

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

**On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.30 pm**

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Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed new councilors Andrew Edmondson and Marcus Rixon

**50/16 Attendance and apologies;** To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman  
Cllr. Celina Franklin,  
Cllr. Richard Forman  
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,  
Cllr Med Blower **Apologies Received**  
Cllr Andrew Edmondson  
Cllr Marcus Rixon  
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland **Apologies Received**  
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,  
Sally Willis - Clerk  
3 members of public

**51/16 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 declared

**52/16 Open Forum**

Treasurer of Conservation Society asked if it was possible to receive a grant for £50 as in previous years. She will formally approach the clerk.

Member of the public advised light in pound Close is still out. Clerk to Chase

Japanese Knotweed can still be seen near the brook. Update on this will be given later.

Cllr Walker advised there was not much to update from County council, however since the EU referendum they are advising all Parish Councils that it is business as usual.

Cllr Walker advised that from District that the possibility of Devolution with Oxfordshire will not happen. This is due to the fact that the police forces are different and by law they cannot transpose. He also advised that the funds currently in the New Homes Bonus fund are ring-fenced and will remain until spent, however they cannot guarantee if further funds will be added until they hear the future of the scheme from central government.

**53/16 Approval of Minutes;** To agree the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

**54/16 To consider and approve repairs to village Hall Windows**

It was thought that this decision needs to be postponed.

**55/16 To consider a response to correspondence received from Light Source regarding extending time period for Solar Panels**

Current planning permission is for solar panels to be in situ for 25 years. They believe that there could be a 30 year lifespan and are planning to request planning permission for a 5 year extension. They would propose to compensate the parish council by £10,000. It was proposed to respond saying that the council would be OK with this proposal.

**56/16 To consider Internal Audit report and approve actions**

The internal audit report was good and commented on the good work that has been done over the last couple of years. With the funds expected from the solar farm this would possibly leave the council with funds in the

accounts above the accepted amount. As such it is suggested that there is a reserves policy drafted and approved to earmark funds for certain projects. Clerk to work with Cllr Blower.

**57/16 To consider playground inspection report and approve actions**

Cllr Blower, who is not present, is meeting with Wicksteed regarding possible changes to the playground. It was thought that it would be best to reconsider this following this meeting.

**58/16 Finance.**

a) To receive and approve accounts for payment

Payee	CN	Reason	Amount	VAT
AH Contracts	639	Bin emptying and new signs	382.20	63.70
Eon	640	Street Lighting power	280.01	13.33
SLCC	641	Clerk Membership - 1/3 membership and internal	43.00	0.00
Northants CALC	642	audit	318.28	0.00
Mrs S Willis	643	Clerk April	155.20	0.00
Mrs S Willis	644	Clerk May	155.00	0.00
Sports and Social Club	645	Towards grass cutting	400.00	0.00
Total			<b>1733.69</b>	<b>77.03</b>

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

b) To receive and approve budget to end of June.

Resolved: Budget received and approved.

c) To approve new bank signatories

It was proposed to add Andrew Edmondson to the Bank Mandate. Resolved

d) To consider and approve clerks pay increase in line with national guidance

Clerks pay to raise 1% in line with industry standard. Resolved

**59/16 To receive updates on outstanding issues and suggest items for next agenda**

Conservation Area assessment is due, the officer will be attending the September meeting to present.

Local Plan update was given by chairman of Local Plan Committee. There were difficulties with the time scale and linking the strategic plan to how it would work in Wicken. Wicken will be protected by the confines. There was a discussion about neighbourhood plans, Cllr Walker suggested these were good for towns but not small rural villages.

Tree on Cross Tree Road will be cut back in autumn.

Resident on Church Close has complained about loud music and intimidating neighbours. Details to be passed to clerk to pass to SNC and SNH.

SNC have been contacted regarding Japanese knotweed. They want to confirm ownership of land. Merchant venturers have been contacted and we await to hear their response, however they have agreed to cut back willows on their side of the brook.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8 pm

**Chairman’s Signature**

**Date**

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