

**WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD
AT 19.30 HRS ON TUESDAY 10th AUGUST 2021
WICKEN MISSION HALL**

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted): Cllrs E Houghton (Chair), J Day, J Rogers, M Hawes, S Wilson, P Rash and L Tory, District Councillor I Bovington, Jonathon Cross from Cambridge Fibre Ltd and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bye (holiday) and Cllr Smith (holiday).

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.

No members of the public wished to speak.

3. Presentation by Cambridgeshire Fibre Ltd

Jonathan Cross from Cambridge Fibre Ltd gave a presentation on the fibre to the door network which could be built in the village by Cambridge Fibre Ltd using the Rural Gigabit Scheme. Contracts with Cambridge Fibre started with 12 months contract at £29 per month. The deadline for residents/businesses to submit an expression of interest to Cambridge Fibre is mid-September 2021.

Jonathon Cross and 1 parishioner left the meeting at 8.10pm

The Parish Council discussed this further and agreed to support the scheme as it is unclear whether anything else will be available in the future. The clerk would talk to Jonathon Cross about a letter box drop.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 12 July 2021

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

5. Progress Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes 12 July 2021

5.1 Highways issues –The Clerk and Chair would be having a meeting with Local Highways on the 25th August 2021.

5.2 Cemetery tap – Rory Woodroffe would replace the tap this month.

5.3 Purchase of Streetlights – The two broken streetlights had been repaired. The Clerk would chase Balfor Beatty again on the replacement streetlights.

5.4 Speedwatch Batteries – The batteries had been replaced.

- 5.5** Debit card – The paperwork had been received and the card would be ordered.
- 5.6** Storage racking – The racking had been received.
- 5.7** Cycle path – The clerk had confirmed that the plainings would be tarmac and had ordered 80 tonnes for September.
- 5.8** Code of Conduct Training – CAPALC had not yet confirmed the dates for the training.
- 5.9** Grass cutting – The grass cutting was still not up to standard and the invoicing was still incorrect. The Clerk and Chair had a Teams meeting with CGM Ltd on Friday.
- 5.10** Cemetery footpaths – Cllr Rogers had contacted John Cobb Ltd who would be visiting the site.
- 5.11** Upware corner hedge – Cllr Day had cut back the hedge at the Upware turning but advised that the hedge to Upware needed to be cut back. This would be discussed at the Highways meeting.
- 5.12** Highways diversion complaint – The Chair had received communication from Highways apologising for the error with the diversion route along Lower Road whilst the A1123 was being treated along North Street and Stretham Road. Cllr Schumann was also involved and supporting the Chair. Highways had put a number of measures in place to ensure an error like this could not happen again. Cllr Day raised the issues with the road closure that was currently taking place at Upware.
- 5.13** Neighbourhood Plans consultations – The clerk had responded to the Isleham and Reach Neighbourhood Plan consultations on behalf of Wicken Parish Council.

6. Planning Matters

6.1 Update on Planning Applications Approved/Refused by ECDC

- The planning application for Spinney Abbey had been withdrawn.
- Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council had adopted the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

7. County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Bovingdon updated the Parish Council on the progress of the cycle path from Soham to Wicken. Sustrans would be reviewing the project and completing a strategy report.

8. Downgrading of the A1123 to a B Road

The decision to downgrade the A1123 to a B road had been overturned by CCC. A report had been received from the Highways Committee suggesting other traffic calming measures and informing Parish Councils along the A1123 that these could be obtained using the LHI Bid system. The suggested measures were:

- Priority give ways
- Raised tables

- Speed cushions
- Visual pinch points or road hatchings

It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond with the following:

Wicken Parish Council strongly objects to the decision to overturn the democratic decision to downgrade the A1123 to a B road. The suggested traffic calming measures for our village of priority give ways, raised tables, speed cushions and visual pinch points or road hatchings would bring other issues for example, increased noise from air brakes and empty trailers and increased emissions as vehicles stop and start. We feel the only effective alternative would be speed cameras which are not included in the LHI bid system.

Wicken Parish Council request that CCC and the Highways Department clarifies that, if LHI bids were to be used to install the alternatives, whether different rules would apply for parishes along the A1123 as the Parish Council does not have the funds to contribute 10% of the costs for the suggested alternatives.

District Councillor Bovingdon left the meeting at 9.15pm

9. Local Highways Improvement 2022/23

This would be rolled over to the September meeting once clarification was received from Highways regarding the above.

10. Upware Open Space

Cllr Tory had attended a site meeting with the Environmental Agency regarding a project on the EA public space in the village. This project would see the area improved and set with wild flowers. The EA had offered support with the Open Space project.

The clerk had met with RWS Building and Landscapes Ltd to obtain a quote on the fence. The quote was for £2850 plus VAT for the fence with wooden gates or £2565 plus VAT for metal gates. As this was over £1500 the clerk would continue to obtain further quotes.

The clerk had tried to contact IDM on numerous occasions without success and would be meeting with Jeston Justin? Staples to discuss the ditch and culvert.

11. Meeting with the National Trust

Purchase of Land or Longer Lease Request

The Clerk and Chair had met with the National Trust and during the meeting the National Trust had enquired about purchasing the land belonging to the Parish Council or obtaining a longer lease. The clerk had looked into this and had found the land in Sedge Fen, Poor's Fen and the allotments were all designated as Common Land and could therefore not be sold. However, the Stack Ground land could be sold. This was discussed in full and it was a unanimous decision not to sell the land but to agree a longer lease. The clerk would respond to the National Trust.

Fishing Rights

The rules of the Wicken Angling Club stated that members could fish Wicken Lode along the Poores Fen land to Normans Bridge and to Upware Cock-Up Bridge. The National Trust had challenged the rights from Monks Lode up to Cock-Up Bridge as this as it was on National Trust land and in the Burwell Parish. There were also restrictions due to the NNR etc. designations and the Lode contained Spiney loach which were rare and protected. The Parish Council agreed that the area where members of the club could fish should be restricted to Wicken Lode and Monks Lode where it borders Poor's Fen to Normans Bridge.

12. Approval of the Parish Council Action Plan and Climate Strategy for 2021/22

The Council approved the Action Plan and Climate Strategy for 2021/22. This would be reviewed again in 6 months.

13. Approval of Policies

13.1 Privacy Policy

The was approved.

13.2 Training Policy

This was approved

13.3 Accessibility Statement

This was approved.

14. Financial Matters

14.1 Bill payments

Rachel Earl	Clerk wages August 2021	£432.60
HMRC PAYE	PAYE August 2021	£108.20
British Gas	Electricity for the Pavilion 7/6/21-9/8/21 *	£30.77
SSE	Electricity for streetlights for July 2021	£115.45
Racking Solutions	Racking for the Mortuary Chapel	£679.92
Roland Fletcher	Footpaths second cut	£741.60
RJ White	Signs for the Mission Hall car park	£181.67

* The electricity bill was higher this month due to the pavilion lights and water heater being left on by Wicken Amateurs Football Club. The Chair had discussed this with them. During the visit the Chair noticed that one of the electricity sockets in the changing rooms had been knocked from the wall. The Parish Council discussed putting the lights and water heater on a timer. The Chair would ask Colin Clay to mend the socket and quote for installing a timer.

14.2 Monthly Finance Update

The Parish Council was in a stable position.

14.3 Request for a Donation to Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

Cambridgeshire Search and rescue had assisted with locating a Padney Road resident last year and the Parish Council agreed that being a rural community this service could be needed at any time. A donation of £50 was proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Houghton. All were in favour.

15. Items for Information

The Clerk advised of the circumstances around the delay to the laying of the new water pipe by Anglian Water. The Clerk would ask Anglian Water to attend the next meeting.

A request had been made by Rosemary Clements for permission to refurbish the bench on the Maids Head Green and install a plaque in memory of Terry Clements. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Dr Burnford had requested the use of the cemetery car park on the 14th August for a family wedding. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr Tory advised that Gwyneth Griffiths was now the Chair of the URA with Sharon Green as treasurer and Laura Petchy as secretary.

Cllr Tory advised that there was some concern with subsidence to part of the road in Upware. She would report this to Highways.

Cllr Rogers advised that the Hall Committee would be distributing leaflets with the upcoming Hall events.

The Parish Council had received some complaints regarding the state of the Green in front of the Maids Head. This had been tidied since the complaints had been received but would continue to be monitored.