

Draft minutes not yet accepted

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL**  
**AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted): Cllrs E Houghton (Chair), P Rash, J Day, M Smith, S Wilson, M Hawes and L Tory were present. Three members of the public were present and Darren Hughes (ECDC) and Matt Deacon (National Trust)

**1 Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bye and Rogers, County Councillor Hunt and District Councillors Ian Bovingdon and Dan Schumann.

Cllr Wilson declared an interest with item 6.1

**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.**

Roy Hacking and Michael Murfitt outlined the plans of the residents of Cross Green to resurface a section of the Cross Green Track. The residents requested a contribution from the Parish Council and assistance in obtaining a contribution from Cambs County Council. Michael Murfitt gave evidence to the Parish Council that CCC contributed 30% in 1983 when the surface was last refurbished.

*Councillor Hawes arrived at 7.35pm*

**3. Refuse and Recycling Collections at Cross Green Wicken – Darren Hughes, Development Officer, ECDC.**

The Parish Council had requested a representative from ECDC to attend the meeting to discuss the waiver form which the Parish Council and residents of Cross Green had been asked to complete. Darren Hughes clarified that the waiver was just for the road and that ECDC would accept liability for accidental damage to property on the basis that it could be proved that the damage was caused by ECDC operatives. With this clause added, the Parish Council would complete the waiver form.

*Darren Hughes left the meeting at 7.50pm*

**4. Community Engagement Project at Wicken Fen – Matt Deacon**

Matt Deacon advised that the National Trust had received a grant of £75k over the next 3 years from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This means that the National Trust will now be able to employ a full time Community Engagement Manager from March/April 2020. The manager will work in partnership with local groups and will be arranging a wide range of community events for people of Cambridgeshire. Promotion of these events will be targeted and not advertised nationally. It is the intention to make this a permanent role after 3 years.

*Matt Deacon left the meeting at 8pm*

**5. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Draft minutes not yet accepted

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

## **6. Item 9 was brought forward**

### **Resurfacing of Cross green Track**

The residents had received a quote for the resurfacing totalling £10,800 plus vat. The Parish Council discussed the different options available to repair the track. The Clerk will contact CCC and ask if they will be willing to contribute. This will be put on the March agenda for further discussion.

*2 members of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm*

## **6. Planning Matters**

***Cllr Wilson left the meeting at 8.15pm***

### **6.1 Residential development for up to 19 dwellings. Site South East of 34-36 Chapel Lane, Wicken 19/00146/OUM Amendment: following drainage concerns additional information has been submitted, including revised flood risk assessment, formal response and drainage plans.**

The Parish Council objected to the amended drainage system due to the following: based on local knowledge the description of the revised route for drainage does not make sense and we are concerned that it will cause flooding in the Recreation ground. The Parish Council request a site meeting with the Planning Officer and MTC Engineering to explain further and to prove their theory.

***Cllr Wilson returned to the meeting at 8.33pm***

### **6.2 Change of use of building to Holiday Let and connection to main services. Building Northwest of 23 Lode Lane, Wicken. 20/00006/FUL**

The Parish Council had no objections to the application but would like a condition added that parking must be in the National Trust car park. The Parish Council also pointed out that there are 8 holiday lettings in the village as well as the camp site.

### **6.3 Erection of 1no. dwelling and associated development, access and scale only. North Corner Drury Lane, Wicken 20/00075/OUT**

The Parish Council could not support the application as there was not enough information to know the impact of the application.

### **6.4 Construction of 1no. six-bedroom, two storey detached dwelling and double garage & associated works. Plot 1 Land South of 3 Old School Lane, Upware. 20/00020/FUL**

The Parish Council did not support application as the bulk and size of the property was too big for the size of plot and was out of keeping with the street scene.

### **6.5 Update on Planning Applications Granted**

The following had been approved by ECDC:

- Replacement windows, Chestnut Cottage, 24 High Street, Wicken
- 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 Cambridgeshire. 19/01697/VAR
- Approval of details for reserved matters for Landscaping of planning application 16/00024/OUT and condition 4 (energy and sustainability strategy) of that permission.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

## **7. Public Space Protection Order**

The Parish Council had been approached by Fordham Parish Council who were championing a PSPO for keeping dogs on leads and anti-social behaviour. Wicken did not currently have this problem and dog fouling was covered under the Open Spaces Act 1906. However, with the increase in houses near the Rec, the Parish Council asked the clerk to investigate further to find out the cost associated with a PSPO. This would be on the March agenda.

## **8. County and District Councillor Reports**

There were no District Councillors or County Councillors at the meeting however, Cllrs Bovingdon and Schumann had submitted a written report covering the following:

- Bus, walk and cycle consultations and surveys
- Budget setting
- East Cambs Trading Company early loan repayment
- East Cambs Street Scene
- New supplementary planning documents
- Citizens Advices Rural Cambs grant
- Antisemitism Motion
- 100k homes by the Combined Authority
- Market town strategies in East Cambs by the Combined Authority

## **9. Item 9 had been taken earlier in the meeting**

### **10. Progress report on matters arising from the last meeting.**

**10.1** Cycle path – This was ongoing. The clerk had requested the hedge be cut back.

**10.2** Website – This was ongoing.

**10.3** Afterway Allotments – the tenant was not responding to the clerk. The clerk would arrange for this to be cleared in the spring.

**10.4** Community Liaison meeting – The Chair now had the contact details and would write to the Environmental Agency regarding the bridge. [Clerk's note – the Chair has emailed the EA]

**10.5** Reflector posts along Lower Road – There had been no update from Highways regarding the damage to Lower Road and a suitable solution. Cllr Smith had used two of the reflector posts which were no longer effective on Lower Road to temporarily take the place of the bollards which had been destroyed by a car at the top of Butts Lane. [Clerk's note – the bollards have now been replaced by Highways at the top of Butts Lane]

**10.6** Repair of Church Wall - The clerk had spoken to the Church Warden and explained the position. As the funds were not currently available, this would be a future project.

**10.7** Village Hall Floor Refurbishment – At the January meeting, the Parish Council had agreed to pay for the hall floor and the Hall Committee donate the funds to the Parish Council for this. However, the clerk had found that this was not a proper procedure due to the VAT element. The Parish Council agreed that the offer should be rescinded. The clerk would inform the Hall Committee.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

**10.8** VE Day celebrations – Wicken Band was not available, but a group associated with the RoxVox Choir were available and would perform war time songs. The Community Fund were contributing to the cost.

**10.9** Donation of trees from Highways – This was ongoing

**11. Meeting notes from the Anglian Water and ECDC Planning meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

The notes were agreed as a true reflection of the meetings.

**12. Report of the Meeting with the National Trust re Poors Fen and Other Items**

Cllrs Houghton and Day and the clerk had met with Jennifer Scarff (Estate manager) and Martin Lester from Wicken Fen to discuss a number of items/issues and to share documentation/agreements held by the Parish Council and the National Trust. The clerk had made some notes which had been circulated and the Parish Council were awaiting the National Trust minutes. Once these were received the Parish Council would need to discuss actions regards the Poors Fen management. This would be on the March agenda.

**13. Upware Open Space**

Truelink had cut back the hedge and brambles as requested, and Peter Haine had removed the tree stumps at the front of the land. The quote for removing the two remaining leylandii was £200. It was agreed that these two trees would remain for now. Cllr Tory advised that he URA had been successful in obtaining some hedge saplings from the Woodlands Trust which would be received in November. The clerk had received one quote for the post and rail fencing and would obtain a further two. Further quotes were also required for the relevening.

**14. Financial matters.**

**14.1 Bill payments**

R Earl	Clerks wages	£338.76
HMRC	Clerks PAYE	£84.60
E-on	Electric for changing rooms 2.01.20-2.02.20	£25.77
SSE	Streetlights 3.1.20 to 3.2.20	£111.63
A&M Window Cleaning	Bus shelter cleaning 27.1.20	£45.00
Haine Tree Services	Removal of 35 Leylandii stumps. Upware Open Space CIL money	£570.00
Truelink Ltd	Hedge trimming. Upware Open Space. CIL money	£420.00
Truelink Ltd	Cemetery hedge trimming	£348.00

**14.2 Monthly Finance Update**

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

**15. Street Light Replacement**

The clerk had received a quote to replace the streetlight in Drury Lane. The quotes were to replace with a 16LED light or a 36W light:

16LED - £519.635 +VAT with a yearly energy cost of £10.44

36W - £529.45 +VAT with a yearly cost of £20.36

Draft minutes not yet accepted

The Parish Council agreed to replace with the 16LED light in April and this would be one of the three lights to be replaced in 20/21 as agreed in the Climate Strategy. This was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Rash. All were in favour.

**16. Grant Application for Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery Pathways**

The clerk had received a further quote for the Mortuary Chapel from Matt Yorke for £15,500 + VAT.

**17. Boundary of 66 High Street Wicken**

Further investigations into whether the boundary for 66 High Street had encroached on to the green had been undertaken and had shown from Land Registry documents that the fence should be in a straight line. The Parish Council asked the clerk to write to the owners stating that the council would like the fence to be moved in line with the Jubilee Arms houses fence on the sale of the property.

**18. Request to install 'Dog on Lead' sign at the Butts Lane Allotments**

The request to install the sign was agreed. The clerk would report back with the cost.

**19. Solar Panel Initiative**

This had not made the latest edition of the Around and About and would be put back on the agenda once interest had been gauged.

**20. Quote for work on the Mission Hall Green Trees**

The clerk had met with David Werner and Peter Haine to discuss the two crab apple trees. Both trees were diseased and required the height and spread to be reduced by 1-2 meters to reduce the loading on the decayed stems. The quote from Haines Tree Services was £375 + VAT. The Parish Council discussed whether the trees from Highways could be used to replace the two trees and whether the trees should be felled. Cllr Smith would discuss this with Colin Bullman.

**21. Date for Village Clean Up**

The village clean up would take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March and would be led by Cllr Rash.

**22. Afterway Allotments Track**

Cllr Rash had been approached by an allotment holder who had enquired whether she could put some chippings and stone at the entrance of the Afterway Allotments. The council agreed that she could, up to the edge of the ditch.

**23. Items for Information**

The landlords of the Maids Head had now changed. The clerk would write to Colin Murfitt asking for the pub sign to be replaced or the hole to be made good.

Cllr Tory reported that the EA car park at Upware had a number of deep pot holes. The clerk would contact the EA.

Cllr Wilson advised that a grave in the cemetery now had a plastic border. The Burial Board committee members were asked to look at the grave and this would be on the March agenda.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.50pm