

Draft

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday
25th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Those present were: Cllr A Schuilenburg (Chair), Cllr D. Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs. Hazelhurst, Ling, McNeilie, Mulley-Richards, Temple & County Cllr. Batchelor, Dist.County Cllr. Harvey, the Parish Clerk and 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interest: Cllr Schuilenburg and Cllr Mulley-Richards under item 5.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 were agreed and signed as correct.

4. Correspondence:

- a) Note from ABC Tree Surgery (Rob Giles) to say he is now VAT registered, and that he had been awarded the contract by English Rural to cut the hedging alongside the wildflower area et. al. to the left of the entrance to the Village Hall.
- b) Letter from CCC re Weeding Policy – distributed to Cllrs..

5. Planning:

CCC/23/110/FUL	C.Covey	Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End	Farm-based anaerobic digester renewable energy facility + access/road to A1307etc.		6/12/23 Do not support
23/04942/prior	T Burley	102 High St.	Single storey rear ext.	8/1/24	15/1/24 Support
24/00510/HFUL	W.Perry	9 Streetly End	Part sgle.storey, part two storey side & rear ext., porch & outbldgs.	26/2/24	14/3/24 No recom.
24/00875	Ms J Miles	95 High St.	Demo. Vacant outbldgs. Erect residential annexe ancillary to main dwel. & 3 bay garage	13/3/24	25/3/24

1. CCC/23/110/FUL – Anaerobic digester & Streetly Hall farm access road – No decision by CCC yet as there is still ongoing correspondence between CCC and C.Covey.
2. Horseheath Lodge estate: Discussed under item 13.
3. 24/00875 – 95 High St. Cllr Sargeant explained that his assessment of the application using Local and Neighbourhood Plans had been circulated to the council in advance of the meeting, which he summarised for those present. He explained he was uncertain as to whether the development would qualify as an extension, annex or as a new dwelling and would rely on the planning officer to make this determination. Cllr Sargeant suggested that development should not be supported as it was partially outside the development framework and the Parish Council have consistently objected to development that violated this key Local Plan Policy. Cllr Sargeant also explained there several violations of other Neighbourhood Plan policies, some of which could be resolved by additional submissions by the applicant. A neighbour also expressed concern regarding the drainage of the site

and this will be incorporated into the council's response. A vote was taken 4/1 against supporting it, with two declaring an interest.

6. Finance:

a) *Authorised payments:*

£174.20 HMRC 4th qrt. PAYE (chq 1085)

£464.60 J.Richards salary (Feb/Mar) less PAYE (chq.1086)

£ 39.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3541 (BACS) **Paid**

£134.40 R.Temple payment of We Do Signs & Labels (BACS) **Paid**

£ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3488 (BACS) **Paid**

£ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3590 (BACS) **Paid**

£ 36.00 Parish On-Line Inv.12UGO95-0008. (chq.1087)

£36.00 CPRE annual subscription (chq 1088)

£20.00 R.Temple for 200 fliers from E&E Plumridge (BACS) **Paid**

b) *Monies received:*

£ 7.50 allotment fee. (C. Mulley-Richards)

£4,089.75 VAT reclaim.

c) *Nomination of internal auditor for 2024:* It was agreed to ask Running Total (Jackie Dockerill) to carry out the internal audit for this year. **ACTION: The Parish Clerk will write.**

d) A new Pay Roll Service provider needs to be sought and the Parish Clerk had 3 quotes. It was agreed that Crystal HR & Payroll Ltd. should be asked to provide this service at £10.00 per month (ex VAT). **ACTION: The Parish Clerk will contact them.**

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Signage for Webbs Road:* CCC told Council that they would not do this but the Parish Council could and it would cost approx. £3,500. It was suggested quotes should be sought that are cheaper than this and it would also be good to know the breakdown between cost of signs and installation. **ACTION: County Cllr Batchelor will ask Highways for a breakdown of the costs.**

b) *Complaint re narrowing of the road at the corner going into Webbs Road from Streetly End:* The hedging needs cutting back and soil, which has accumulated from the verge over the years onto the road, removed. **ACTION: A letter has been sent to the owners of the hedge but the removal of the earth is the responsibility of Highways who will be notified.**

8. Maintenance:

a) *Footpaths:* There is still one to be re-instated and a letter has been sent requesting this to be done. **ACTION: The Chairman said he would visit the landowner.**

b) *Cut back of hedging behind wildflower area:* A letter was sent to English Rural who own the hedging who replied asking if our present hedge/grass contractor could do this job for them, to be charged to them.. **ACTION: Rob Giles/ABC Tree Surgery will cut this area as per his contract with English Rural.**

c) *Dog fouling signs and general waste bins:* One resident has expressed concern that greater use of the open bins for dog poo encouraged by the signs could lead to unpleasant odours during the summer months. However, SCDC is moving away from sealed dog poo bins. We could replace the open bins with Topsy bins (open at the sides), which may reduce odour if this occurs, although we would have to pay for the Topsy bins as well as a monthly charge for emptying the replacement bins. Currently the open bins are emptied through an existing agreement.

The Chairman pointed out that the sign "500 yds to cross roads" is lost in a hedge and not visible at all from the road. **ACTION: This is a Highways issue who will be notified.**

d) *Trimming of hedges:* Letters have been written and hedges are being cut back.

9. Village Hall & Recreation Ground:

- a) *Play area:* The stakes in the play area will get a protective cover but the lower end fencing is in poor condition and needs replacing. The Chairman proposed that some quotes should be sought as having looked at the accounts this could be afforded. **This was agreed.** Cllr Temple suggested whoever gets the job could be allowed to advertise their work on the site for a discount.
- b) *Safety inspection:* RoSPA will be carrying out their annual inspection in April. The zip wire has now been tightened.

10. Standing Orders: The Chairman has been through the Standing Orders and there are inserts to be completed. **ACTION: This will be done before the next meeting in order for the update to be adopted.**

11. Allotments: Cllr Mulley-Richards requested that the water now be turned on and the Chairman of the Village Hall will do this.

12. Proposed “Big Lunch” 1 June 2024: Plans are in progress and the Chairman will write to other parishes in the area inviting them to come and join in. Cllr Temple would like to change the name to “Big Garden Party” because of the activities hoped to be held. Suggested all the groups who use the village hall be invited to come and possibly put on displays. The History group would like to do this. The Chairman suggested that local brownie and scout groups be invited. There are many things in the pipeline. Cllr Temple had made a poster to be put up in other villages and in West Wickham. Fast food outlets are being sought and also suggesting that people bring a picnic.

13. Meetings attended by Councillors:

- a) The Chairman and cllrs. Hazelhurst, Temple, Mulley-Richards and McNeillie had a meeting with the Estate Manager for Horseheath Lodge regarding the possible Leisure Park. The owner has plans for a campsite, garden areas, a ground train, vineyard and possible Conference Centre. A Business Plan is not yet available and it would take 5 years to set it all up. Cllr Hazelhurst said a large car parking area will also be part of the application, and expressed the PCs concerns of the regular flooding and poor state of Dean road and whether it would be able to cope with additional traffic.
- b) Cllr Mulley-Richards had attended a meeting where the proposed Solar Park was discussed.

14. Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & District Cllr Harvey: These had been distributed.

- a) Cllr Harvey added that a showing of the film entitled “6 inches of soil” had proved to be very popular and would be of interest for the “Big Garden Party” or to the Gardening Club.
- b) Cllr Batchelor spoke about the 900 hectare solar park set between West Wrattling and the A11. The meeting held in Balsham was an informal presentation.

15. Any Other Business:

- a) A complaint had been received regarding the “loud bangs” of the bird scarers on Ted Fairhead’s land. It was noted by members of the council that these were no louder than usual and were being operated in accordance with current regulations and with consideration to users of the public footpaths. As such, there was nothing the Parish Council could do to address the complaint.
- b) There has been flooding at Burton End which Highways have said will be dealt with this week.
- c) The ditch by the church is blocked. Marcus Cornish is the owner and the Chairman will mention it when he visits him about the re-instatement of footpaths across his field.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th May 4.30-6.30 as Monday 27th is a Bank Holiday.

Signed: