

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

On Wednesday 5th March 2014

In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.00 pm

Open Forum (under adjournment); Barbara Langton, a member of the Deanshanger & Wicken British Legion, gave a report to bring Wicken up to date and explained the proposed events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1.

Pam had a question regarding the hump backed bridge, when were the drains going o be cleared out. She digs the areas each side out every year, but unless the water has somewhere to run too, it all fills up again as soon as there is some rain.

11/14 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens - Chairman

Cllr. Lynda Clark

Cllr. Richard Edmondson

Cllr. Celina Franklin

Cllr. Jef Williams,

Cllr. Alan Cartwright

Ruth Millard - Clerk

In attendance;

County & District Cllr Allen Walker, **Apologies accepted**

Dist. Cllr. David Aaronson,

Public 6

The Chairman explained that Cllr Maloney was leaving the area and therefore has resigned from being a Parish Councillor.

12/14 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.

13/14 Minutes of the last Meeting; Held on Tuesday 7th January.

Resolved; That the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2013, be approved and signed as a true record.

14/14 Matters arising.

- **Leckhamstead Road Drains;** Cllr Alan Cartwright reported that the Leckhampstead Road drains have been approved, and the job was out to tender.
- **Woodland Trust, free tree offer;** the trees had been ordered and due to arrive during March. Cllr Richard Edmondson, reported that The Conservation Society had purchased 4 Oak saplings to be planted along the topside of the hedge by the footpath at the Rectory. He proposed that the Parish Council purchase the tree guards and stakes.

Resolved; that Cllr RE purchase the tree guards and stakes on behalf of the Parish Council.

- **A422 Diversions;** Cllr Alan Cartwright reported, when the A422 has to be closed to traffic by police officers due to a RTA or flooding at the Thornton bends police officers have historically diverted traffic into Wicken, Leckhampstead and Deanshanger, resulting in chaos, gridlock, damaged verges and general frustration for the drivers. Not only has Wicken Parish Council complained about this but Leckhampstead Parish Council has too.

As a result of both Councils lobbying, Neil Biggs/Traffic Management Officer for Buckinghamshire has sent notice that;

"I have been in contact with Simon Dudley at Bucks CC and my counterpart in Northamptonshire Ian Ledingham in respect of this issue.

We are all aware of the potential for vehicles travelling on routes not suitable as a diversion within this area and the need to act promptly when this does happen to keep traffic on the main strategic routes.

In the first instance we will look at diverting traffic on the A422 at the roundabout with Stratford Road which leads to Deanshanger, this has been confirmed with Ian Ledingham and at the roundabout of the A413 with the A422 just outside of Buckingham again confirmed with Simon Dudley.

This information will be passed to our Roads Policing Department and our control room for implementation should we need to close the A422."

- **Playground;** Wicken Toys did not wish to take up the Parish Council's proposal for the company to put equipment on the playground site.

Resolved; that the Clerk contact Wickstead play equipment, to contract them to do some of the remedial work needed on the play equipment. The Chairman to handover the list of preferred work.

15/14 Planning;

S/2014/0201/FUL 16 Cross Tree Road, Wicken. New conservatory to the rear.

Resolved; no objection.

Regarding the Solar Farm Application. There has been no movement regarding the Planning Application for the Solar Farm.

Resolved; that the Clerk contact Alan Shepherd, who gave the presentation of the Solar Farm in January, for an update of the Planning Application.

16/14 Finance;

a. **Accounts for Payment;** Details of financial payments required for the month had been circulated and the month end for January 2014 bank balance figure after income and expenditure during the month.

Payee	POWER	Cheque Number	Amount
AH Contracts , Jan 14 & Feb 14	Litter (animal Droppings) Order 1991	000542	28.80
ER Millard , Jan - Mar '14 Remunerations	LGA 1972 s111	000543	240.00
HMRC , Jan – March 2014, 4 th quarter	LGA 1972 s111	000544	60.00
Wicken Sport Club	LGA 1972 s133	000545	20.00
			348.8

Receipts – 29th January 2014

Name	Reason	Amount
....1706	Interest – 09.12.2013	0.03
	Interest – 11.01.2013	0.03
		0.06

ACCOUNT BALANCE – 29th January 2014

....1706	747.24
....8268	1863.23
TOTAL	2610.47

Resolved; that all payments presented be signed and paid.

b. **Job contract;** The Clerk asked in regards to her job contract could she could have a set £5.00 per week for use of the office equipment, heating & lighting and mileage.

Resolved; that the Clerk should include £5.00 per week expenses allowance.

17/14 Village Hall;

a. **Updates**, Cllr Philip Ivans reported that the pre school group that were hiring the Hall had to give it up. They had paid a deposit of £3000.00 and contracted to hire for 5 years but it had gone very quiet after January.

Resolved; that the Parish Council request January's hire charge plus an extra £2000.00 for

defaulting on their contract.

The Clerk reported that today she had been contacted by Justine Cooper Drake who with her partner Sheelagh Poyner, runs Giggles MK, a pre school and after school care facility. She has shown an interest in hiring the Village Hall for full day childcare. Cllr Celina Franklin proposed that in any new lease provision is made for the tenants of the School House to use 2 car parking spaces, inside the gates, outside of school hours.

Resolved; that Cllr Philip Ivens would speak to the couple to establish if the Village Hall was exactly what they wanted. If a similar hirer came along the Parish Council would discuss a new lease with provision for the School House.

b. Village Notice Board, is in need of some remedial work. The Clerk said that her husband was prepared to work a couple of hours on the board for £15.00 an hour plus any materials.

18/14 Highways and footpaths; nothing to report other than in Matters Arising.

19/14 Reports;

- **County;** no report.
- **District;** Council Tax Exemption scheme remains same as last year but as info from SNC stated the transition grant given last year will not be available this financial year 14/15.
- **Police;** the local police have shown an interest in attending the APCM.
- **Neighbourhood Watch;** a home in St John’s Lane has been broken in to.

20/14 Correspondence Circulars and Consultations; the Council noted the following correspondence;

- 05.02.2014 Encroachment on council land.
- 18.01.2014 Royal British Legion
- 17.02.2014 Your free Woodland Trust tree pack is arriving soon!
- 18.02.2014 Parish Enhancement Gangs

Resolved; that the Councillors fill out the form regarding enhancement gangs and send it to the Clerk to collate and forward to the appropriate body.

21/14 Date and time and venue of the next meeting; The next Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Wicken on Wednesday 7th May 2014 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20.

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