

Draft minutes not yet accepted

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD VIA SKYPE
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 11th AUGUST 2020**

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted): Cllrs E Houghton (Chair), J Day, S Wilson, J Rogers, M Hawes, P Rash, M Smith and L Tory were present also 1 parishioner.

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Bye and County Councillor Hunt.

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.

There was no public participation

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 14th July 2020

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

4. Planning matters

4.1 To add a first floor with a pitched roof on an existing flat roof extension. 1 Lower Road, Wicken, CB7 5YA. Reference 20/00876/FUL

The Parish Council had no objections.

4.2 Full planning application for the construction of a solar farm and associated works including inverter stations, DNO building, security measures, connection point to the national grid, communications mast, landscaping, and upgraded access road. Site accessible to vehicles via a farm track leading from the A1123. Site South West of Meadow View Farm, The Butts, Soham, Cambs. Ref 20/00522/FUM. Amendment involves enlarged red line to allow wider access into the site. Additional photomontages.

The Parish Council had no objections.

4.3 Erection of Solar PV Panels and associated infrastructure and landscaping. North Angle Farm, Angle Common, Soham CB7 5HX. Ref CCC/20/051/FUL

The Parish Council has no objections

4.4 Update on Planning Applications Granted

There were no updates.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

5. County and District Councillor reports

The were no reports from District or County Councillors.

6. Request for a Pond on the Afterways Allotments

A request had been received from an allotment holder to install a pond as part of their plans to use permaculture / agroforestry planting. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

7. Progress report on matters arising from the last meeting 14 July 2020

7.1 Cycle path – Work would commence in September/October.

7.2 Maids Head sign - the clerk had emailed Mr Murfitt to arrange for the hole to be made good.

7.3 EA car park in Upware – This was ongoing. The clerk will chase for a further update.

7.4 Speeding in the village – Cllr Rogers and the clerk will look to source a pole to relocate the speeding sign closer to the Stretham end of the village. Cllr Smith agreed to install the pole once purchased.

7.5 Pond Green Play Area – Calloo would be replacing the damaged swing on Tuesday 18th August.

7.6 Village Marquees – Whilst erecting the 30x20 marquee it was noticed that there was a small hole in the roof. This would need to be mended.

7.7 East Cambs Small Business Grant (Recreation Ground) – The Chair advised that the grant money of £10k had been received by the Recreation Committee and paid into the Recreation Ground bank account.

7.8 The Byway between the Pump House and the No Hurry in Upware is classed as open to all traffic. The Clerk would investigate whether a restriction can be put on it.

7.9 Padney Road verges - The Clerk reported that the verges will be cut in the next few weeks in line with the Highways regular cutting routine.

7.10 School Lane/Upware Road junction - Highways do not deem the very faded white lines at the junction as a problem and it will be reviewed as part of their 3 year rolling programme.

7.11 Upware Road hedge - The Clerk had emailed the landowner requesting this be cut back.

8. East Cambs Small Business Grant –Wicken Cemetery

The Parish Council had been informed by ECDC that they were eligible for a £10k COVID-19 grant for Wicken Cemetery. All were in favour of applying for the grant.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

9. Financial matters.

9.1 Bill payments

SSE	Streetlight electricity July 2020	£115.08
Truelink Ltd	July cuts	£989.64
PKF Littlejohn	Auditor fees 2019/20	£360.00
Roland Fletcher	2 nd Seasonal cut to footpaths	£548.40
R Earl	Clerks wages	£359.56
HMRC PAYE	PAYE	£89.80

9.2 Monthly Finance Update

The monthly finance update showed the Parish Council was in a stable position.

10. Upware Open Space

The working group for the project will consist of Cllrs Houghton, Day and Tory the clerk and Gwyneth Griffiths and Sharon Green from the URA. The clerk will arrange a meeting for September.

11. Boundary of 66 High Street

The compromise on the boundary proposed by the Parish Council had not been accepted. The Parish Council agreed to record the matter as unresolved.

12. Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery Paths

Cllr Rogers and the Clerk had met with CJ Murfitt's and had agreed a timescale for the Mortuary Chapel project to be completed by the end of September/beginning of October. The builders will supply a container (free of charge) for storage whilst the project takes place.

There had been a delay with the repair of the pathways due to employees of JH Cobb having to shield. A date would be confirmed shortly.

Cllr Smith agreed to spray the weeds along the front of the cemetery which were overgrowing onto the path. [Clerks note – this has been completed].

13. Maids Head Benches on the Green

The Parish Council had been approached by the landlords of the Maids Head seeking permission to put further picnic benches on the green up to the main road to help with social distancing. The Parish Council agreed this via email prior to the pub re-opening but this was required to be on the agenda for ratification. The Parish Council discussed concerns raised by local residents over the noise from the late night patrons. It was noted that the pub was closing earlier at the moment but the Parish Council will ask that the landlords request the noise to be kept to a minimum and that the area is cleared of rubbish and tidied when the pub closes.

14. Items for Information

There were no items for information.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20.33.