

Draft minutes not yet accepted

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD VIA SKYPE
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 14th JULY 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, C Bye, M Hawes, P Rash, M Smith and L Tory were present also 2 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from 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.

Caroline Robinson presented her idea, which had already been submitted by email and circulated to councillors, for the reduction in mowing of the Green between the drive of 44 High Street and the High Street to create a summer meadow for wildlife and also the installation of an owl box.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 9th June 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 Approval of the details for reserved matters for Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale of previously approved 16/01492/OUT for the erection of up to 8 dwellings with parking, garages and associated works. Land South of Chapel Lane, Wicken. Amendment. Change to the layout (Plots 2 and 3) External appearance of plots 2,3,4,5,6,7,8. Ref 20/00499/RMA

The Parish Council had no objections.

4.2 To Vary Conditions 1 (Approved Plans) and 7 (Highways Works) of previously approved 16/01492/OUT for the erection of up to 8 dwellings with parking, garages and associated works. Land South of Chapel Lane, Wicken. Ref 20/00709/VAR

The Parish Council has strong concerns over the safety of the stretch of Chapel Lane. This road is used by cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and is a main route for children to get to the Recreation Ground. There are also 2 public footpaths which enter/exit from the road. The information supplied is ambiguous and does not clearly show the road layout. The Parish Council requested the condition on the original application of the road to be widened and a footpath and streetlight installed and would like a more detailed plan to ensure this is still taking place.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

4.3 Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and development of 6 dwellings, including one replacement dwelling. Dimmock's Cote 46 Stretham Road, Wicken. Ref 20/00771/FUL

The Parish Council has no objections

4.4 Removal of condition 18 (Footpath) of previously approved 19/01697/VAR for variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) and 7 (Details of the Fenestration and Brick Bonding) of previously approved 19/01177/VAR for variation of condition 17 (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) of previously approved 18/01216/FUL for erection of detached dwelling with garage and associated parking. Land South of 1 to 7 Old School Lane, Upware. Ref 20/00391/VAR

The Parish Council would like condition 18 (footpath) to remain as there has been an increase in the amount of people walking in Upware and a footpath is essential for safety.

4.5 Removal of hedging and siting of container to be use as a prep kitchen (retrospective). The Maids head 12 High Street Wicken. Ref 20/00845/FUL

The Parish Council will wait for the comments from the Conservation Officer before submitting a response

4.6 Update on Planning Applications Granted

There were no updates.

5. County and District Councillor reports

A written report had been submitted by Cllrs Bovingdon and Schumann which included information on the COVID-19 recovery and the A10/A142 roundabout.

6. Request for the Green outside 44 High Street to be left to grow longer in the summer for wildlife. Also request to install ana owl box on the lime tree outside 44 High Street

The Parish Council discussed the request made by Caroline Robinson to leave the Green outside 44 High Street to the High Street to grow as a summer meadow. The Council agreed to the proposal and for it to start in 2021. The Councillors also agreed to the installation of the owl box.

7. Request for the purchase of a dog waste bin on the corner of Fodder Fen Drove and the Wicken bridleway

A request for a dog waste bin had been made by James Moss from Kingfisher Bridge. The clerk had discussed this with ECDC and James Moss and an agreement had been made that the Kingfisher Bridge nature Reserve would purchase the dog waste bin and ECDC would empty it. The clerk would work with both parties to find a suitable place to site the bin.

8. Progress report on matters arising from the last meeting 12th May 2020

8.1 Cycle path – A working group consisting of Cllrs Smith, Day and Houghton and the clerk had met with Jonny Fuller and agreed the route. Work would commence in September 2020 after CCC had cut back the hedge. The Footpath Officer had advised that the ditch, which caused a pinch point along the footpath, had not been redirected as thought. The Parish Council had requested that the current gates along the stretch of footpath be changed to drop gates to

Draft minutes not yet accepted

try to stop the motorcycles travelling from Soham. The Footpath Officer had advised that this was not possible due to funding.

8.2 Cock Up Bridge at Burwell – A response had been received from the EA. They had given a number of reasons why the bridge could not be lowered permanently to allow the use for cyclists etc.

8.3 Maids Head sign –the Maids Head sign had not been located and so the electricians had been made good by Mr Murfitt. The clerk would contact him again to ask that the hole be filled in.

8.4 EA car park in Upware – This was now with the EA Local Team who would visit the site.

8.5 Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery Pathways – Cllr Rogers reported that Amey Cespa had agreed to extend the date until 30th September 2020

8.6 Marquees – the marquee had been repaired and was awaiting collection by the clerk. [clerk's note – this was collected on the 20th July 2020]

8.7 Community Capital Fund – Cllr Tory reported that the fund had been closed due to the high demand.

8.8 Speeding in the village – The number of police speeding checks had increased over the last month.

8.9 Pond Green Play Area – Cllr Bye reported that Calloo had repaired the fence and sprayed the surface for weeds. They would make alterations to the slide and seat once the parts had been received. There had been a delay due to the parts not being manufactured due to COVID-19.

8.10 Around and About – Cllrs Houghton and Rogers had met with the Around and About team to discuss the future of the magazine. Due to the loss of advertising and funding from the fete, it was not possible to continue with the Around and About in the magazine format. It had been agreed that there would be a 6 monthly newsletter updating residents on the contact details and events information for each of the village groups.

8.11 Village Pond – The clerk had contacted G's but had not received a response. This would be ongoing.

8.12 LHI Bid – The clerk and Cllr Houghton had attended the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting and they had agreed to have the gates installed on their parish land if the bid was successful. The clerk had submitted the bid.

8.13 Afterway Allotments – this was ongoing.

9. East Cambs Small Business Grant

The Recreation Ground committee had been informed by ECDC that they were eligible for a £10k grant due to loss of income due to COVID-19. Although separate from the Parish Council the committee had sought the opinion of the Parish Council. The Parish Council discussed the loss of

Draft minutes not yet accepted

income from the Beer festival which had been cancelled. It was agreed that the Parish Council supported the Recreation Ground committee with applying for the grant.

10. Financial matters.

10.1 Bill payments

SSE	Streetlight electricity June 2020	£105.24
Came and Co Insurance*	Insurance payment for 2020/21	£1825.21
Truelink Ltd	June cuts	£533.76
Weatherill Brothers Ltd	Repair of marquee (cheque made payable to R Earl as payment was required by BACS)	£336.00
A & M Windows	Bus shelter cleaning	£45.00
Marshalls	Purchase of bollard for the Recreation Ground security. Payment will be made from CIL money. Cheque made payable to R Earl as purchase made online	£336.00
Balfour Beatty	Quarterly maintenance for streetlights	£138.00
E-on	Electricity for changing rooms	£14.53
CCC	Streetlight electric from 1/10/19 to 1/11/19	£73.28
R Earl	Clerks wages	£359.56
HMRC PAYE	PAYE	£89.80

* Although in a 3 year contract with Came and Co Insurance, the premium had increased from last year due to an increase in play equipment, a new bench and updated streetlights. The amount was agreed by email between meetings but the cheque signed at the meeting as the insurance company was accepting late payments due to the coronavirus. The amount was over the £1500 limit in the standing orders but was accepted due to the three year contract signed last year.

10.2 Monthly Finance Update

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

11. Upware Open Space

The project had stalled due to the clerk being unable to find further companies willing to quote for the levelling of the land. Cllr Day had topped the area and agreed to level the land. This would then be seeded. Cllr Smith agreed to erect the gate and fence along the front boundary. To keep momentum going on the project it was suggested that a working group be formed. This would consist of Cllrs Houghton, Day and Tory the clerk and two members of the URA.

12. Boundary of 66 High Street

Cllrs Houghton, Day and Rogers and the Clerk had meet with Dr Blott and Mrs Blott and Dan Hardingham (invited by Dr Blott). Measurements had been taken and reviewed independently by the 3 councillors. The following proposal was agreed by the councillors on a vote of 7-2 the boundary of the property is the centre of the yew tree and the south gate, lining up to the metal gate post in the south west corner but that the fence remains in situ whilst Dr and Mrs Blott are the owners of Pear Tree Cottage. The clerk would write to Dr and Mrs Blott.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

13. Horse Chestnut Tree in Wicken Churchyard

The clerk had requested that Peter Haine submit a report and quote for the removal of a dead bough or the removal of the full tree in the churchyard. The report stated that the bough would need to be removed within 3 months and the tree would likely need to be removed next year. The Parish Council accepted the quote to remove the tree for £950 + vat. All were in favour.

14. A10 Outline Business Case

A number of scenarios had been put forward by Highways to improve the A10. The Council preferred the proposal to improve the pinch points at the roundabouts.

15. New road name for the site off Hawes Lane.

The Parish Council had been asked to submit a name for the new development off Hawes Lane. The Parish Council would like to propose Swallowtail Close. The clerk would submit this decision to the developers

16. Items for Information

The clerk advised that the two Soham Town Rangers football groups would not be using the football pitch for the next season.

Cllr Tory advised that the byway between the Pump House and The No Hurry at Upware was being used by 4x4 vehicles. The clerk would make the Footpath Officer aware.

Cllr Hawes reported that the verge along Padney Road needed cutting. The clerk would report this. Cllr Wilson had met with Anglian Water to discuss the smell down Chapel Lane. AWA was unable to find a problem.

Cllr Day had technical issues but had two items for information. The first was the white lines on the junction of Old School Lane and Upware Road which had rubbed off leaving the junction dangerous for people driving from the pub at night. The clerk would report this to highways. The second item was the hedge along the Upware Road needing to be cut back. The clerk would contact the landowner.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 21.48.