by SCDC and he believed the village hall would be applicable for this possible £3000. Cllr. Harvey said to make an application and suggested Trevor Hall get in touch with Vicky Hoover who is dealing with this. Cllr. Licence said she would let Trevor have the address details. ***Cllr. Harvey will check this out regarding dates.***

12. Neighbourhood Plan: The Chairman had read the pre-submission draft plan and said what a huge undertaking it was and that the Parish Council was extremely grateful for the effort and time to get to this point. He said it read very well and made a lot of sense and was well put together and congratulated the team involved with this. Cllr. Sargeant said that the draft circulated to councillors incorporated extensive and detailed feedback from the SCDC. Planning consultant Rachel Hogger is helping the working group with the

finer points that will be scrutinised during the examination phase. It was hoped that the Regulation 14 consultation would start in February but under the current Covid regulations this is not possible. During the delay the team are making as much use as possible of Rachel's expertise to prepare to start the consultation as soon as the circumstances allow.

13 Allotments: Nothing to report.

14. Covid 19: Cllr. Licence reported that no action in the Parish has been required. She gets regular updates from SCDC. Something will be written in the Village Voice to say anyone needing help please contact either Cllr Licence or Nicky Cornish.

15 Reports from County Cllr. Henry Batchelor and District Cllr. Geoff Harvey:
Their reports have been put on the website.

Dist.Cllr. Harvey reported:

- a) The May elections may not take place but could be put forward to July.
- b) The GCP meeting is on 26th January and concerns the road from Linton to Haverhill.
Cllr. Hazelhurst will be attending.

County Cllr. Batchelor reported:

- a) The Rights of Way officer was unavailable due to illness and the Highways Officer has not yet been replace but interviews are taking place.
- b) Covid support available from SCDC and CCC. A transportation service has been set up to take people to vaccination sites.

16. Any Other Business:

a) The Chairman announced that Sue Thurston is stepping down as co-editor of the Village Voice and he wished to give very sincere thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for all she has contributed towards the success of the village magazine. Cllr Hazelhurst hoped that the magazine could go on-line as well as being a paper and could be in colour.

b) Cllr. Hazelhurst attended the East Transport meeting last week and will be at the GCP meeting this week. He will send out his notes to the Parish Council.

c) Cllr. Grieve hopes to have a Litter Pick-up Day as usual in the Spring and is making enquiries from SCDC as to whether or not they will be sending out the necessary equipment for doing this job. The Chairman said that if were not then the Parish Council would buy a supply of equipment for villagers to do their own "pick up". There is an enormous amount of litter on the roadside and it was also reported that there is also a problem with the amount of dog poo not being picked up, on the verges, the small green and footpaths.

The Chairman thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for a good meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday 22nd March 2021.

Chairman.....