

WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT 20:30 HRS ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025
WICKEN MISSION HALL

In Attendance (a minimum of 3 Councillors must be present for business to be conducted):
Cllrs R Barnes, M Hawes, L Houghton, P Rash, B Pepper and J Rogers and 3 parishioners.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Hill and Robinson.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

- a) Councillors to declare any personal interest in any items on the agenda.
- b) Councillors to declare any prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation.
- c) Councillors to declare any pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Participation.

The meeting will be adjourned for up to 10 minutes to allow any members of the public and Councillors declaring a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

There was no public participation.

4. Proposal from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to Apply for a Grant from Locality for the Neighbourhood Plan

The window for grants from Locality for the Neighbourhood Plan was closing on 31 January 2025 with the condition that the money was to be spent by 31 March 2025. The next grant window would likely open July 2025. As the Parish Council had been discussing creating a Neighbourhood Plan for over 1 year and the Working Group had been formed it was agreed the momentum should be kept up and the waiting until July 2025 would put the process back. The £3k would cover the following:

- The use of a consultant for the first stage including the application for the grant
- Initial drop in event
- Production and printing of boards for the event and flyers etc.
- Preparation of the survey
- Online survey

Cllr Houghton proposed that the Parish Council applied for the initial grant of £3k. if this was unsuccessful due to the short timeframe that Parish Council should use the ring fenced funds in the Parish Council accounts. This was seconded by Cllr Hawes. All were in favour.

5. Proposal from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to Appoint a Consultant for the First Stage of the Neighbourhood Plan Process

The clerk had contacted a number of consultants to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Places4People – Ian Poole had presented to the Working Group on 22 January 2025
- Neighbourhood-Plan.Co.Uk – had emailed a large amount of useful information but was unable to assist until 2024/25 due to demand

- DAC Planning – had been in contact but no further information had been received
- Acre – were not in the position to take on any further work but were recruiting so may be able to assist in the future
- Parker Planning – unable to take on additional clients

Places4 People had provided a quote for the work for the first stage which was £2365.00 plus VAT with a further £580 for printing.

Cllr Hawes proposed that the Parish Council appointed Places4People as consultant for the first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. The was seconded by Cllr Rash. All were in favour.

There were no further items for information and the meeting closed at 8.58pm