

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 23rd January 2023

At 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Those present were: Vice Chairman D Sargeant, Cllrs Hazelhurst, Ling, McNeillie, Mulley-Richards and R.Temple. County Cllr. Batchelor, T.Hall and the Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies: Chairman Schuilenburg & Dist. County Cllr Harvey.
- 2 Declaration of Interest: Cllr D Sargeant under item 6 (Finance)
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022 were signed by the Vice Chairman, who was covering for the Chairman, the Minutes having been approved..
4. Correspondence:
Parish Nurse Project – Letter from Keith Day of the Parish Nurse Project telling us that at present they had not been able to recruit a new Parish Nurse.

4. Planning:

22/0351/S73	A Covey	Streetley Hall Farm	S73 variation – amend to create estate office/meeting room	2/9/22	Support/granted
22/04206/FUL	McWilliam	38 Streetly End	Solar panels mounted on ground	26/9/22	object
22/04912/LBC	R Giles	61 Streetly End	Re-rendering with sympathetic lime render	22/11/22	Support/granted
s/3740/17/Conda	BTL Ltd	The Meadow, Streetly End	Re tree protection	19/12/22	
22/04866	S Sutch	35 High St.	Re-appl. For summer house at rear.	18/12/22	
22/03388/CONDA	Blackwell	1 Burton End	Re listed bldg..consent 22/03388/LBC	Inf.only	

22/0351/S73 – This has been granted but Council had objected to this and wondered why the village Neighbourhood Plan had not been taken into account. The Parish Clerk will check if the Comments were sent.

22/04866 – reapplication Although supported it was agreed to respond with “no recommendation”.

6. Finance:

- a) Update of Accounts to be distributed to Councillors.
- b) Authorised payments
 - £ 58.00 E & E Plumridge – Village Voice Costs -Inv.2502 (Oct.) (paid BACS)
 - £159.80 HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE 3rd qrt. payment (chq.1038) paid
 - £426.20 J.Richards Oct/Nov. salary less PAYE (chq. 1039)
 - £ 5.44 J.Richards for pack of 8 postage stamps (chq. 1039)
 - £ 12.00 J.Richards – expenses for Hub Evening (canapes 100) (chq.1039)

£414.96 English Woodlands – purchase of trees/stakes & fixings for new wood (chq.1040)
£ 42,37 A.Schuilenburg – expenses for Hub evening (chq.1041)
£213.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.2441,2563,2632&2691 Sept/Nov/Dec/Jan.issues Village Voice
(on-line payment)
£ 81.35 D.Sargeant – KPCM Display Ltd. Inv.140579851 purchase of signs for play area
(chq. 1041)

c) Monies received: £280 in donations from parishioners for purchase of trees for new wood.

d) Budget requirements for 2023 2024 & discuss the Precept sum to be requested.

Precept 2023/24: The question of how much increase to ask for was discussed and it was agreed that although there were reasonable reserves there would be a general increase in costs the coming year and therefore a 5% increase was agreed upon, making the Precept £12,600. This was proposed by Cllr Sargeant and seconded by Cllr McNeillie and agreed by the Council. It was suggested having a special budget meeting to set out plans for the short and medium term spending and this was agreed. Cllr Sargeant will sort out a suitable date for everyone.

Budget for 2023/24: This will be discussed at the proposed meeting.

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

- a) Speed Indicator: Mr Trevor Hall reported that the cost of a SID would be £4000. The current LHI window has closed and the council did not make a bid. Before putting in a LHI bid for a grant the Council needs to know if there are any makes of SID which are not acceptable for an LHI bid. The Parish Clerk will check this out.
- b) Speed Watch Equipment: The Parish Clerk wrote to the Balsham P.C. clerk enquiring about the use of the equipment which was possibly not now used by them as they now have two SIDs. The response was not at all clear and she will again email their clerk.
- c) Road Narrows Signs: It was agreed that before making a decision about “narrow” signs the width of the road should be taken and then find out if Highways would put signs up. There have been two accidents recently. Cllr Hazelhurst will raise this with the highways officer at the next Joint Parish Meeting.
- d) Single Track with Parking Places: Following the chaos caused by Webbs Road being used as a diversion road it was agreed that it needs to be designated “not suitable” for GVH traffic. Cllr Hazelhurst will raise this at the Joint Parish Meeting.

8. Maintenance:

a) Footpath maintenance: Cllr Temple has completed an audit on the footpaths and produced a map showing where the posts are and the state they are in. There are 18 missing. Cllr Temple will speak to the Footpath Officer about the stakes, where to buy them etc. With the landowners consent a work party may be required to replace the posts, headed by councillors if possible. The bridges are in good order. The overhanging hedge covering the Village Hall sign needs cutting back which Highways will do.

b) Trees for wood: All the trees have now been planted and thanks were given to Cllr Temple and Di Licence for their help.

c) Plaque for new wood: The landowner, Marcus Cornish must be asked about the plaque and the wording to ensure he is in agreement. It is hoped that Martin Chamberlain, who did the village sign, will be able to do it. A suggestion was also made about putting up a Wildlife Information stand and enquiries will be made about where to purchase it and the cost. Again permission must be given by Marcus.

9.. Village Hall & Recreation Ground: Update

a) Solar panels: A single frame system of solar panels would cost £35,000; £12000 awarded by Zero Carbon, £11,000 from the Village Hall and possible Lottery funding of £10,000. The

Parish Council will investigate if the work is carried out on behalf of the Parish Council whether the VAT could be reclaimed.

b) Play area maintenance issues: It was agreed that Robert Giles could go ahead with the hedge cutting round the rec. The Parish Clerk will let him know. Cllr Sargeant will follow up on various minor repairs and needs to be done before the RoSPA inspection.

c) free tree acquired from SCDC: This will need staking and tree protectors and a suitable spot to plant it on the recreation ground.

d) RoSPA Report/Playground Repairs: This was covered above.

10. Allotments:

a) Water meter issue: The issue of payment for water has been settled following Trevor Hall's negotiations with the water suppliers concerning the sewage standing charge, which has been considerably reduced. The allotment holders will pay their share per allotment on an annual basis to be collected by the Parish Clerk. Thanks were given to Trevor Hall.

11. Meetings attended by Cllrs: None

12. Report by County Cllr. Batchelor (reports on website)

a) 24,000 responses were received regarding the Sustainable Travel Zone consultation. The data will not be available until March at the earliest.

b) Local Plan: It has been found that due to the very fast economic growth and associated employment growth that has been achieved halfway through the current local plan there is an anticipated shortfall of 8000 houses. It is therefore likely that this will mean either another new town or lots of small medium sized developments in the next Local Plan to meet national government rules. The Local Plan is put forward by the local government but has to have the approval of central government.

c) Acorn Bioenergy plant proposal at Spring Grove Farm off the A1307: No planning application has yet been submitted as they are having to provide more environmental data. The Parish Council were unaware of this project and it was suggested to make contact with John Howard, Chairman of Horseheath P.C. to find out more.

13. Any other business:

a) There was a query about what was being built in the garden of 103 High St. No planning permission has been applied for and there was no reason to assume the works are a Parish Council matter.

b) Cllr Temple asked if anyone could join the village Whats Ap group and was told yes but it is not endorsed by the Parish Council as it is not formally moderated.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 27th March 2023.

Chairman: