

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF
WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL**

On Wednesday 10th December 2014

In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.00 pm

61/14 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman,
Cllr. Richard Edmondson,
Cllr. Celina Franklin,
Cllr. Jef Williams, **Apologies accepted**
Cllr. Richard Forman
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,
Ruth Millard - Clerk
In attendance:
County & District Cllr Allen Walker, **Apologies accepted**
Dist. Cllr. David Aaronson
Public 5

Public Open Forum (under adjournment).

Cllr Philip Ivens welcomed Med Blower who had requested becoming a Councillor.

Resolved; to co-opt Med Blower on to the Council at the next Parish Council meeting in January 2015.

62/14 Members Interests; Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Wicken Parish Council Code of Conduct to Members and by the Localism Act 2011. None were declared.

63/14 Minutes of the last Meeting; Held on Wednesday 3rd September 2014.

Resolved; That the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2014, be approved and signed as a true record.

64/14 Matters Arising

a Highways and footpaths; to report any defects;

i. **Cable Laying mess;** There is a lot of disruption with a large electricity cable being established from the Substation in Wicken to Beachampton. The work has been completed, but not too a satisfactory standard. The verges and ditches on Wicken Park Road from the bridge when entering the village right through to the A422. A considerable mess was left by the 33KV cable contractors, as they have left many of the ditches filled in, grips destroyed, they simply “repaired” the mess they made by scattering a top soil over it. Also the passing place near the Wicken bridge is a total mess and unusable.

Resolved; that as a starting point, to getting the road reinstated to as is was before the cable laying, the Parish Council would request a site meeting with representatives of the Contractors and Bucks County Council, to discuss the situation.

ii. **A422 Diversions;** As Cllr Allen Walker was not present the Council could not receive a report. Cllr David Aaronson said he will ask Deanshanger Parish Council if they were in a position to fund a diversion sign.

iii. **Leckhampstead Road Drains;** to discuss a letter of thanks to SNC on behalf of Wicken Parish Council.

Resolved; That Cllr Cartwright would draft a letter of thanks to Helen Howard, forward it to the Clerk to set on headed notepaper and send in from the Council.

iv. **Dog Hygiene Bin;** the Council discussed the purchase of a Dog Hygiene Bin.

Resolved; to install another waste bin at the junction of Larks Lane and Leckhampstead Road next to the footpath gate.

b Village Hall; For members to be advised of any updates

i. **Future of the Village Hall;** The Trustees have met with a professional source, to assess the hall for hiring purposes. He had reported that The Village Hall needs both short term repairs of £7K to £17K (the higher figure includes installing the very necessary central heating system) to make it leasable, and longer term repairs (another £60K) to make the building sound.

The Trustees have not been able to lease the Village Hall to date and the building's condition is deteriorating. They discussed two options;

Sell the VH;

The estimated sale value of the VH is £300K, this is based on converting the building into two houses, the external building would remain largely as it is now.

The money could be used to set up a Wicken Trust Fund, as an example, chaired by an independent professional from outside the village with probably 4 others members representing the Church, Parish Council, Wicken Sports Club and a villager.

Lease the VH to raise the monies for repairs;

We would probably need to lease the VH for about ten years taking into account break periods to raise all the money needed.

Resolved; to sound out villagers informally about the options before the next PC meeting in January.

- ii. **Trustee status;** The Clerk asked what was the position of the Trustees of the Village Hall. The Trustee committee had failed some 2 years ago and Cllr Ivens with the Parish Council at the time had become the Trustees. She had looked on the Charity Commission website and the Trustees had not been updated.

Resolved; that the foreseeable future the Councillors would be asked to become Trustees of the Village Hall. All agreed to become Trustees, Cllr Ivens would give the password for the Charity site to the Clerk, for her to update the Trustee names.

- c **Playground Inspection;** there are still items on the Wickstead report that needs addressing.

Resolved; that Mr Millard would be asked for a quote, to rectify issues on the Playground Report, by the January meeting.

65/14 Planning;

- **S/2014/1374/MAF** Mount Mill Farm Wicken Solar Farm. Permission granted.

Resolved; That the Clerk would check the report for confirmation that the Company's offer of ten thousand pounds a year to the Parish Council when the project was started, was in it.

- **Neighbourhood Plan,** The Parish Council discussed the Need to have an up-to-date local Wicken plan, to help protect the village from predatory developers.

Resolved; Ruth to check with N Calc to get advice.

66/14 Finance;

- a) **Receipts and Payments of Accounts;** To note the financial statements of accounts and bank reconciliations, to the month end.

Resolved; That all invoices presented be paid.

Payments November 2014

Payee	POWER	Cheque Number	Amount
E.on Street Light to 30/09/14	LGA 1972, s14	000571	188.12
AH Contracts, 30 Sept 2014	Litter (animal Droppings) Order 1991	000572	21.60
ER Millard, October 2014 Remunerations	LGA 1972 s112	000573	
E.on Street lighting maintenance	LGA 1972, s14	000574	72.34
SNAST/SNH Neighbourhood Watch sign	LGA 1972 s137	000575	10.00
AH Contracts, October 2014 - 7663	Litter (animal Droppings) Order 1991	000576	14.40

Payments December 2014

CANCELLED		000577	
ER Millard, November 2014 Remunerations	LGA 1972 s112	000578	
AH Contracts, invoice 7716	Litter (animal Droppings) Order 1991	000579	14.40

Receipts to 30th June 2014

Name	Reason	Amount
....1706	Interest – 09.08.2014	0.03
	Interest – 09.09.2014	0.03
	Interest – 09.10.2014	0.03
....8268	Parish Precept – 19.09.2014	2205.00

ACCOUNT BALANCE – 6th October 2014

....1706	747.48
....8268	3357.17
TOTAL	4429.45

- b) **2 signatories for Cheques;** The Clerk was happy to report that she had, had confirmation from the bank that Cllrs Richard Edmondson and Richard Forman were signatories to the Parish Council's bank account. With Cllr Philip Ivens, as an original signatory, this makes 3 signatories.

67/14 Reports;

- a) **County;**
- The housing register was changed last year due to legislation. Many people who had been eligible for houses became ineligible. The District Council had reviewed its register and how it distributes the houses. It has compiled a second non statutory register for those ineligible to enable the Council to be flexible.
 - The District Council can give charitable grants of up to £500.00 in an Amenity Fund.
 - For those tenants above pension able age there is a scheme called Garden Buddies and Garden Clearance Scheme, which enables them to have free work done on their gardens. For private tenants a small charge will be applied.
- b) **District;** no report.
- c) **Police;** Cllr Aaronson said that Police Sergeant Mark Osbourn and PC Tania Ash were now Officers for the area.
- d) **Neighbourhood Watch;** no report.

Resolved; That the reports were noted.

68/14 Correspondence Circulars and Consultations;

Email –

15/09/2014 SNC Planning consultation/information for application reference S/2014/1374/MAF at Mount Mill Farm Stratford Road Wicken.

22.10.2014 SNC Licence for Planters at Wicken Village entrances. – ***The Clerk read out the terms and Conditions of the licence. The Council agree for the Clerk to sign it and forward it to the appropriate office.***

28.10.2014 Unmetered Supplies Inventory - Update Request. – ***The Clerk to forward the email to Councillors.***

01.12.2014 Section 106 Homes ruling 'slap in the face' for rural communities

Resolved; that all correspondence be noted.

69/14 Date and time and venue of the next meeting; The next Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Wicken on Wednesday 7th January 2014 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Chairman's Signature

Date

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