

Wicken Parish Council Meeting 05/12/2012 at 7pm

Present: Chairman Mr. P. Ivens, Mrs. C. Franklin, Mr. R. Edmondson, Mr. J. Williams, Cllr. Aaronson, Cllr. A. Walker.

1. Apologies:

Mr. G. Maloney, Mrs. L. Clarke, Mr. B. Clapham, Mr. A. Cartwright.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

It was noted that there were error's in September 2012's minutes. Clerk to correct and obtain signature at next meeting in January 2013.

3. Items raised by members of Public.

There were no items raised by any member of the public.

4. Matters Arising.

There is a vacancy on the Neighbourhood Watch team still available.

The van that was parked permanently in the Village Hall car park has now gone.

There is a new tenant in the School House next to the Village Hall. They are parking in the car park as opposed to outside obstructing the gates as the previous tenant had done.

New signs to be erected for Church visitors parking cars – Chairman to chase this up as cars are still parking on the road and not in the Village Hall car park. Gates to the Village Hall are to be left open for any Church events.

Gate post to the Village Hall Car Park is broken. Not sure how this happened as the posts are erected three foot into the ground. The Chairman will get this mended accordingly.

Lamp posts around the village. Clerk has spoken to E-on regarding the lamps on Church Close, the Cricket field and Deanshanger Road.

Tree planting within the village to mark the Queens Jubilee – Mr. R. Edmondson has looked around the village and thought the trees could possibly be planted in one of his fields, he wrote to Merchant Venturers requesting permission and got a no in reply. Another area thought possible is The Green but the feedback from residents isn't positive. Also, it's too late in the year to plant trees now.

5. Planning.

No planning at present but the Chairman asked that people are aware that there is planning trying to be obtained in Leckhampstead near Long Row Cottages for the current stables to be replaced to enable them to cull the turkeys they sell at Christmas time. People may think that this mean the place will be an abattoir but this is not so, as there will not be any more movement there than there is currently.

6. Finance.

The Village Hall has not been paid since May 2011 by the Parish Council. Therefore there is a request for the sum £200.00 to cover this.

As the Parish Council has taken over the running of the Village Hall, there is a need to change the signatures on the bank mandate. This will be Mr. J. Williams, Mr. P. Ivens and Mrs. L. Clarke.

The current balance of the Village Hall bank account is £2851.95 as of the most recent statement. It is noted that the only money going out of the account is a regular direct debit to E-on. Plus the insurance will be due for renewal in February 2013.

The Parish Council has been in discussions with E-on with regards to an outstanding amount of money that dates back with various invoices to 2009 for Street Maintenance. The Chairman has now spoken with E-on and gone through relevant paperwork and can see this money is due. The cheque previously raised in Septembers meeting will now be issued but the Chairman will discuss the account further with E-on as to what exactly the Parish Council is paying for and to see if there is a cheaper way of keeping our lighting maintenance as it seems that we pay a lot of money for the little amount of maintenance our village receives. Cllr. A. Walker suggests the Parish Council look at how much the Northants County Council would charge to maintain lights on an adhoc basis.

Cheques raised:-

Chq no. 000500	£637.47	Eon	Street Maintenance
Chq no. 000504	£60.00	BDO	Audit Fee
Chq no. 000505	£50.40	AH Contracts	Dog bins
Chq no. 000506	£300.00	Wicken Sports Club	Donation to grass cuttings
Chq no. 000507	£200.00	Wicken Village Hall	Cost of hire

7. Matters of Repair & Administration.

External Audit was circulated and noted BDO's comments.

Window in the Village Hall needs repairing. Chairman will get a quote on this first.

The Village Halls Fire Extinguishers are due for annual inspection. The Chairman has obtained a quote on this and will action.

In the absence of Mr. A. Cartwright at tonight's meeting, he has sent the Chairman an email updating the Parish Council on issues within the village. This reads as follows:-

Sports Club grass cutting support

In 2011 the Parish Council agreed to a £300 contribution to the Sports Field grass cutting (for the portion around the children's play area). As we have discussed The Sport Club would appreciate another £300 contribution for 2012 (retrospectively), if this could be approved that would be good.

Sports Club entrance drive from St John's Lane to the gate posts

I have spoken to MGWS (the County Council's subcontractor) on the 7th November reference the repair of the Sports Club entrance drive from St John's Lane to the gate posts, this is still scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2013, and it may be done this year weather allowing.

Anglian Water leak

Richard highlighted to me that a chronic leak at MK19 6BZ (Wicken Park Road near Pytle Farm/Cottages, I contacted AW and requested a site meeting, that took place on the 30th October with Richard. Shortly after this the AW subcontractor dug up the verge and found a leak and repaired it, hopefully this will address the problem.

Leckhampstead Road drains

I spoke to MGWSP today and they still plan to execute a new camera survey of the drains by the end of March (probably well before then). The delay is due to the recent flood disruption over the last few weeks. They feel that a section of the drain hopefully has failed which would be relatively straight forward to fix. Then they will "raise a ticket" to allow consideration of the project for approval. I will be in contact with them early in January to get an update. I believe we are making progress on this long standing issue.

Speed related issues

The refurbishment of the white lining around the village has been completed. MGWSP have also executed an additional "Slow" sign on the road on the approach to the village on the Leckhampstead Road (at the Wicken village sign), followed up by a "30" roundel in front of the 30 mph signs, enhanced by a "Slow" sign going out of the village before the same bend, also solid white lines have been put on the road over the bridge (Wicken Park Road) to emphasis the narrowness of the carriageway.

Village Hall

Ged and I made some progress on the Village Hall letting issue.

After reading this out the Chairman brought up the issue of Akeley Wood Jr School's Coaches ('Jeff's Coaches') using the bridge by Sparrow Lodge Farm for their school bus route. The Chairman will contact Jeff's Coaches to discuss this. Also, it is thought that there might be a weight limit to this bridge.

Gritting issues – All bins around the village should be full although some of the bins themselves are not in good condition. The one on Leckhampstead Road has a loose lid. Clerk to look around the village at grit bins so see if they need re-filling.

The other gritting issue is with regards to the Leckhampstead Road in severe weather conditions. Clerk to write to Cllr A. Walker to see if he can help with this as it's a school bus route and twice now there have been accidents concerning school buses in adverse weather conditions.

Drain on Larks Lane – Mr. R. Edmondson has cleared this but there is another one that is continually blocked. Mr. Edmondson hopes this can be seen to when the other drainage issues are addressed on Leckhampstead Road.

Mr. I. Howitt has requested a new street sign for Pound Close. Clerk has contacted SNC and will chase in the new year.

Mr. I. Howitt has also cleared the drain out near Sparrow Lodge Farm in recent adverse weather that caused flooding.

8. Any other business.

Letting of the Village Hall on a Commercial basis.

Mr. G. Maloney gave the Chairman some paperwork from another letting agency but they require money up front. The Chairman is not keen on this idea. He noted that the Village Hall is covering its running costs at the moment. The Parish Council should advertise the hall in the village magazine. Also, would an advert in local papers help?

Cllr. A. Walker announced that there is no increase on Council Tax for the coming year.

Cllr. A. Walker advised of changes to the recycling bins in 2013 but we will receive notification and guidance on this.

Next Meeting 9th January 2013 at 7.00pm

Meeting Closed at 7.55pm.

Signature: _____

Date: _____