

Draft minutes not yet accepted

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD VIA SKYPE
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2020**

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

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Day due to work commitments.

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 participation.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 12th May 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

There were no comments on the amendment. However, the Parish Council would like to add a concern over parking to the comments made on the full application last month.

4.2 Update on Planning Applications Granted

Approved

Raised bird hide and observation deck with ramped access and boardwalk. National Trust, Wicken Fen.

6. County and District Councillor reports

A written report had been submitted by District Councillors Schumann and Bovingdon. The report included:

- An update on ECDC services during the COVID-19 outbreak
- ECDC finances
- Council Tax Hardship report
- Business Support during COVID-19
- Community Support during COVID-19
- Extension to the Bus, Walk, Cycle Consultation
- The Local Plan and Five-Year Land Supply

Draft minutes not yet accepted

County Councillor Hunt attended the meeting and updated the council on the following:

- There were currently 31,000 vulnerable people being supported locally.
- The County had planned for a temporary mortuary, but this had not been required
- Potholes were being repaired at a rate of 1100 per week
- The Highways and County Infrastructure committee had been replaced by the Climate Change committee. Cllr Hunt had moved to the Fire Authority Committee
- Cllr Hunt had successfully prevented lorries leaving the Waterbeach depot from travelling down the A10. These would now use the A14.
- North Angle Farm was now providing energy to 12000 homes and generating a revenue for the council of £1.8m
- Road signs had been cleaned and roundabouts painted during the lockdown.
- OAPs were now only able to use their bus passes after 9.30am to free up the public transport for people getting to work.
- The incinerator at Waterbeach had been rejected but it was thought that this would go to appeal with an improved design.
- Cllr Hunt had asked the Highways department to find a solution to the safety concerns along Lode Lane. The Highways department have suggested a white line indicating a pedestrian lane and cycle path. This could be submitted under an LHI bid but Cllr Hunt would also support it as a safety issue outside the LHI scheme. The cost would be approximately £1,500.

County Councillor Hunt left the meeting at 7.53pm

6. Lode Lane Parking

The Parish Council asked the Chair to discuss the proposed white line with County Councillor Hunt and the Highways Department.

7. Parking in Wicken

Since the lockdown and the closure of the fen car park, the village had suffered from cars parking dangerously in the roads and lanes. The hall car park had been coned off to stop parking during lockdown, but this had been removed to try to ease the situation. It was agreed that the village needed a long-term strategy to deal with parking. The following was discussed:

- Folding posts at the Village Hall Car park. The lease showed that the Hall Committee had sole use of the car park but did not specify that the Hall Committee was responsible for the maintenance of the car park.
- Double yellow lines
- Purchasing extra parking cones
- Creating a car park at the Afterway allotments which could be used when it was known that there would be parking issues.

This would require further thought and would be a long-term strategy for the Parish Council.

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

8.1 Cycle path – the clerk would arrange a working group consisting of Cllrs Smith, Day and Houghton. The clerk would contact Jonny Fuller to ask if he would like to be included.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

8.2 Cock Up Bridge at Burwell – Cllr Houghton had written to the EA again but had not yet received a response.

8.3 Maids Head sign –the clerk had spoken to Colin Murfitt who was willing to reinstate the sign if the clerk could find it. This was ongoing.

8.4 EA car park in Upware – This was ongoing

8.5 Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery Pathways – Cllr Rogers and Cllr Smith had met with Mr Cobb on the 20th May 2020. Work would commence at the end of June/early July. Cllr Smith offered to clean the round bench in the centre of the footpaths.

8.6 Dogs on Leads Signs - The clerk had erected the signs.

8.7 Marquees – the Clerk was taking the damaged to Weatherill’s of Watton for a quote. [Post meeting note- the quote was £280+vat for repair. This was agreed via email].

8.8 Community Capital Fund – Cllr Tory would investigate whether an application below £10k would be accepted.

8.9 The Clerk had sent the speeding data to PC Stabler and had asked for advice as to whether a small camera capturing the speeding car would be legal. Cllr Smith reported that it would be easier to purchase a new post if the flashing speed camera was to be moved as the original post was still connected to the electricity. The clerk had investigated the installation of speed cameras and had found that the cost was well above the LHI bid. There would also have to be serious injury or death before a camera would be installed.

8.10 Cllr Bye had contacted Calloo regarding the maintenance issues needed on the Pond Green play equipment to bring it up to the ROSPA standard. Calloo had agreed to visit and make good. Cllr Smith had removed the telegraph pole which was used as a balance beam on the Recreation Ground and had agreed to complete other maintenance needed to bring the items up to the ROSPA standard.

9 Financial matters.

9.1 Bill payments

SSE	Streetlight electricity May 2020	£108.37
Wave*	Water for Cemetery	£1.71
Wave*	Water for Recreation Ground	£1.71
Wave*	Water for Butts Lane Allotments	£3.12
Truelink Ltd**	April cuts	£1050.12
Truelink Ltd	May cuts	£1050.12
Roland Fletcher	Footpaths maintenance	£567.60
CCC***	Half Year Rent for allotments	£975.00
E-on****	Electric for changing rooms 2/5/20 to 2/6/20	£14.53
Fasthosts	Domain renewal 2 years. Paid by clerk on personal debit card. Cheque written to R Earl	£25.18

Draft minutes not yet accepted

Screwfix	Barrier tape for closing play equipment. Paid by clerk on personal debit card. Cheque written to R Earl	£25.98
KPCM Display Ltd	Dogs on Leads signs. Paid by clerk on personal debit card. Cheque written to R Earl	£9.36
Kryptonite	Heavy duty combination lock and cable. Paid by clerk on personal debit card. Cheque written to R Earl	£19.48
R Earl*****	Clerks wages	£400.96
HMRC PAYE	PAYE	£100.40

*DDRs to Wave for small amounts as the water accounts have been suspended due to COVID-19. The Clerk will submit meter readings.

**Truelink bill received one day after last meeting. Cheque signed between meetings.

*** Direct debit form completed but CCC informed the clerk they were unable to take this payment by DDR. Cheque signed between meetings.

**** Now out of contract with E-On. Clerk compared prices and found that British Gas Lite was cheaper than the E-On renewal. Two-year contract signed.

***** The clerk's salary had increased at the last meeting and backdated to April 2020. Wages payment represents higher wage and the increase backdated for 2 months.

9.2 Monthly Finance Update

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

10. LHI Bid 2021/22

The Chair and Clerk would be attending the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting on Thursday 11th June 2020 to obtain permission to install speeding gates within their Parish boundary at Upware. The clerk had contacted the Highways Department and had been informed to submit the bid for £7000 although the actual cost could rise to £9000. This would mean a contribution of £700 but this could increase to £900. The URA had agreed to pay £360. The Parish Council continued to support the bid but would like the gates to be white not brown.

11. Boundary of 66 High Street

A further email had been received by the clerk. The clerk had purchased the maps from the Land Registry, but this did not show anything in detail. Cllr Rash had found an image of the boundary from 2008 but this did not prove where the boundary should be. Following a robust discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should write to ask that a meeting take place at the property (once allowed) with all maps to allow for an amicable understanding of where the boundary is.

12. Offer of Wood Treatment for the Beloe's Bench by Cllr Day

It was agreed that the bench should age naturally. The council thanked Cllr Day for his offer which would be taken up in the future if needed.

16. Items for Information

The clerk raised a concern over the allotment at the Afterway allotments which had been left unusable. The council agreed that this should be cleared and gave permission to the clerk to hire the caged van from Ely Skips.

Cllr Houghton advised that the Maids Head would like to open on Saturday for takeaway beer. The Parish Council discussed their concerns of the lack of toilet facilities. Cllr Houghton would contact the landlords to ensure the picnic tables were not used. Cllr Houghton advised that there would be a retrospective planning application for the container in the Maids Head garden.

Draft minutes not yet accepted

Cllr Houghton advised that the Around and About was struggling due to funding. Cllr Rogers and Houghton agreed to attend a meeting at the end of June to discuss the future of the Around and About. It may be the funds from the Community Fund could be used to support the magazine for this year and next as there would be no funds from the village fete.

Cllr Rash pointed out that the village pond was getting low. The clerk would contact G's to see if they could provide some water from one of their reservoirs.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 21.26.