

Draft

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

22nd July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .

Those present were: Councillor A.Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr. D.Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs.A. Hazelhurst, R.Ling, C.Mulley-Richards, G. McNeillie, R.Temple and District Councillor G Harvey, County Cllr. H Batchelor, the Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 3, **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2024 were signed as correct.
4. **Correspondence:** Two information letters from Lloyds Bank passed to the Chairman.
5. **Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC response</i>	<i>Status</i>
AC/2023/131802	A.Covey	Streetly End Farm	Anaerobic biodigester	2023/10/26	object	Granted

5a. The only item under Planning is the Biodigester. This has been granted planning permission by the Planning Committee despite all the objections from the local Parish Councils, the County Councillor and the SCDC landscape officer. Julie Copas raised the question of setting up an Informational Liaison Group as soon as possible to keep people informed of what is going on and would be happy to organise it alongside Chris Covey but this will likely be an informal group depending on the various conditions. This is in addition to the Site Liaison group that is part of the pre-construction conditions as the latter requires representatives from the Waste Planning Authority, Environmental Agency, District and County Councils, as well as local parish councils, which may not be readily available. The Chairman suggested there should be regular of the Informational Liaison Group meetings to report to the community via the Village Voice, website and social media more than reporting on a bi-monthly basis to the Parish Council. Cllr Hazelhurst felt it was not a job for Christ Covey to set this up but the Parish Council should facilitate it on a voluntary basis by making the hall available for these meetings. Chris Covey agreed that this could be possible and agreed to work with Julia Copas to set this group up prior to the formal Site Liaison group which he believed could not be in place until work begins. Cllr McNeillie asked whether the access road would be built before the construction work begins but was told by Chris Covey that this would be unlikely as the procedure to start construction of the new junction with the A1307 was likely to be lengthy and out of his control.

6. Finance: The Chairman said that most of the authorised payments will now be paid by BACS.

a) *Authorised payments*

£ 174.00 HMRC 1st qtr. PAYE BACS **paid**

£ 36.00 Crystal Pay Roll Service - 3 month charge **BACS paid.**

£ 39.00 EE Plumridge Inv. 3803 (Village Voice). **BACS paid.**

£ 25.00 Jake Bevan re PA system hire. Inv.4398. **BACS paid.**

£ 180.76 R.Temple - payment of St.Ives Bouncy Castle Inv.662. **BACS paid.**

£ 464.40 Mrs J Richards June/July salary less PAYE (chq. 1098)

£ 10.00 Mrs J Richards – 2 packs of photocopy paper (chq. 1098)

£ 65.00 J.Dockerill - carrying out the internal audit (chq.1099)

£ 81.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3873 July issue of Village Voice – **BACS paid.**

b) *Monies received:* Interest received on the Solar Panel Savings account.

c) *Payroll Service Provider:* There have been teething problems which will no doubt settle down.

7. Traffic & Parking issues:

a) *Pot holes & Flooding:* Regarding the 4 complaints, Nos. 475821, 474852, 472555, 473753 made in early May and on 21 May 2024 received notifications from Cambridgeshire Highways that the repairs would be completed within 21 days. To date nothing has been done. **Action: The Parish Clerk will inquire as to when work will be done.**

There is also a problem with blocked storm drains opposite 39 West Wickham Road, Balsham, where water is constantly pouring down the road and there is also a large pothole. The resident of 37 West Wickham Road, a former Balsham Parish Councillor, told Cllr Schuilenburg that the work that needs doing has now been approved.

8. Maintenance:

a) *Footpaths* – Cllr Temple requested that Duncan Henry be contacted about the state of his land. **The Parish clerk will write to him.** Footpaths 16 & 17 have been cut back by a parishioner and are now clear.

b) *Hedging & Wildflower areas:* Rob Giles has agreed to lend the use of his rotavator in the autumn to cut back the area. The Chairman also wishes to extend the area opposite his property to join Pete & Indie's wildflower area.

c) *Defibrillator at Streetly End:* Cllr McNeilie told Council that a design that will go into telephone boxes has been sourced and the cost will be approx. £1500 for the whole set up. There are funding agencies, e.g. British Heart Foundation, who will help with funding and as from 20th September 2024 a grant will be applied for, with the Parish Council possibly having to pay half, £700. Cllr McNeilie is happy to start applying for grant money and this was agreed.

d) *Waste bins:* The bin which had not been emptied as discussed at the last meeting, but emptied by the Chairman and was then emptied by South Cambs. The bin further up the street has still not been emptied but as there is little in it there is not a problem with smell.

Cllr Schuilenburg will contact Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Waste again to determine the emptying schedule of these bins. They are subject to an agreement which precedes the installation of the additional Topsy bins and apparently are not recognised by SCDC although they have been emptied regularly by them for at least the last 30 years.

e) *Overgrown tree:* Branches are resting on telephone wires and therefore need cutting back. This has been discussed with the owners and they have agreed that they should be cut back. A quote from Rob Giles (ABC Tree Surgery) of £330.00 +VAT to carry out the work had been received and this was agreed.

9. Village Hall & Recreation ground:

a) *Fencing:* The quote accepted at the last Parish Council meeting and the work will be done at the end of August. The fence pointed out by RoSPA has been repaired as it was urgent. The Rotator play equipment needs its annual greasing and Cllrs. Sergeant and Schuilenburg will do this and also check the cable tension.

b) *Goal posts:* These need refurbishing but it is a difficult job as the material used to coat the posts cannot be sandblasted and will require manual labour to refurbish. We need to do further investigation on purchasing new posts as the cost of new aluminium goalposts is ~£3000/pair. Robert Giles (from the floor) suggested keeping the existing goalposts at one end, replacing the net so it can still be used and new posts could be included in any refurbishment plan of the play equipment. The ground is not a standard size so could never be used for football matches.

c) *Post Office visit:* The Parish Clerk has been in correspondence with both Finchingfield Post Office and the Post Office but has received nothing positive so far. **The Parish Clerk will make further enquiries..**

10. Meetings attended by councillors: Cllr Sargeant and Cllr Schuilenburg had attended a meeting regarding 95 High St, who hope to resubmit their application having amended their plans. New plans were seen by both Cllrs which are scaled down. Nothing has been received as yet from Planning. Cllr Hazelhurst asked whether it was classified as an annexe or a new dwelling. Cllr. Sargeant said this will be determined by the planning officer when the new application is considered.

The Planning Committee meeting regarding the biodigester had been attended by Cllr Sargeant and Cllr. McNeilie thanked both him and the Chairman for all the work they had put into collating the various opinions and putting their case to the Planners. County Cllr Batchelor said the only further option for residents would be a judicial review which could only consider the process, not the decision and would be extremely costly. He also said that a formal Liaison Group could be formed straight away as that was the point of having it, to sort out points brought up by the community. This would include the County and District Councillors, Environment office and Highways Officer etc.. He said he would seek more clarity from the Planning Officers.

11. Reports by Council Cllr. Batchelor and District Cllr Harvey: Distributed to all Cllrs and put on the website.

Cllr Harvey:

- a) *Solar Farm Balsham* - no decision or planning application has been made which could take some time and if economics change may not be built.
- b) *Housing:* The amount of new housing to be built may also change with the new government.

Cllr Batchelor:

a). *Acorn Biodigester site:* There will be an impact on this application now Streetly Farm decision has been given but it will be 3/4 months before any decision is made. He also said that the Kingsway solar farm at Balsham could take many years before any decision is made.

12. Any Other Business:

a) Cllr Temple asked about the Queens Wood as Di Licence had asked if a sign could be made saying “Queens Wood, part of the “Queen’s Panoply”. This was agreed and Cllr Temple would liaise with Di License on wording. Mark Chapman would be asked if he could make an iron sign.

b) Julie Copas asked about the Devana Development. The Chairman said nothing had been heard but he will send a reminder about progress and any information could go into Village Voice.

c) Overgrown hedges at Streetly End junction going towards Streetly Farm.

d) The Parish Clerk was asked to send the Pothole complaint nos. to County Cllr Batchelor re 7a.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd September at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Chairman.....