

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

On Wednesday 7th January 2015

In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.00 pm

01/15 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman,
Cllr. Richard Edmondson,
Cllr. Celina Franklin,
Cllr. Jef Williams,
Cllr. Richard Forman
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,
Ruth Millard - Clerk

In attendance:

County & District Cllr Allen Walker,
Dist. Cllr. David Aaronson, **Apologies accepted**
PCSO Stephanie Bacon, **Apologies**
Public – Med Blower

Public Open Forum (under adjournment). The Clerk was asked why the attendance book had not been bought to the meeting. She replied that she had forgotten it at the previous meeting but that it would now be full and she would need to purchase a new book. She advised that a designated one would be expensive and suggested a hardback book from Smiths. Cllr RF offered to supply one for the Council.

02/15 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.

03/15 Minutes of the last Meeting; Held on Wednesday 10th December 2014.

Resolved; That the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2014, be approved and signed as a true record.

04/15 Co-option of a new member; Cllr Alan Cartwright proposed and Cllr Richard Edmondson seconded that Med Blower be co-opted onto the Council.

Resolved; for Med Blower be co-opted on to the Council.

Cllr Med Blower signed her acceptance of Office and it was counter signed by the Clerk. The Clerk gave her a DPI Registration Form to complete and return within 28 days.

05/15 Matters Arising

a Highways and footpaths; to report any defects;

i. **A422 Diversions;** Discussion of the issues.

Resolved; that the Clerk contacts the Clerk to Deanshanger for an update of what is needed.

ii. **Cable laying mess;** Cllr Allen Walker has arranged a meeting with Helen Howard and her manager to discuss various issues including the how Western Power has left the work areas in Wicken.

iii. **Dog Hygiene Bin;** the Clerk has several times rang AH Contracts to purchase and have installed a dog Hygiene Bin for Wicken, she is still waiting for a reply.

Resolved; that the updates were noted.

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

i. **Future of the Village Hall;** there was a long discussion at the end of the meeting. Cllr M Blower asked about the use of the Village Hall verses the Sportsfield and how compatible they worked. There were queries about the value of the Hall to the community. Cllr A Cartwright had sounded out about 20 residents of which 19 wanted the Village Hall sold. It was pointed out that a different 20 might show the exact opposite reaction. Cllr R Edmondson requested a lot more time to give this thought and Cllr C Franklin agreed as there was no rush to sell and the Hall was in a good stable condition, it just needed some cosmetic work doing to it. Cllr A Cartwright asked how long a time scale did the members want. There were both thoughts of finding some Capital from private individuals and also looking at grants available. More consultation was needed if grants were to be applied for. Cllr P Ivan asked for an agreement to find some quotes to have work done on the toilet cisterns as it was felt that these unsafe.

Resolved; that Cllr P Ivans source quotes to fix the toilets and the Parish Council will wait before making

any decision on the future of the Hall.

ii. **Governing Document & Trustee Status;** the Clerk asked about the Governing document for the Village Hall Charity. She requested that each Trustee receive a copy. Cllr P Ivans said that he had a copy. The Clerk reported that the Trustees names had not been updated on the Charity Commission website. Cllr P Ivans suggested that he and the Clerk meet to exchange the information that she needed to update the Commission Website.

Resolved; that the Chairman and Clerk meet to exchange information and documents, that the Clerk updates the information for Wicken Village Hall on the Charity Commission website.

c **Playground Inspection;** Mr Millard had estimated that to repaint the Playground would take approximately 20 man hours at £15.00 per hour. He has sourced the paint at £20.00 a litre from Wickstead. It has to be a specialized paint for play equipment. He suggested that the Parish Council purchase the paint itself which would save them the VAT. Regarding the wooden flooring under the multi equipment which has rotted and needs to be replaced, Mr Millard advised that he had seen that Wickstead had suggested to Watton at Stone Parish Council, 12/10/2010 item 8, outcome of annual playground inspection report, to have aluminium checker plate fitted. Cllr J Williams suggested an alternative could be Foamex. Cllr J Williams proposed and Cllr Edmondson seconded that the equipment is repainted in the Spring by Mr Millard.

Resolved; that the Parish Council purchase the paint from Wickstead and Mr Millard repaints the Playground equipment as soon as the weather is favorable. That Mr Millard researches the refurbishment of the flooring with Foamex and discussed with the Council before taking action.

06/15 Planning; no applications.

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, at the last meeting. The Clerk had not spoken to NCalc yet.

Resolved; The Clerk to check with N Calc to get advice.

07/15 Finance;

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

Resolved; That the accounts are noted.

b) **Salary information;** A national salary increase for Local Government Services has been agreed. This year's pay award is being billed as a "2.2%" increase. It comes into effect on 1 January 2015, i.e. it is not backdated to 1 April as has happened in previous years, and in lieu of the award being back dated there is a one-off payment of £100 (pro rata) to be paid in December.

Resolved; to agree the salary payments.

c) **Payment of Invoices received;**

Payments January 2015

ER Millard, Dec. 2014 Remunerations	LGA 1972 s112	000580	
HMRC 3 rd Quarter	LGA 1972 s112	000581	
AH Contracts, invoice 7769	Litter (animal Droppings) Order 1991	000582	14.40
E.on, photo cell light @ Brook Court	LGA 1972, s14	000583	28.16
ER Millard, 2 nd and 3 rd quarter Expenses	LGA 1972 s112	000584	135.39
E.on, Street lighting maintenance	LGA 1972, s14	000585	72.34

Receipts to 30th June 2014

Name	Reason	Amount
....1706	Interest – 10.11.2014	0.03

ACCOUNT BALANCE – 20th November 2014

....1706	747.54
....8268	2957.81
TOTAL	4429.45

Resolved; to pay all invoices received;

d) **Budget & Precept;** The Council considered the budget figures that the Clerk had prepared for the next financial year. The Parish Council agreed to budget for a grant of £50.00 to Wicken Conservation Society. The Parish Council agreed to budget for a grant the PCC of £300.00 toward

the maintenance of the Churchyard. The Parish Council agreed to budget a grant of £300.00 to Wicken Sports Club toward the mowing cost. The Clerk explained that a European Law directive the high pressure mercury bulbs that are in the Councils street lights are being phased out in 2015. This means that as a light bulb needs replacing the lamp will have to be modified to fit either 42 watt Compact Florecent or LED bulbs. Eon had estimated the modification to cost between £350 and £380 for each lamp. The Parish has 22 lamps. The life of a High pressure mercury bulb is estimated at 5 years. The Council discussed the implications of this directive to the Parish Council.

Resolved; to have a five year program to change the lamps throughout the village. Year 1, to budget for 4 lamps to be changed. The Clerk to request from E.on what their contract covered and ask for a price list for the consumables. Cllr P Ivans will survey the lamps in the Parish from this Survey the Council will decide which lamps are a priority. The Budget for 2015/2016, to include the expense of an Election, was £7257.74. The Precept request for 2015/2016 will be £7260.00.

08/15 Reports;

a) **County;**

- The County Council had a bad report regarding Children's Services. The out come of which was to have a major reshuffle and a follow up report that it is back n track with an adequate to good report.
- Western Power Cllr Walker has a meeting scheduled with Helen H and her manager on Friday 9th January 2015, to discuss the many issues in his Ward. He suggested that the Council write a letter of complaint to David Farquar the head of Highways and cc Western Power.
- Cllr A Walker mentioned for members to be aware of confidentiality issues outside of Parish Council meetings and South Northants Council meetings.
- The Core Strategy is now in place and the housing bank has been breeched. SNC are now looking for each Parish to define its own boundaries.

b) **District;**

- The District is having a neutral budget in the next financial year. It is asking each department to make savings of between 10% and 12%.
- Cllr A Walker reported the District Council will be restructured over the next 5 years.

c) **Police;** please see appendix 1.

d) **Neighbourhood Watch;** no report.

Resolved; That the reports were noted.

09/14 Correspondence Circulars and Consultations;

Email –

26.11.2014 Further Salary Information 2014/15. *See item 07/15 b*

18.12.2014 No Capping / Transparency Code for Councils <£25,000. *Clerk said that the Parish Council was very transparent and did the majority of what would be requested of it already.*

19.12.2014 Parish Councils: Winter Village Viewpoint edition

09.12.2014 E.on electric meter change. *Cllr Ivans to follow this through.*

19.12.2014 SNC Parish Precept 2015-16. *See item 07/15 d*

Resolved; that all correspondence be noted.

10/14 Date and time and venue of the next meeting; The next Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Wicken on Wednesday 4th March 2014 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Chairman's Signature

Date

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Appendix 1

I am PCSO Stephanie Bacon. I am based at Towcester. I am now covering Wicken, Deanshanger and Whittlebury as part of my beat.

Unfortunately I cannot attend the Parish Council meeting but I have attached a copy of the Crime report for April to present date.

This report draws a comparison to last year and overall crime figure remains the same but these are made up of different types of crime.

There has been a decrease of burglaries from the previous year, whilst thefts from motor vehicles has gone up.

There has also been two criminal damage and two violence offences, which encompasses a whole range of different offences within it.

I have not been made aware of any anti-social behaviour in Wicken but I would ask residents to call us on 101 to report any such behaviour or crime if it occurs.

We have just finished our Op Lapland campaign, which stretched over the Christmas/New Year period and will be setting up another Operation which will cover rural crime such as Heating Oil Thefts, catalytic convertor thefts, metal thefts, theft of livestock and farm machinery and burglaries of all types. We are looking at this as there has been a particular issue with theft of heating oil in Brackley/Buckingham area before Christmas.

I would urge all residents to call in on 101 if they see anything suspicious; people, vans, anyone looking for scrap or trying to sell a product or service. We need to verify who these people are and to check authenticity etc.