

Wicken Parish Council Meeting January 4th 2012 - 7pm.

Present: Chairman Mr. P. Ivens, Vice Chair Mrs. L. Clarke, Mrs. C. Franklin, Mr. G. Maloney, Mr. A. Cartwright, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. R. Edmondson, Cllr. D. Aaronson, Cllr. A. Walker.

1. **Apologies:** Mr. B. Clapham.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.**
These minutes were agreed as a correct record.
3. **Items raised by members of Public.**
There were no items raised by any member of the public.
4. **Matters Arising.**

Mr. Swallow of Cross Tree Road will not allow access to his property for a cable to be dug up. The Chairman thinks that it makes more sense to have the cable attached to the pole on the opposite side of the road in the corner of the field instead. The Butterfields next door to Mr. Swallow have no objections to this either. The Chairman will confirm the above with Freedom Networks who have been carrying out the work.

As a Parish Council we want to know why there was no consultation in the first place with regards to electrical cable works being carried out in the village. It has been nothing but a huge inconvenience for the village and its residents. The Parish Council own the street lighting and took ownership of the telegraph poles and so should have been consulted prior to works being carried out. No facts were discussed with Mr. Swallow or Mr. Neil Gordon-Lee.

Village Hall – Mr. J. Maloney is in touch with Kirby & Diamond with regards to leasing out the Village Hall on a non maintenance basis. i.e.: the Parish Council would be responsible for external repairs and maintenance. It's reported that the sum of £11,620.00 - £14,000.00 could be obtained per annum. Kirkby & Diamond would manage this for the Parish Council but the Parish Council would pay for repair work. A five year lease is being considered. Clerk to write to the Charity Commission regarding this. All agree that this is the way forward and to go ahead with this straight away.

Celebrating the Queens Jubilee as a village in June 2012 – Mrs. C. Franklin has suggested another street party as was carried out ten years ago for the previous Jubilee. Mrs. M. Arnold of the White Lion has agreed to help organize this and drive this. The date that has been suggested is the Saturday afternoon of the Bank Holiday weekend, 2nd June 2012. The Parish Council is in agreement that we require a committee for this event. It was suggested that we need one person from every street in the village to help. The Chairman is to keep an eye on this. Clerk to speak to Northants County Council Highways Dept with regards to closing of the chosen road for this event. Neil Gordon – Lee is to be contacted to advertise this on the village website and a leaflet drop is to be arranged.

5. Planning.

Chairman showed current plans to Redstacks on Leckhampstead Rd – no objection to these.

6. Finance.

The Precept and the Parish Councils yearly financial outgoings was discussed openly and further to Clerks discussions with SNC and the Parish Council a figure of £4200.00 was agreed at 7.20pm.

Chq No. 000480	£180.00	BDO
Chq No. 000481	£54.00	Wickstead Leisure
Chq No. 000482	£36.00	A.H. Contracts.

Mr. R. Edmondson on behalf of the village Conservation Society asked if the Parish Council would consider their yearly donation to the Society. Chairman agreed to do this but noted that due to the Internal Audit notes from previous Audit, this will be the only donation at the moment.

Chq No. 000483 £50.00 Wicken Conservation Society.

7. Matters of Repair & Administration.

The Audit was circulated and discussed. There are three matters arising.

- Accounts not approved by 30th June 2011 – The Council will endeavour to have these in on time.
- There was an incorrect minute reference in the Annual Return.
- Audit reports that if Council follows Internal Report findings it will improve internal controls.

The light on Church Close – is still not working despite Clerks attempts to chase E-on on this. Payment is still being withheld until this is fixed.

Leckhampstead Road – the grit bin is now full.

Works carried out on Cross Tree Road – the Chairman wrote to Paul Denny regarding the electrical work that caused residents concern and dismay. As yet the Chairman hasn't had a reply.

The Chairman is still chasing Helen Howard regarding the Bridge on Wicken Park Road. The recent flood proved that work still needs to be carried out. It is noted that someone did have a go at digging it out to resolve the problem.

Akeley Wood Junior School – the lights at night time are again a problem. They are far too bright and left on at times that are un-necessary and are intrusive on neighbouring resident's homes. Chairman to write to Head Teacher again regarding this.

8. Any other business.

Cllr. A. Walker noted its budgeting time again all round at SNC. The budget has been done and will be out for consultation soon.

There is to be a presentation on Mon 9th Jan 2012 on District Planning.

Bus Route – Clerk believes there is one bus a day that services Wicken. Clerk to check if ‘Dial a cab’ is still going as well as the bus service.

It is noted that the three local hospitals, Milton Keynes, Bedford & Northampton are all joining one governing body.

Lighting in South Northants – it is supposed to be every other light that was turned off. You can see at the Deanshanger round about that the lights are on at the junction but road lighting is switched off on the A422 itself.

Cllr A. Walker reports that the Village confines will be retained and that he’s fighting to get Deanshangers back so there’s not future development.

Benefit changes – There is a crack down on council houses that are being sub let in the area i.e.: rooms being rented out.

Meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Next meeting is Weds, 7th March at 7pm.