

Wicken Parish Council Meeting 6th March 2013 at 7pm.

Present: Mr. P. Ivens (Chairman), Cllr. A. Walker, Mrs. C. Franklin, Mr. A. Cartwright, Mr. R. Edmondson, Mr. G. Maloney.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs. L. Clark (Vice Chairman), Mr. J. Williams, Mr. B. Clapham, Cllr D. Aaronson.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Agreed. Clerk to change 'Draft' version on website.
3. **Items raised by Members of Public:** Mr. C. Martindale was present and brought up the following issues:
 - Street lamp to the entrance of the Sport Field not working. See below, this is now repaired as of 06.03.13.
 - Pot holes near Dagnell Corner, Clerk to report these.
 - Japanese Knotweed growing on / near to Leckhampstead Road, South Northants Council should be informed of this. Clerk to contact them.
 - There is currently no salt bin on Pound Close. Clerk to ask South Northants Council to install one.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - The tree planting to mark the Queens Jubilee in 2012 is now complete and insitue on Church Close. An overall tidy up of the area is currently taking place. A thank you to Mr. R. Edmondson for taking care of the digging and planting of the trees.
 - The lights at Akeley Wood Junior School do not seem to be as obtrusive as they have been in the past with regards to the glare of lighting.
 - The entrance to the Sports Field has now been tarmacked and tidied up.
 - Pightle Farm – there is another water leak. Mr. A. Cartwright to contact Anglian Water. Mr. R. Edmondson said that he could be there to oversee any works that Anglian Water partakes in.
 - Pot holes – any pot holes around the village are reported as soon as seen and so far seem to have been repaired quite promptly.
 - Leckhampstead Road Drains – Mr. A. Cartwright reported that this is still work in progress.
 - Signs around Village – all signs have been replaced that have been reported to the Clerk. There is a bent sign on Wicken Park Road, Clerk to report this.
 - The Chairman reported that the gate post that was broken in the Village Hall car park has been repaired to the cost of £70.00.
 - The Street Lamps that were not working in the village on Church Close and the opening to the Sports field have now been repaired. The street lamp on Deanshanger Road has now had the bulb taken out as per a residents request on Quarry Close.
5. **Planning:** Home Farm, Wicken . Planning ref: S/2013/0179/LBC: No objection.
6. **Finance:** The Precept has been agreed at the same amount as the previous year £4,200.00.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk has had issues with HMRC with regards to PAYE for her role as Clerk. Although the Clerk has paid her dues and subscriptions accordingly, she has failed to file a P35 and P14 online for the previous year end. This has subsequently been done now. Due to the ongoing problems with HMRC the Clerk has had, she has resigned from her position with the Parish Council. HMRC are fining the Parish Council £400.00 as a penalty. The Clerk has written and appealed to HMRC, the Chairman has copies of all correspondence. Due to the amount HMRC is fining the Council, the Clerk has tentatively agreed to help the Parish Council until September 2013 with no pay to reconcile this. Clerk will contact NCALC with regards to advertising the position and contact Deanshanger Parish Council Clerk for advice on advertising position.

Chq 000510	£28.80	AH Contracts	Dog bin maintenance.
Chq 000511	£189.65	E-on	Street lighting.
Chq 000512	£120.00	HMRC	PAYE on Clerks fee.
Chq 000514	£250.00	Badger Landscapes	Work on Church Close.
Chq 000513	£480.00	O. Absolom	Clerks fee.

7. Matters of Repair & Administration:

- Code of Conduct (South Northants Council version) was circulated and signed and adopted at 7.31pm.
- Neighbourhood Watch – there is still a vacancy for this position as nobody has come forward as yet.
- Playground Annual Inspection – The Chairman met Wicksteed Leisure today Weds 6th March 2013. There are a few items that require attention currently. Wicksteed report that the cost would be around £1,000.00 for this. The Parish Council have decided to wait for the full report from Wicksteed Leisure before deciding on repair work and making this a safe area.

8. Any Other Business:

- The Village Hall – Mr. G. Maloney has been in contact with the Estate Agents Kirkby & Diamond and also Berry's with no news with regards to the letting of the Village Hall on a commercial basis. He reported that there is a charge to change the use of the premises of the Village Hall using a professional outfit, this would take around five hours of work at £130.00 per hour. Mr. Maloney said that Berry's Estate Agents had been the most positive and pro active agent of the two and that they seem to be making a good effort. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact South Northants Council to see what their fee is for the 'change of use' application. Cllr. A. Walker said it could take around two months for the completion of change of use with a Planning Officer at South Northants Council. Mr. Maloney to contact South Northants Council, arrange necessary paperwork and report back at the next meeting.
- On another matter concerning the Village Hall. The annual Pat testing to all electrical sockets has been carried out and passed. The Village Hall will pay for this invoice when it comes in.

- Mrs. C. Franklin would like a small plaque to be erected on or near the trees that have been planted on Church Close to commemorate the Queens Jubilee last year.
Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Next meeting: 8th May 2013 at 6pm with the Annual Open Meeting at 7pm.

Minutes agreed as a correct record by Chairman: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT