

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2021
WICKEN MISSION HALL**

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted): Cllrs E Houghton (Chair), M Hawes, J Day, J Rogers, M Smith, C Bye and L Tory and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Wilson (personal) and Cllr Rash (holiday) and District Councillor Bovingdon (retrospectively)

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public Participation. The meeting will be adjourned for up to 10 minutes to allow members of the public and Councillors who have declared an interest to make a statement on matters to be discussed. The Chair advised speakers that by speaking their names and what they raise will be minuted and be in the public domain.

No members of the public requested to speak.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 11 May 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and correct copy and were signed by the Chair.

4. Progress Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes 11 May 2021

4.1 Non-payment of invoices by National Trust – Payment for the outstanding invoice had finally been received.

4.2 Highways issues –The boundary had been reported to Highways via the website and the ticket had been closed on 27 May 2021. Cllr Tory advised that a surveyor had attended the site last week. The Redit Lane sign had been reported on the website.

4.3 LHI Bid – Upware Speeding. A decision should be received by June/July.

4.4 Cemetery tap – The tap had not yet been replaced.

4.5 Mortuary Chapel Air Bricks – CJ Murfitts had installed the air bricks. The clerk would monitor the condensation.

4.6 Code of Conduct training – The Clerk was still waiting for a quote for face-to-face training.

4.7 Maids Head benches – The benches had remained in the correct place. The clerk would continue to monitor.

4.8 Purchase of Streetlights – The purchase of the streetlights had previously been agreed but the clerk had raised a concern regarding the sharp increase in costs. Balfour Beatty had advised that the difference in costs was due to the transfer of the UKPN cable which was not required previously. The Councillors confirmed they were content with the explanation and authorised the work to go ahead.

4.9 Village Clean Up - This had been successful and as 17 parishioners had volunteered it was possible to cover the whole village.

5. Planning Matters

5.1 Variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 20/00771/FUL for demolition of existing agricultural buildings and development of 6 dwellings. Dimmocks Cote 46 Stretham Road, Wicken, Ely, Cambridgeshire. Ref 21/00707/VAR

The Parish Council had no objections.

5.2 Redesign of single dwelling on Plot 3 at Dimmocks Cote. Plot 3 Dimmocks Cote, 46 Stretham Road, Wicken. Ref 21/00790/FUL

The Parish Council had no objections.

5.3 Redesign of one dwelling on Plot 1 Dimmocks Cote. Plot 1 Dimmocks Cote, 46 Stretham Road, Wicken. Ref 21/00792/FUL

The Parish Council had no objections.

5.4 Proposed part demolition of existing commercial building and conversion to four bed house plus construction of new 3 bed dwelling. 15-17 North Street Wicken. Ref 21/00345/FUL. Amendment to parking.

This had been discussed in principle at the May meeting as an extension for comments had not been granted by ECDC. The Parish Council had concerns with the height of the fence at 1.1m which could obscure visibility for vehicles exiting Redit Lane.

5.5 Update on Planning Applications Approved/Refused by ECDC

The following had been approved:

- To vary condition 1 (Approved Plans) of previously approved 17/00376/RMA for approval of the details for reserved matters for access, appearance, landscaping, scale and layout of planning application 16/01052/OUT. Peacock House 8 Stretham Road Wicken. Ref 21/00420/VAR
- Various tree work. The Lawns 51 High Street Wicken. 21/00613/TRE

6. County and District Councillor Reports

No reports had been submitted.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Bill payments

Rachel Earl	Clerk wages June 2021	£432.60
HMRC PAYE	PAYE June 2021	£108.20
Shane White Plant Machinery	Equipment Hire for footpath (to be paid from ringfenced money)	£156.00
CGM Group *	May grass cutting	£737.15

Came & Company	Insurance for equipment hired from Shane White	£50.00
British Gas	Electric for pavilion 10 May – 7June 2021	£13.06
Information Commissioners Office	Licence	£40.00
Balfour Beatty	Maintenance Contract Quarterly payment	£136.00
Roland Fletcher	Early season cut and report	£589.20
Wave	Water 3/3/21-2/6/21 Allotments	£40.65
Wave	Water 3/3/21-2/6/21 Cemetery	£12.83
Wave	Water 3/3/21-2/6/21 Recreation Ground	£43.51
SSE	Electricity for streetlights for May 2021	£102.19

The Clerk advised that CGM had missed May verge cut and the April cut took place at the end of March. This had been pointed out to CGM who would rectify. The grass cutting and the number of verge cuts would be monitored by the clerk and a credit note would be requested if the number of verge cuts were reduced over the season. [clerk's note – the verges had been cut since the meeting, but the clerk was not happy with the standard. An email of complaint had been sent to CGM with photographic evidence. The Clerk and Chair have a site meeting with CGM on the 25 June 2021.]

7.2 Monthly Finance Update

The Council noted the stable position.

7.3 Purchase of Batteries for the Speedwatch Signs

A request had been received from the Speedwatch volunteers to purchase replacement batteries for the signs as they were no longer holding charge. Two quotes had been obtained by the Speedwatch volunteers, but the Morelock batteries were preferred as they had the correct connections. Total cost for 4 batteries would be £297.60. This was agreed by all councillors.

7.4 Parish Council Bank Card

The clerk had attended a clerking course and noted that it was advisable for the Parish Council to have a debit or credit card for small purchases rather than the clerk reclaiming expenditures. This was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Bye. All were in favour. The clerk would contact Barclays Bank.

8. Cycle Path

The second section of the cycle path had been laid. The Chair formally thanked Cllr Smith, Byron Barnes, Alan Harding, Cllr Day and Peter Fuller for their work with this. The Chair also thanked Christine Burnford and Richard Burnford for storage of equipment and R J Turners for allowing use of their beet pad.

The plainings from Highways were now all used, and it was difficult to get further plainings from them. The clerk had received a quote from Meads for £60 per tonne but around 80 tonnes of plainings was required. This would be investigated further.

9. Upware Open Space

The URA had agreed to pick up the stones and Cllr Tory would arrange for the weeds to be strimmed near the recently planted trees and hedge. The area needed to be sprayed before the grass could be drilled. The Clerk would contact Peter Fuller.

10. Storage in the Mortuary Chapel and Purchase of a Container or Storage Racking

Cllrs Houghton and Bye and the Clerk had reviewed the items in the current storage container. There were around 70 plastic chairs, and it was thought only about 40 were needed. There was also a dog waste bin which would be used to replace the broken bin at the bottom of Drury Lane. The carpets from the marquees would be destroyed as there was rodent damage. The majority of the equipment in storage belonged to other committees in the village. The Council had a full discussion about the storage of the items and whether they should be placed back into the Mortuary Chapel, or a container purchased. The Council discussed the following:

- Storing the items in the Mortuary Chapel and purchasing some racking
- Purchasing a container and storing it on the Rec
- Extending the changing rooms including a storage area

The Parish Council had borrowed a container from CJ Murfitts which needed to be returned.

Cllr Day proposed that free standing, heavy duty removable racking was purchased for the Mortuary Chapel and the items stored temporarily until a future project took place. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and all Councillors present at the meeting agreed. Cllr Rash had requested in an email that it was minuted that he did not agree with the Mortuary Chapel being used for storage.

11. Items for Information

Cllr Tory had previously requested that the Speedwatch signs being used for a short period in Upware to monitor the speed of traffic. Carl Shavitz had discussed this with Cllr Tory and had agreed to streetlight posts for these to be attached to. The Clerk would check with Highways that this was allowed.

Cllr Day pointed out that the lorry parked at Upware was sometimes a hazard when large vehicles used the road. This would be monitored.

Cllr Smith advised that he was considering applying for a glamping site on his paddock. This was noted by the Council and would be assessed when the application was formally submitted.

Cllr Rogers advised that the Hall Committee was placing notes on the windscreens of cars using the Hall carpark that the carpark was for the use of Hall patrons only. The Hall Committee requested permission for larger signs on the Green to make this clear. This would be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Rogers also pointed out the number of cars parked on the Maids Head Green had significantly increased. It was noted that this may happen more often as the Maids Head became more popular. This would be monitored.

Cllr Hawes advised that the Padney verges need to be cut, he would report to Highways.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.57pm.