

Wicken Parish Council Meeting 09/01/2013 at 7pm

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

1. **Apologies:** Mr B. Clapham.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.**
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 J. Gudgeon has requested that as soon as draft minutes of meetings are available they be displayed rather than waiting for approval, as there is two months between each Parish Council Meeting and residents should know what has been discussed as soon as minutes are available. When displaying draft minutes it should clearly state 'draft version'. Cllr. A. Walker offered advice on this and told the Parish Council the correct procedure as it should be adhered to.

Parking at St. Johns Church for visitors – A notice has still not been sourced offering the Village Hall car park as an alternative for visitors. Mrs C. Franklin will advise regular visitors of alternative parking. The Chairman will also speak to Mr J. Marchant about this.

E-on. The Clerk is still chasing E-on to repair two lights in the village (Church Close and the entrance to the Sports Club) and to remove the light bulb out of the one on the Deanshanger Road. Clerk has spoken to Northants County Council with regards to maintenance on our lights on an ADHOC basis. The Chairman should have more information at the next meeting.

Planting of Trees to mark the Queens Jubilee back in 2012. Discussions still in progress.

Lights at Akeley Wood Jr. School again seem to be very bright Mr J. Williams reported.

There is still a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator should a resident wish to take this role on.

Village Hall. Another rental agency 'Berry's' have looked at it with regards to letting it on a commercial basis and they have sent a proposal Mr G. Maloney reported. Berry's think rental value is at around £10,000.00 – 12,500.00 per annum. Also, Mr G. Maloney is chasing Kirkby & Diamond to see if they have any progress on the rental of the Village Hall. The Village Hall hasn't got planning permission for a change of use, it was agreed that this needs to be put into motion before it is marketed. The money to fund this planning permission would come from the Village Hall's bank account. Any rental monies obtained would go towards repair work and maintenance to the Village Hall. Cllr. A. Walker and Cllr. D. Aaronson will look at

planning permission with the Parish Council to guide us in the right direction with this project. Mr J. Williams proposes that the Parish Council go with Berry's Estate Agency and get planning permission at the same time. All agreed no objection.

Planning.

Rose Cottage, 30 Leckhampstead Road, trimming to Yew Tree SNC Application No. S/2012/1569/TPO. Parish Council all agreed no objection.

5. Finance.

Cheque no. 000508 £14.40 AH Contracts- Maintenance of Dog Fouling Bins

The Precept for 2013 will be due soon. Chairman discussed figure from previous year and asked the Parish Council should we increase what we ask for? Cllr. A. Walker explained how the Government calculation system works, and how it is also dependent upon people that live in the village who are on benefits, as these will now be taken out of the equation. There will be a letter circulating soon in the post explaining rules and regulations. Parish Council agreed that they need at least the same amount as they had the previous year. To be discussed more at the next meeting in March 2013. Mr J. Williams said he is opposed to any increase in the Precept.

6. Matters of Repair & Administration.

The Risk Assessment that the Clerk has circulated was signed.

The gate post in the Village Hall car park – the Chairman has not seen to this repair as yet. The Chairman will get onto this accordingly.

Fire extinguishers in the Village Hall have had annual inspection and been re-certified.

Sports field - maintenance work / tarmacking will take place by May Gurney's, Mr A. Cartwright reported.

Water problem near Pightle Farm. Anglia Water have repaired this.

Pot holes – Clerk has reported more potholes.

Leckhampstead Road Drains. The camera survey is signed off and work will happen by the end of January or early February 2013. If the survey proves that there is a localised collapse in the drains, then the repair could be completed in this financial year. If it is a larger job then it would be within the next financial year. Once the survey is complete Mr A. Cartwright will obtain a copy of this. Any previous camera surveys have been lost hence why a new survey report is required.

Drains / flooding on Larks Lane. Mr A. Cartwright & Mr R. Edmondson reported that when Leckhampstead Road drains are seen to that hopefully the Parish Council can ask about the problems to this road also.

Chairman stated that there is surface water on the road as you head up towards the A422 main road and that the drainage area needs digging out.

Signs around the village. All looking very good now. Clerk is still chasing repair / replacement work for the sign to Pound Close.

Reference Jeff's Coaches using the bridge as a bus route near Sparrow Lodge Farm. The Chairman spoke to somebody regarding this and he hasn't noticed it happen since.

Grit bins around the village. Chairman reports that they are full in case of adverse weather. Again the subject of gritting to the Leckhampstead Road came up. Cllr. A. Walker is trying to help the Parish Council on this matter, but it is a case of cost effectiveness as it's not part of the road gritting route.

Clerk reported the annual playground inspection is due. Clerk to contact Wicksteed Leisure for this and inform Mr J. Williams of dates when they are available.

7. Any other business.

Parking on Cross Tree Road. This is getting worse.

Next Meeting 6th March 2013 at 7.00pm

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm.

Signature: _____

Date: _____