

draft

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday
23rd September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Those present were: Councillor A Schuilenburg (Chairman), Cllr D Sargeant (Vice Chair), Cllrs. R.Ling, C.Mulley-Richards, G. McNeillie, R. Temple, District Councillor G Harvey, County Cllr. H.Batchelor, The Parish Clerk and 8 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Allen Hazelhurst.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** none
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024 were signed as correct.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Letter regarding LHI application from Emily Spencer, Camb.County Council: Cllr McNeillie had received news that in principle there had been a level of approval of the application but the final decision will not be made until the end of the year. Siting of the unit when a Speed Watch is carried out will be done by Trevor Hall, who will use the existing posts. Trevor Hall said he would check whether or not the price of the equipment has remained the same as last year.
 - b. Letter of thanks from AGE Uk with change of address notification.
 - c. Letter re Bus Franchising Consultation from Edward Colman, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, already distributed to the council, and it was thought worthwhile to put something in Village Voice to allow residents to put forward any ideas before the consultation ends in November. **The Parish Clerk will do this.**
5. **Planning:**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>PC Response</i>	<i>Status</i>
24/02819/HFUL 24/02468/LBC	A Smith	29 Burton End	int.alts.	26/7/24	support	
24/03336/HFUL	J Miles	95 High St. WW	demo.exist. outbldg. & erection of sgl.storey resid. annexe ancillary to the main bldg.	11/9/24	23/9/24	
24/03435/FUL	M Bennett	33 Burton End	Change of use from agric.land to gdn use.	17/9/24	23/9/24	

- a. 24/02819 & 24/02468 - A. Smith has received Permission from SCDC.
 - b. 24/03336/HFUL - 95 High St. - J. Miles. The Council supported this application.
 - c. 24/03435/FUL - 33 Burton End - M.Bennett. The Council supported this application.
 - d. *Streetly Hall Biodigester plant* – Julie Copas reported that she had had several meetings with Chris Covey and put 3 questions to him. Once Julie and Chris have agreed on the answers regarding conditions a summary written by Julie will be published in the Village Voice.
 - e. *Devanna Project* - A presentation was made prior to this meeting by Chris Bawtry which was well attended and received. Their Wildfell project at Wethersfield is doing well.
6. **Finance:** Accounts spreadsheet distributed to Councillors.
- a. *Authorised payments:*
 - £1,512.00 ABCTree Ltd. (Rob Giles) mowing & tree work. **BACS payment**
 - £ 58.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 3958. **BACS payment**
 - £ 97.00 E&E Plumridge Inv. 4010 **BACS payment**(balance to be paid by Groundforce)
 - £ 36.00 Crystal HR & Payroll Ltd. Inv. 16021- **BACS payment**

£ 464.60 Mrs J Richards salary for Aug/Sept.(cheque 1100)

£3,980.00 Cambridge Fencing & Forestry Co. for fencing play area Inv. 162. **BACS payment**

b. *Monies received:* None

7. **Traffic & Parking issues:**

- a. *Potholes & Flooding:* Only one hole has been repaired but the other 2 potholes and flooding, due to their size and location, will require road closures and heavy equipment. Their repair has now been delayed due to scheduling and budgetary approval. Two of these holes are wide and deep and dangerous. County Cllr Batchelor was asked if he could please enquire when these will be seen to.
- b. *LHI-MVAS Grant:* The 2025 application forms are now available. The Council has already discussed applying for 2 signposts saying “Single Lane” to be put at either end of Webbs Lane or this could be carried out by ourselves. This would have to be checked with CCC as to whether this would be allowed and also find out the name of the company which provides the signs for CCC. Cllr McNeillie said he would do this.

8. **Maintenance:**

- a. *Footpaths:* Cllr Temple had nothing to report. Cllr Schuilenburg had heard from Chris Covey that there might be a delay to reinstating some of the footpaths that had been ploughed over due to so much rain.
- b. *Hedging & Wildflower areas:* The hedge alongside the south side of the lower end of the High Street and the wildflower area has now very kindly been cut back by Ted Fairhead. Rob Giles from ABC Tree Surgery will be cutting the hedge alongside the High Street, in Home Close and around the Village Hall in early October. He has also agreed to lend his rotavator again to Cllr Schuilenburg and Peter Liepa to help turn the soil for the wildflower area which will now be extended to include the verge alongside #47 High Street.
- c. *Defibrillator at Streetly End:* Cllr McNeillie told Council that an application would be going to the British Heart Foundation in October. There are boxes available made to the size of the phone box and it is hoped that the Library can still be maintained though probably less books.
- d. *Waste bins:* The unemptied bin in the High Street. A fairly new employee was unaware that there were two bins on the High Street but has now been made fully aware of the “additional bin” and will ensure that all four bins are emptied weekly. However, the “additional bin” remains unemptied.
- e. *Abandoned & burnt out vehicle:* This has now been removed by the Dept. of Environment & Health after the Chairman had spoken to them pointing out that it had been there for 2 months and was being taken to bits leaving a considerable mess. The vehicle was removed but not the mess, a lot of which was hazardous. It was suggested contacting the Fly Tipping Dept but felt they were not suitable as they would not scrape the rubbish up. Dist.Cllr Harvey was asked if he could look into whose responsibility it was to clear up the remaining mess. Cllr Schuilenburg had asked the Police and was told it was the insurers responsibility if any car identification was available but both number plates and VIN numbers had been burnt to a cinder. The car had been on a public footpath next to land owned by B. Ratford.

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

- a. *Fencing around the Play area:* The fencing in the lower area has now been renewed with an extra £30 paid to the Cambridge Fencing Co. who were asked by Cllr Schuilenburg to repair a runner in the North West corner that had been snapped. The runner could not be repaired as it had rotted and had to be replaced. While the remainder of the upper area of fencing is serviceable, it will require replacing soon and should hopefully be thoroughly inspected later

this year.

- b. *Play equipment:* The Rotaplay requires its annual greasing service.
- c. *Post Office van visits:* The Parish Clerk has written several further letters to the Finchingfield Post Office but has had no reply. Cllr Mulley-Richards said she would have a word with the driver of the Weston Colville P.O. van to find out what the position is.
- d. *Goal posts and 5-a-side proposal:* Cllr Temple said that following the Big Garden Party he had suggested the goal post be taken down in order to clean it but this was a costly and time consuming task. The cost of new goal posts would be in the region of £2000. It was thought possible to have a 5-a-side pitch as the posts cost less than half £2000. Maintaining the line marks would cost £4.00 to paint using roller paint. Apparently Balsham P.C. own a roller painter and maybe it could be borrowed for next year and then look to buy our own. If this idea is approved he feels an event must be organised to kick it off. Rob Giles was asked if he could cut the grass short enough and replied he would probably have to scarify the grass in order to get a better surface. He would also like to be involved in the siting of the pitch to avoid wet areas. The Chairman had spoken to parents and older children about this project which was very much welcomed. Rob Giles was asked to put forward a proposal of what needed to be done with costs before making any decision. **The Parish Clerk will contact the Parish Clerk of Balsham to enquire about borrowing the roller painter once a decision is made, just for a short time.**
- e. *Raised Flower Beds:* The suggestion was to use an area outside the front of the entrance to the left of the hall which was originally going to be used for storing bicycles, which never happened. If the Parish Council provides the sleepers the Gardening Club would plant it up. Trevor Hall said he had spoken to Indi and the Village Hall would be happy to provide the sleepers.

10. Meetings attended by councillors: None.

11. Reports by County Cllr Batchelor & Dist.Cllr Harvey. (Aug & Sept reports on website)

District Cllr Harvey made special mention of

- a. the cycle paths which were totally overgrown and need cutting back.
- b. He said that the Michael Gove plan has now been cut back as Labour are now in government.

County Cllr Batchelor reported

- a. Pop Up hub regarding bus franchising will be held on 10th Oct. 6-8pm at Duxford War Museum.
- b. Potholes - Cllr Batchelor was asked if he could check when our 2 very bad pot holes and flooding by the church would be repaired after explaining that Council had been told that additional budget and specialised equipment would be required. He agreed to contact Bradley.
- c. Horseheath P.C. had been approached by Thurlow Estate about setting up a forum, maybe twice a year, to discuss the plans etc. that Thurlow are planning, in order to create a more community approach. The Chairman had thought this was a good idea as there are activities which cause problems with noise etc.

12. Any Other Business:

- a. *Parish Council Email addresses:* The email addresses given for the Parish Councillors must be used. The Chairman will remove all personal emails from the Parish Council mailing list, with the exception of Alan Haslehurst until his return, so that all remaining councillors must now check and use their council email address.
- b. *Hub Funding:* Martin Kerslake, Chairman of the Village Hall, has been trying to find funding for the Village Hall. Acre and South Cambs Hub Finding were approached in order to create

more community facilities. This has been applied for and accepted and the Village Hall will receive £600/month for additional costs, e.g. providing an Art Hub, cyber security lessons with professional help; a Fix It Hub for items which need mending etc., coffee mornings and monthly Hub evenings; Sunday Dog Walkers with tea provided after walk. Three volunteers would be needed and Cllr Schuilenburg has spoken to two people whom he thinks will be happy to help. There are important opportunities to be thought about and there will be a meeting on 3rd October at 10am organised by Martin Kerslake. There is still a £4000 short fall on the cost of the solar panels and Martin Kerslake has found another source of funding and an application will be made.

- c. *Keith Jolly, Home Close Housing:* He has been told he has to vacate on 1st Oct. the house where his mother lived and where he has been residing in order to look after her before she recently died. He and his family have lived in the village for many many years. The Charity owning the houses have changed their rules and Keith was not shown as being involved with the care of the mother. The lady who is dealing with this has been away so nothing further to report.
- d. *High Street Hedging:* Jonathan Willits expressed his pleasure at the look of the High Street where the hedges have been cut back and the road looks clean and tidy. Thanks were given to Ted and Anna Fairhead for maintaining that hedge, as well as cutting down the wildflower area on the High Street at the end of the season to help prepare for the next season.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 25th November at 7.30pm. The following dates for the year – 27th Jan.2025; 24th March 2025.