

# WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Those present were: Cllr A Schuilenburg (Chair), Cllr D. Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs. Hazelhurst, Ling, McNeillie, Temple & County Cllr. Batchelor, Dist.County Cllr. Harvey, the Parish Clerk and 12 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. C Mulley-Richards.
- 2. Declaration of Interest:** Cllrs. Sargeant, Temple & Mulley-Richards under item 6.
- 3. Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to be signed as correct.
- 4. Correspondence:**
  - SCDC Climate & Environment – offer of 6 free trees or 1 larger potted tree.* It was agreed that there was no need for any further trees at present.
  - Magpas Air Ambulance – donation request.* It was agreed that no donation is made.
  - Neighbourhood Plan information re Freedom of Information request.* A request had been made for a very large amount of information from the Neighbourhood Plan documentation. After an internal review, Cllr Schuilenburg replied, refusing the request as the cost exceeds the appropriate limit.
- 5. Planning:**

<b>23/0856/TTCA</b>		27 High St. W.Wickham	Pollarding, removing & crowning	11/7/23	1/9/23
<b>23/1096/TCGA</b>	R Giles	61 Streetly End	Elm in need of cutting down as rotten	21/9/23	11/10/23
<b>CCC/23/110/F UL</b>	C.Covey	Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End	Farm-based anaerobic digester renewable energy facility + access/road to A1307etc.	27/10/23	Deferment date 6/12/23

1. CCC/23/110/FUL – Anaerobic digester & Streetly Hall farm access road:  
Chris Covey, who is making this application gave a 5 minute outline of the proposal explaining that farming has changed considerably since Brexit and this project was to diversify to provide a living for the farm and enable them to keep their staff. Whether the application goes through or not the movement of transport will still increase because more crops will have to be grown. He was grateful for the support received from West Wickham and knows how difficult it must be but hopes they and surrounding villages will give their support.

Anita Stone, who is opposed to the application, amongst others, gave a 10 minute outline why the application should not be approved. She argued the transport figures were insufficient to show the effect it would have on the land and villages, and the bigger picture regarding sustainability. Maize and whole crop cereal would be grown which is not good for the soil. The application goes against the Neighbourhood Plan. There is no mention of the removal of the bio methane from the site, no plan for the construction management during the 62 week construction phase and the odour assessment is questionable. Noise, traffic safety and land protection was not given enough thought.

Members of the parish council then debated the application, considering the arguments presented, and asked for clarification from both Chris Covey and Anita Stone on various aspects.

The Chairman then spoke saying that there was a need for more clarity of transport figures, for example how were HGVs and heavy tractors going to get safely off and on the A1307 without changes to the road layout and causing long tail-backs. He feared that Streetly Hall Farm would end up as an industrial park not an agricultural park as no decommissioning plan was provided. He did point out that from past experience whichever way the Parish Council voted had very little sway with SCDC. He then asked each councillor for their comments before he asked for their decision. All were negative and had received objections from parishioners. A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously to object to the application and also agreed that it should be referred to Committee. Cllr Sargeant will inform Cambridge County Council of its decision.

2. Proposed plan for The Devana Centre for Environmental Recovery for West Wickham, Cambs.on land purchased from Yen Hall – Nothing further to report.

## 6. Finance:

### a) *Authorised payments*

£464.40	J.Richards Oct/Nov salary less PAYE (chq.1072)
11.00	8 postage stamps + petrol costs re travel to Lloyds Haverhill. (chq. 1072)
97.00	E&E Plumridge Inv.3297 & 3373 printing costs (BACS)
100.00	S.Licence for 10 cuts @ £10 a cut of Wildlife area grass (chq.1073)
47.65	WWVH – water costs from allotment holders for 2023 (chq.1074)
31.74	Cllr R Temple for fixings for Footpath posts (chq.1075)
21.57	Cllr D Sargeant for signage for MUGA on rec. ((chq.1076)
79.80	C.Mulley-Richards for allotment maintenance (gate) (BACS)
10.00	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for wreath (chq. 1077)
600.00	ABC Tree Surgery (Rob Giles) Inv 1007. (chq. 1078)

### b) *Monies*

*received:*

£263.50 Allotment rent for 2024 + water costs.

c) *Parish Nurse £250 donation refund* – The parish clerk read out a letter received from Keith Day, Church Warden and Trustee of the Parish Nurse Fund, saying that the money would go towards funding the Community Worker Fund which had taken the place of the Parish Nurse Fund. It was agreed to donate the existing money to the Community Worker Fund.

d) *J.Dockerill (Running Total) increase in cost of the Payroll accts.* It was agreed that the increase to £60 from £40 should be accepted.

## 7. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Road Narrows Signs (Webbs Road & coming into West Wickham):* There will be a road closure but it is nothing to do with repairing the road but a water issue at Streetly Hall Farm.

b) *LHI application:* Cllrs McNeillie and Schuilenburg are putting together an LHI application for new speed signs. However before submitting this it would be good to know that there will be volunteers to help run these signs and no one had come forward following the notice put in the Village Voice. Cllrs Temple, Hazelhurst and Sargeant offered their services, making a total of 4, including Cllr McNeillie, who will be taking a training course. It is necessary to get 3 quotes for the equipment.

The Chairman spoke about the need for a “right of way” sign for the section of road leading up from Streetly End to West Wickham, where the road narrows. He asked Cllr. Batchelor whether or not Highways would be prepared to do this or will it mean submitting another LHI application. Cllr Batchelor said he would look into this.

## 8. Maintenance:

a) *Footpaths:* Cllr Temple said all but one field footpath had been reinstated. He told Council that the Footpath map was now out of date as it did not show the Devana Centre and also need the names of the landowners whose land the footpaths go through.

b) *Wild flower area re cut back & hedging:* This has now been cleared but the hedge behind it needs some attention. The Parish Clerk will check out if Rob Giles will cut it back.

- c) *MUGA "No climbing" sign*: The sign, recently bought, will shortly be in place.
- d) *Dog fouling issue, dog fouling signs and additional general waste bins*: There have been complaints made about dog fouling, where a small percentage of dog owners are not picking their dog's faeces up. A CCTV video had been taken of two offenders. Environmental Health, contacted by the Chairman, said that the SCDC could legally issue a Community Protection Notice to repeat offenders, violation of which would result in a fine and a criminal record. However, there must be sufficient collection bins and also clear signage. Cllr McNeilie said there were no bins in Streetly End but there was also no problem. Cllr Schuilenburg said there are 3 in West Wickham High Street and one at the Village Hall. For additional bins, there are two types: one for only collecting dog poo, the other is for collecting any waste, the cost being £518.68 and £417.75 respectively per bin and a £4 charge per bin per empty. Burton End would be a suitable place for one. More signs are needed and the Chairman will request signs to go on waste bins and be placed around the village from SCDC.
- e) *Keys for noticeboards*. There appeared to be a need for spare keys, however Trevor Hall, Cllrs Hazelhurst and McNeilie said they each had a key so no need for more.

#### **9. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:**

- a) *Play area*: The fenceposts are still unprotected. **Trevor Hall has offered to provide protective material and the Parish Clerk will ask Rob Giles if he will do this.**
- b) *Hub Night & Coffee morning cooker recipes*: So far no recipes have been received to go in the Village Voice. **The Parish Clerk will check with Di Licence, whose idea it was..**

#### **10. Standing Orders:**

Cllr Hazelhurst told Council that he had updated the Standing Orders and they would be emailed a copy shortly, to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **11. Allotments:**

The new gate has now been installed and paid for.

#### **12. Meetings attended by councillors:** None

#### **13. Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr Harvey.**

Distributed to Cllrs. and on website.

County Cllr. Batchelor reported on a government project to expand Cambridge with funding for the building of 20,000 houses and turning Cambridge into the new Silicon Valley.

#### **14. Any Other Business:.** None

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**Signed:**