

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

**On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**In Wicken Sports Club, Wicken at 7.00 pm**

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Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

**1/17 Attendance and apologies;** To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman  
Cllr. Celina Francklin, - Apologies received  
Cllr. Richard Forman,  
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,  
Cllr Andrew Edmondson  
Cllr Marcus Rixon  
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland – Apologies Received  
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,  
Sally Willis - Clerk  
4 members of public  
Steve Barber – Road Safety Engineer – Highways Dept

**2/17 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.

Though not a pecuniary interest Cllr Rixon declared an in interest in item 11 as a member of the Parochial Church Committee

It was agreed to bring item 5 up the agenda

**5/17 To receive report from Highways regarding speeding in Wicken and possible solutions and to approve future action**

Despite the perception, speed is not the primary cause of road traffic accidents, but drivers failing to look and judge correctly. However, reducing speed will reduce the severity of accidents. Money is tight in the Highways department so they are giving parishes the opportunity to purchase and maintain speed indication devices if they want.

Steve Barber had been to Wicken and identified sites where there may be issues. He is able to monitor a site for a week to get basic data to see if speeding is an issue or just a perceived issue. There are then choice of boxes that the council could purchase depending on what we wanted it to do. He is able to get quotes and send these to us. The council would need 2 volunteers to move the devise around and change the battery. Average cost would be £2500 for device, poles to attach it to and hi-vis jackets.

There was a discussion about possibility of sharing with Deanshanger, however it was thought that it would be better to have one of our own.

It was proposed that we request the 1 week monitor on Deanshanger Road, and discuss at the next meeting when we have quotes.

Steve Barber Leaves

**3/17 Public Forum**

It was agreed members of the public could speak at the appropriate time on the agenda.

Cllr Walker advised that there will be county council elections in May and he will stand again. The County Council budget is tight and currently going through a scrutiny process for 2017/18 budget. He advised the bus service will remain.

At South Northants Council they are coming to the conclusion of the Local Plan in a couple of weeks. As far as he is aware there will be nil housing for Wicken.

There was a discussion about the Old Stratford Roundabout. Cllr Walker is actively working to get this area looked at.

Chairman's initials

**4/17 Approval of Minutes;** To agree the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

**5/17 To receive report from Highways regarding speeding in Wicken and possible solutions and to approve future action**

Discussed earlier, see above

**6/17 To receive information on rural crime in the area and consider any actions that can be taken**

There were many farm thefts in December, There is nothing the council can do but everyone needs to be more vigilant and alert. Cllr Ivens advised he is working with Mr Ward about CCTV near Folly Road.

**7/17 To receive Solar Farm Committee's proposals for disposition of funds and approve actions**

A fund for help with education had been agreed and flyers posted, as yet there was no uptake. It is thought that this fund could be used for Vehicle Activated signs and ANPR.

Member of the public asked if we will get this for 25 years or if this will not all come through. It was advised that this is a contractual agreement.

**8/17 To receive report on potholes in Wicken Park Road and approve actions**

Holes in Larks Lane have been done. Those near Akeley School will need traffic lights so likely to be in the Spring.

Member of the public advised of a new pothole on Whittlebury Road, he will report on Street Doctor.

Member of public asked about flooding under humpback bridge, Cllr Ivens will look into this.

**9/17 To receive report on painting of Bridge on Wicken Park Road and approve actions**

Highways have suggested that this can be done as part of the community enhancement gang work. Clerk to request this when forms come through.

**10/17 To receive update on Japanese knotweed**

There is still live Japanese Knotweed in the area, in the Spring this will be treated.

**11/17 To consider and approve response to planning application S/2016/3162/FUL – Remove wooden fence on northern boundary. Four ground height floodlights to illuminate church and replacement lantern above church door – St Johns Church, Church Lane**

This had been discussed at the last meeting, however the church had been asked to give more information on the illumination of the church so this was an amended application.

3 members of the public present gave objections, from preferring natural lighting and light pollution concerns, to disturbance of wildlife and other concerns with removal of the fence. They felt that there had not been enough public consultation on these plans, especially with those that lived close to the church.

The council advised that this was the first they had heard any objections, previous discussions the council had given no objections as they believed the church would have done the groundwork before putting in the application.

It was proposed that comment is made to South Northants Council that there needs to be more public consultation before a decision is made, highlighting concerns above.

Cllr Walker advised that he would ask to call in the application so that this will go to committee rather than be approved by an officer.

**12/17 To consider and approve response to Northamptonshire County Council Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation 2017-18**

The council are proposing a 1.95% increase for basic spend and 2% for social services (rather than the 3% the government have suggested they can ask for), giving a total of 3.95% increase. It was proposed that the council do not comment as we do not have any expertise to do so.

**13/17 Finance:**

**a) To receive and approve accounts to end January**

Payee	CN	Reason	Amount	VAT
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Chairman's initials

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04/01/17

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BDO	671	External Audit	<b>120.00</b>	0.00
		Lighting		
Eon	672	Maintenace	<b>72.34</b>	12.06
Mrs S Willis	673	Stationery	<b>20.27</b>	0.00
R. Edmondson	674	Tree	<b>42.64</b>	0.00
AH Contracts	675	Empty dog bins	<b>43.20</b>	7.20
AH Contracts	676	Empty dog bins	<b>43.20</b>	7.20
Lloyd Woodworking Ltd	677	Village Hall Window	<b>5,488.30</b>	914.72
Mrs S Willis	678	Clerk December	<b>157.85</b>	0.00
Mrs S Willis	679	Clerk January	<b>158.05</b>	0.00
HMRC	680	Tax / NI Q3	<b>11.00</b>	0.00
			<b>6,156.85</b>	941.18

Accounts approved

**b) To receive and approve Budget to end December**

Budget circulated and approved.

**c) To consider and approve budget and precept for 2017/18**

Budget was circulated and approved. It was proposed that the precept is set at £7260, same as last year.

**d) To consider and approve reserves policy**

Internal Audit report recommended a Reserves Policy to show plans for funds above general reserves. The policy was circulated and approved. It was agreed to revisit this each year at the same time as budget setting.

**14/17 To receive updates on outstanding items and to consider items for next meeting**

Village Hall finances were circulated. It was agreed to add this as an agenda item each time. The group using the building have requested permission to do work to the outside area.

Sports Club have been visited by elections officer and all is OK for that to be used as a venue.

There was a discussion about the Wildflower area, as this had not worked as well as it was hoped. Conservation Society need to consider what to do. They will also be painting the British Legion bench. It was noted that this bench has long grass around it and needs maintenance.

Cllr Blower has resigned from the council. She was thanked for her work. Process has started to find a replacement. This will be discussed at the next meeting if co-option is needed.

There was concern about the parking on The Green and the damage to the grass. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

It was advised that there will be a dog show in June, and plans for an Open Gardens if there are enough people willing to open their gardens.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm

**Chairman's Signature**

**Date**

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