

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Those present were: Cllr A Schuilenburg (Chair), Cllr D. Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs. Hazelhurst, Ling, Mulley-Richards, Temple & County Cllr. Batchelor, Dist.County Cllr. Harvey, the Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. G. McNeillie

2. **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Schuilenburg under item 6.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023 were agreed and signed as correct.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) BHIB notification of change of their name to **Clear Group**.
- b) Letter regarding the Parish Nurse donation now to go towards the Community Minister.

5. **Planning:**

23/0856/TTCA		27 High St. W.Wickham	Pollarding, removing & crowning	11/7/23	1/9/23
23/1096/TCGA	R Giles	61 Streetly End	Elm in need of cutting down as rotten	21/9/23	11/10/23
CCC/23/110/FUL	C.Covey	Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End	Farm-based anaerobic digester renewable energy facility + access/road to A1307etc.	objected	6/12/23
23/04942/prior	T Burley	102 High St.	Single storey rear ext.	8/1/24	15/1/24

1. *CCC/23/110/FUL* – Anaerobic digester & Streetly Hall farm access road – It is unlikely that the planning officer will make their initial decision until late Spring and probable the application will be referred to Committee for determination. There are further investigations being made regarding the impact on the landscape. The Chairman asked Mr Covey what the percentage of greenstock will be coming from his farms and he said about 50%. Mr Covey said he would be happy to show people round and explain what his plans are and how they will work. He was disappointed that the proposal had not received local support.
2. *Possible family leisure destination at Horseheath Lodge estate notified by Estate Manager:* Cllrs. Temple, Mulley-Richards, McNeillie and Schuilenburg wish to accept the invite to visit the site but no date has yet been fixed.
3. *24/04942PRIOR* – 102 High St: Cllr Sargeant said as the notice was for prior approval of permitted development nothing further needed to be done unless we are concerned the development are not eligible as permitted development. There is no indication from the submitted plans that this is the case.

6. **Finance:**

a) *Authorised payments*

£19267.66 Greenscape Energy for solar panels on village hall (BACS payment 5/12/23) **paid**
 174.20 HMRC 3rd qrt PAYE payment (chq. 1079) **paid**
 464.40 J.Richards Dec/Jan. salary less PAYE (chq.1081)

- 10.00 J.Richards cost of 2 packets (each 500 sheets) of photocopy paper. (chq. 1081)
- 81.00 E&E Plumridge Inv.3434 Village Voice printing costs (BACS 4/12/23)
- 49.00 Unlimited Web Hosting (Chq. 1082)
- 7.19 A.Schuilenburg – Screwfix fixings for rec. (Chq. 1083)
- 20.00 E&E Plumridge Ltd. (chq.1084) **cancelled – to be paid to Cllr Temple.**

b) *Monies received:* None.

- c) *Budget:* The Chairman discussed the possible needs for the coming year and said there was a shortfall of £4735.25 after Greenscape Energy had been paid. He intends to put in an application for £5000 from the Wadlow Wind Farm fund to cover this shortfall. The Appeal will be kept going for the time being. There are additional expenses still to be incurred as part of the lottery funding grant required communication of the benefits of the project to the community. He thought a screen showing the daily electricity produced by the solar panels, how much was stored in the batteries, how much was exported back to the grid, how much the hall consumed from the solar panels and batteries, and how much electricity the hall used from the grid would be satisfactory. This could be achieved at a cost of approximately £100 for a Raspberry Pi and screen. The RPi will also send an alert if the fire alarm goes off. He spoke about holding an annual summer event to invite the Church and clubs that use the Village Hall and suggested that £1500 be put aside in the budget for this.
- d) *Precept:* Cllr Sargeant had produced a spreadsheet showing our Precept for the last 5 years and the cost to a band D property. He suggested we request an increase of 3.17% making the Precept £13,000 for 2024/25. **This was voted on and all agreed.**

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

- a) *Road Narrows Signs (Webbs Road & coming into West Wickham):* As yet nothing further to report but various suggestions were made such as making it one-way or having a temporary sign available saying road not suitable for HGVs when traffic on the A1307 needs to be diverted. Both of which were dismissed as not being possible. **ACTION – County Cllr Batchelor said he would get in touch with Bradley Southwell regarding permanent road signs at either end of Webbs Road possibly saying “single track lane with passing points, unsuitable for HGVs”.**
- b) *LHI application:* Cllrs McNeillie and Schuilenburg have put together an LHI application for new speed signs which has now been submitted and accepted for consideration.

8. Maintenance:

- a) *Footpaths:* Cllr Temple said all but one field footpath had been reinstated. He requested that the Parish Clerk write to the landowner of the unreinstated field pointing out that this should have been done within 6 weeks of harvesting. **ACTION: The Parish Clerk will write.**
- b) *Wild flower area re cut back & hedging:* This has now been cleared but the hedge behind it needs some attention. It has been established that this hedge belongs to English Cottages who built Orchard Close and is therefore their responsibility. **ACTION: The Parish Clerk will follow this up.**
- c) *Dog fouling issue, dog fouling signs and additional general waste bins:* The request put into the Village Voice by the Chairman has had a good effect and there have been no further complaints. Cllr Temple has looked into the cost of extra signs as at present there are 7 “CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG” signs in the village, several of which are very faded. New signs will cost £8 each and stickers for bins £4 each. It was agreed to order ten “CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG” signs for telegraph poles, two “DOG WASTE ACCEPTED IN THIS BIN” signs for open bins, three “DOG WASTE ACCEPTED IN THIS BIN” stickers for closed bins and one “NO DOG WASTE ACCEPTED” sticker for the green wheelie bin at the Village Hall. As there had been an improvement in the amount of dog waste left uncollected, it was decided to delay ordering any bins and wait and see if things remain as they are now. Cllr Mulley-Richards complained about dogs off the lead

being a menace in Home Close and had a stern word with one owner without effect.

ACTION: The Parish Clerk to put a notice in the Village Voice requesting that dogs are to be kept on a lead when in a public space.

d) *Elm Tree at Streetly End due to be cut down:* A request had been made not to cut it down as it provides wildlife shelter. However ABC Tree Surgeon says it needs to come down as it is rotten.

e) *Trimming of hedges alongside pavements and footpaths:* The Chairman had produced a letter to be sent to those whose hedges need attention asking them to be cut back.

ACTION: The Parish Clerk will send them out.

9. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

a) *Play area:* The fence posts are still unprotected. **Trevor Hall has offered to provide protective material and the Parish Clerk will ask Rob Giles if he will do this.** The zip wire also needs tightening which Cllr Sargeant said he would organise.

b) *Hub Night & Coffee morning cooker recipes:* So far no recipes have been received to go in the Village Voice. Recipe submissions to the Village Voice are welcome for publication.

10. Standing Orders:

Cllr Hazelhurst told Council that he had made some changes to the 2008 Standing Orders but on looking at them again felt they were unnecessary. The 2022 Standing Orders suggested by CAPALC seemed quite satisfactory with possible minor changes to time limits and legal requirements. **ACTION: He will send out what he has done and let councillors decide what needs putting in or not so it is ready to be accepted at the March meeting.**

11. Allotments: Nothing to report.

12. Meetings attended by councillors: Cllr Sargeant attended an interesting virtual SCDC Parish Planning Forum meeting and Cllrs. McNeillie and Schuilenburg attended the LHI meeting.

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

Distributed to Cllrs. and on website.

Cllr Harvey mentioned the Rural Prosperity Fund which was worth 1M.

County Cllr. Batchelor reported on parking enforcement with traffic wardens checking improper parking and sending out fines.

14. Any Other Business: None

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 25th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed: