

WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2021
VIA SKYPE

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted): Cllrs E Houghton (Chair), J Day, C Bye, S Wilson, J Rogers, P Rash and L Tory. Rose Shishler and two colleagues from Anglian Water. Two members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hawes (work) and Cllr Smith (work) and County Councillor Hunt.

Cllr Rash declared an interest in item 5.2.

4. Item 4 was brought forward. Presentation from Rose Shishler – Anglian Water Authority

The three members of the Anglian Water Team updated the Council on the new resilience scheme for Wicken and Soham. This includes the following:

- A pipe from Stretham to provide an alternative feed of clean water to Wicken. The flow will be switched to this pipe should the main pipe across Wicken Mere burst.
- A1123 will have some disruption but this will be minimised by the pipe being completed in small sections.
- Work on the Stretham feed pipe should take around 3 weeks to complete. It is hoped that work will be completed by the summer.
- Main pipe across the Mere will be refurbished once the alternative feed has been completed. This is more difficult due to collaboration with the Internal Drainage Boards, environmental surveys and access across the solar farm.

The three members of the Anglian Water team left at 19.56.

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.

Cllr Peter Rash spoke as a member of the public and updated the council on the planning application under agenda item 5.2. Assurance was sought by the Chair that any planning permission and conditions would be adhered to. Peter Rash confirmed they would.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 12th January 2021

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

5. Planning Matters

5.1 To replace existing flat roof with pitched roof to accommodate solar heating panels – Resubmission. Tyman Cottage, 1 Lower Road, Wicken. Ref 21/0023/FUL

The Council had no objections.

Cllr Rash left the meeting at 20.04

5.2 Stationing of 3 static caravans for holiday lets, winter storage of touring caravans and pitches for caravans, motorhomes and tents (Part retrospective). Meadow View Campsite, Lower Road Farm, Lower Road Wicken. Ref 21/00116/FUL

The Council were disappointed to note that parts of the application were retrospective. The Council would like the following conditions applied:

- No disturbance to the permanent dwellings on Stretham Road
- There should be no deviation to the planning permission without prior consent

Councillor Rash re-joined the meeting at 20.13

5.3 Update on Planning Applications Granted

The following have been granted by ECDC:

- G1 Group of Ash – Reduced height by 30% in order to manage size. T1 neighbours Oak – reduce overhang to give 3m clearance from house. 49 High Street Wicken CB7 5XR. Ref 20/01744/TRE
- T1 Yew – Fell to ground level as recommended in report provided. 5 Chapel Lane. Wicken CB7 5XZ. Ref 20/01760/TRE
- Reserved matters of Access, Appearance, landscaping, Layout and Scale of planning application 17/01945/OUT for residential development for 6no. new dwellings. Land adjacent to 14 Church Road, Wicken. Ref 20/01393/RMA

6. County and District Councillor reports

There were no County or District Councillors present at the meeting.

7. Progress report on matters arising from the last meeting 12th January 2021

7.1 Cycle path – Cllr Smith was ready to start work once the weather improved. Cllr David Woricker from Soham Town Council had contacted the Chair to advise that Soham had decided to resurrect the plan to create a cycle path between Soham and Wicken and had asked for Wicken to join the scheme. The Parish Council discussed this proposal in full. A vote was taken and it was agreed 6/1 that Wicken Parish Council should continue with plans already in place for the Wicken end of the cycle path as a commitment had already been made to the parishioners. Wicken would support the proposal made by Soham Town Council letting STC lead on the project with no financial commitment from Wicken. Cllr Rash agreed to represent Wicken Parish Council. The plainings needed to be removed from the current location and it had previously been thought that these could be stored at the bottom of the cemetery car park. This would require a hard standing. The clerk would obtain a quote for the work.

7.2 Maids Head sign – the hole had been made good.

7.3 Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery Paths – Cllrs Rogers and Wilson had met with CJ Murfitts. Painting was almost completed. The project should be finished in two weeks.

7.4 Purchase of rubbish bin for the Rec. –Cllr Smith will install.

7.5 Non-payment of invoices by National Trust – The National Trust still owes the October 2020 invoice for the 2020/21 rent.

7.6 Deed of Easement 26 High Street Wicken – The Deed of Easement was now complete.

- 7.7** Picnic benches at the Maids head – The picnic benches had not yet been moved.
- 7.8** Parish trees – The guelder-rose had not yet been transferred to the Recreation Ground.
- 7.9** High Fen Drove padlocked gate – The clerk had reported and this. Mark Peck at CCC had agreed to investigate.
- 7.10** Highways issues – The clerk had not yet received a reply from Highways in regards to the boundary question in Upware and the sign for Redit Lane.
- 7.11** Grass Cutting tender – The clerk had contacted Truelink and thanked them for the excellent service provided over the recent years. The clerk would be meeting with CGM LTD on 16th February 2021.
- 7.12** Village Clean Up – The clerk had contacted ECDC who had advised that village clean ups should not take place during COVID restrictions. It was agreed to postpone the Wicken clean up until guidance changed. Logan Bye had contacted the council requesting permission to complete litter picking as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This would be allowed once restrictions were lifted.
- 7.13** Branches on the Mission Hall Green – these had been collected by a parishioner. The Council thanked the parishioner for their work.
- 7.14** Streetlights – The clerk had reported the streetlight on Butts Lane and also the light outside number 40 Drury Lane. Balfour Beatty had agreed to fix when they were in the area.
- 7.15** Portaloo in Upware car park – the clerk had contacted the EA about the portaloo and had been informed that this was a sanitation station for the EA workers. This would be removed once COVID restrictions had been lifted.

8. LHI Bid 2021/22 Upware Speeding

The clerk had received confirmation that the application would go to the LHI Panel on 3 March 2021. The estimated cost of the project had risen to £12,531.39 with the contribution now standing at £1,253.14. The URA had originally offered to pay £200 and had now agreed a further £75.00. However, as the URA had not been able to raise funds this year, the contribution would take most of their remaining funds. Cllr Bye proposed that a contribution from URA should be £150 with the Parish Council making up the remaining funds from CIL money. This was seconded by Cllr Rogers and agreed by all Councillors with the exception of Cllr Rash who felt that the gates would be a hazard for people walking along the verges.

9. Financial matters.

9.1 Bill payments

Rachel Earl	Clerk wages February 2021	£368.20
HMRC PAYE	PAYE February 2021	£92.00
Balfour Beatty	Maintenance contract	£138.00
RJ White	Light for defibrillator from X2 connect. Payment from defibrillator ringfenced funds	£57.00
NALC	Webinar to be attended by Cllr Rogers	£38.93

SLCC	Cyber awareness course (clerk)	£58.80
AJ Day & Sons	Work completed on Upware Open Space To be taken out of ringfenced funds	£294.00
British Gas	Electric 9/1/21-6/2/21	£19.22

9.2 Monthly Finance Update

The Council noted the stable position.

9.3 Financial Transparency Due to COVID Restrictions

With the lack of physical meetings, it had not been possible for the clerk and Cllr Tory to meet to reconcile the accounts each quarter as stipulated in Financial Regulation 2.2. Therefore, for transparency and reassurance, the clerk had circulated a copy of all of the bank statements to the end of January along with the accounts spreadsheet. This allowed all councillors the ability to undertake reconciliations and agree financial position against the budget.

10. Dogs on Leads

With a large increase in people walking in Wicken, Cllr Rash would like to see Wicken designated as a 'Dogs on Leads' area. Cllr Bye raised queries as to whether Wicken qualified for this designation. The clerk would look into whether this was possible and would report back at the next meeting.

11. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership and Eyes and Ears Training

The Council agreed to join the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership. Cllr Wilson expressed an interest in the Eyes and Ears Training.

12. Cutting of the Cemetery Hedge and Car Park Hedge

It was agreed that this should take place again this year. The clerk would obtain a quote from Truelink and CGM Ltd.

13. Policies

13.1 COVID Policy

It was agreed that this should be a statement rather than a policy. This would be on the March agenda.

13.2 Dignity at Work Policy

This would be on the March agenda.

14. Upware Open Space

The clerk had received a quote from Truelink to drill the grass for the Upware Open Space. The quote included work which was no longer required. The clerk would ask for a revised quote for just drilling with an amenity grass mix and rolling.

15. Hawes Lane Affordable Housing

The Chair had formally written to Cambridgeshire Housing Association to reinforce the disappointment of the cost of the affordable housing in Hawes Lane. A copy of this had been circulated to Cllrs Bovingdon and D Schumann and Mayor Palmer. Responses had been received from Mayor Palmer and both District Councillors. The Housing Association had agreed to lower the costs of both the 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom houses by £10k. It was felt there was nothing further that could be achieved.

16. Reclassification of the A1123 to a B Road

The Council asked the clerk to research case studies on the downgrading of an A road to a B road. Once these had been obtained, the council would write to the County Council.

17. Items for Information

The clerk had received an email concerning the verges along Lode Lane which were being destroyed by large lorries turning into Back Lane and passing parked vehicles at the top of Lode Lane. The clerk would contact Highways and also the developer of 35 North Street asking them to make good the verge outside number 3 Lode Lane.

The National Trust had contacted Cllr Houghton regarding the reflector posts along Lode Lane. Cllr Houghton had informed them of the position and awaited a response.

Cllr Houghton had been contacted by a resident of Cross Green asking for the road across Cross Green to be made good with road plainings. Cllr Houghton will ask Cllr Smith to fill these in when possible. Cllr Rash pointed out that the footpath along The Maltings needed to be filled in. The Clerk will inform CCC Footpaths.

There was no further items of information and the meeting closed at 21.55.