

Draft
WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 27th March 2023

At 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Those present were: Chairman Schuilenburg, Cllrs Sargeant, , Ling, McNeillie, Mulley-Richards and R.Temple. District Cllr. Harvey and the Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies: County Cllr Batchelor & Cllr Hazelhurst.

2 Declaration of Interest: None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 were signed, the Minutes having been approved..

4. Correspondence:

- a) Friends of the Roman Road – It was agreed to continue patronage of “The Friends”.
- b) Letter from Lucy Fraser MP regarding the Coronation – The Parish Council will be giving financial support for “The Big Lunch” to be held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

5. Planning:

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
22/03388/CONDA	Blackwell	1 Burton End	Condition 3 re windows & roof lights	/1/23
23/0187/TCA		50 Streetly End	Tree work	9/3/23
23/0209/TTCA		Peacock Cottage Streetly End	Tree work	23/2/23

1. Query concerning 103 High St. – 20/3502/HFOL Planning Permission obtained in 2020.
2. Acorn Bioenergy proposal – any further news about this proposal can be obtained from John Howard, Chairman of Horseheath Parish Council..

6. Finance:

- a) Update of Accounts to be distributed to Councillors.
- b) Authorised payments
£426.20 J.Richards Oct/Nov. salary less PAYE (chq. 1043)
£159.80 HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE 4th qrt. payment (chq.1044)
£ 97.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.2775 and Inv. 2828 for Feb & Mar.Village Voice (online)
£750.00 am PCC – contribution to churchyard and fabric maintenance (chq. 1045)
- c) *Monies received:* HMRC £413.26 refund
- d) *Budget:* The Chairman told Council that the budget set for 2022 2023 was on schedule with £918 deficit which will hopefully be regained from the takings at The Big Lunch. The accounts had been distributed to all the council and the Chairman felt that little needed changing in the budget for 2023 2024 but he listed a number of costs extra to the normal expenditure.

1. **The Big Lunch** – Di Hazelhurst who is organising this event would like a budget for the purchase of food and beer etc., Nicky Trudgeon will run the bar and the BBQ by the Chairman. The Chairman suggested £1500 to be set aside for the event but as people will be buying their food and drink there should be a return on this expenditure. Trevor Hall and his wife have offered to provide tea. There is no music organised yet but the Chairman will see if there are any local DJ's who could provide this. This sum was agreed.
2. **Maintenance of the play ground:** see under item 9.
3. **Parish Clerk salary** – this will be increased inline with the Retail Price Index of 9.2% equating to £288 p/a. This was agreed.
4. **Solar panels** – This purchase and resulting asset ownership will be made by the Parish Council. Lottery funding is being applied for, the Village Hall has money set aside and will make a donation to the Parish Council towards the total cost. The Chairman will contact HMRC to confirm VAT can be reclaimed.

e) *Audit Exemption letter:* It was agreed to apply for exemption from External Audit for 2022/2023 as the income and outgoings were under £25,000..

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

- a) **Speed Watch Equipment:** The present shared SID is not working correctly with the programming not being able to be changed and the data cannot be accessed. The company who sold us the SID was contacted and they suggested the purchase of two laptops which will work in conjunction with the speed equipment, this would cost some £500. Or the company could come and get the equipment working correctly using their computers at a cost of £1000. The Chairman will further investigate and will then complain to the company who sold it to us for selling something which was not up to par.
- b) **Road Narrows Signs:** *Webbs Road & coming into West Wickham*
Any changes would first require a traffic survey as it would change the flow of traffic coming through the village. A sign indicating the narrowness of the road would slow traffic or similarly white lines on the outside edges of the road. This was discussed but the concern was that it would cause disruption at commuter time. Cllr Temple asked what a traffic survey showed. The answer was that it counted how many cars came through in a particular time period. It was agreed that the width of the road needed to be checked before doing anything further as if it was the standard size nothing could be done. The possibility of challenging the various speed limits between West Wickham and Horseheath was suggested. The Chairman asked if this could be raised at the next Joint Parish Council meeting with our Highways Officer. **The Parish Clerk will check the date and find out who would attend.**
- c)

8. Maintenance:

- a) **Footpaths:** Cllr Temple has completed a more detailed map of the footpaths showing where the posts and yellow discs are missing with 13 posts needing replacing. The Chairman said there were reserves set aside for other projects, e.g. the village hall extension, which could be used for the purchase of these posts. He suggested getting quotes from Cambridge Fencing who are reliable, Bradnams or MKN in Haverhill. Cllr Temple will look into this.
- b) **Plaque for new wood:** Cllr Temple distributed an image from Shelley Signs Ltd. of a Wildlife Board for the Jubilee Wood which they could provide, however they are expensive. It is possible that funds could be raised, maybe at "The Big Lunch". **The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Di Licence who had a similar but smaller board put up in the little wildlife park near the allotments to find out where she purchased it and the cost. Also contact Perla Artega who made the Footpath sign, as she might like to do the artwork for the sign.**
- c) **Village Clean Up:** Cllrs McNeillie and Schuilenburg are co-ordinating this on 22nd April which is Global Earth Day. The two groups of volunteers will meet either at the village

hall or at the Streetly End Noticeboard and will be provided with gear for picking up rubbish etc. which will be collected by SCDC the following week.

9.. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- a) **Solar panels:** Dealt with under item 6. Budget 4 d.
- b) **Play area maintenance issues:** Many of items needing attention on the last RoSPA report have been dealt with by Cllrs Sargeant and Schuilenburg. The zip cable is in good order but the net on the MUGA has been removed and a new plastic net has been ordered by Cllr Sargeant. The Rotaplay top was not attached as the retaining bolt had sheared off. A new set of bearings are required and Wicksteeds have been asked for a quote to supply them. Some of the play equipment is now showing wear and tear and the Parish Council should expect continuing significant expenditure to maintain or replace it..
- c) **RoSPA inspection:** This will happen in April.
- d) **Fencing:** The work by Tom Licence has not yet been completed round the playground. The Chairman and Vice Chairman inspected the fence surrounding the playground and concluded with minor repairs it would remain serviceable for several years.
- e) **Coronation Tree:** This is now in place. **The Parish Clerk to ask Tom Licence to put protection posts round it. Also ask Martin Chamberlain, who made the village sign, if he could make a plaque for the tree.**

10. Coronation Plans: Covered earlier. One thing not discussed was should the Village Voice be in colour for the Coronation issue (June) requested by Andrew Morris. This was agreed to.

11. Communications from residents:

- a) Bird deterrents: Whilst the disturbance to the village was recognised these are legally allowed and in previous years installed in line with NFU guidelines.
- b) Thurlow Hunt: Hounds got loose at the top end of Burton End and when questioned Thurlow Hunt have apologised noting that they were not their hounds but belonged to the Pytchley with Woodland hunt
- c) Walking Event: A flour trail and food was left by walkers through the village.

All matters concerning these events have now been addressed.

12. Meetings attended by councillors: Cllr Sargeant attended the Combined Parish Meeting on Planning and Cllr Hazelhurst attended the Combined Parish Meeting on Highways.

13. Report by District Cllr Harvey (Reports shown on website)

- a) The Congestion consultation report is still being looked out.
- b) There is now a need for additional housing as the Cambridge area has grown more quickly than expected. Increased development will not be supported until concerns over the water supply are addressed.

14. Any other business:

- a) Cllr McNeillie wished to know whether or not the Telephone Box in Streetly End belonged to the Parish Council. He had just replaced a pane of glass which had been broken. It was confirmed that it was the property of the Parish Council, purchased many years ago for £1.
- b) The Chairman had spoken to people from County Broadband, a private company, who are putting broadband into private homes. It is possible that homes in this area will be able to access FTTP broadband within a year.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30 followed by the Parish Meeting at 8.30pm..

Chairman: