

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

**On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

**In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.00 pm**

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Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7pm

**17/16 – Open Forum.** County and District Councillor Alan Walker gave an update of County Council. There have been rumors that county council is bankrupt, this is not true, they have a balanced budget, but still have savings to find. There has been an increase in council tax of 1.95%, and 2% which has been ringfenced for social services. There are debates about moving to unitary authority but what happens remains to be seen. There are feasibility studies being done but whether this will happen with Northants as a county, or with South Northants splitting with Cherwell is still being looked into. Due to austerity measures not seen before, unitary authorities could bring big savings and so this is being suggested, and will be approved by government. Cllr Walker has also worked to keep the bus service in the area.

Cllr Blower joins the meeting.

Wicken Parish Council has just over £18,000 at South Northants Council which can be applied for via the New Homes Bonus grant scheme. At the moment there is no time limit to when this is used, but we do not know if this will change in future.

A member of the public asked if the council had an obligation to provide allotments. Cllr Walker advised that it could be hard to find land, unless the village accepted development and asked for land as part of this, as Deanshanger has.

Member of the public also asked if dogs are allowed to roam freely after dark. It was thought there is no law specifically for this, though there could be an anti-social element to it which could be reported. If there are issues with dogs these can be reported to South Northants Environment team who will look into it.

Cllr Walker Leaves

A member of the public told the council of a light out in Pound Close, This has been reported to EON by the clerk.

**18/16 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  
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland **Apologies Received**  
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,  
Sally Willis - Clerk  
3 members of public

**19/16 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

**20/16 Approval of Minutes;** To agree the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

**21/16 Co-option:** to discuss and approve next steps to filling councilor vacancies

Councillors Jef Williams and Richard Edmonson had resigned from the council. The clerk advised that the official notifications from South Northants had been posted and that there had been no interest from the village for a by-

election. As such the council are able to co-opt new members. It was agreed to advertise the vacancies and for a vote to take place at the next meeting.

### **22/16 Parish Meeting** to discuss and agree date of Parish Meeting

It was proposed that the parish meeting is the same night as the annual parish council meeting, but held first.  
**Resolved**

### **23/16 Solar Farm Funding;** To receive update and approve any actions.

A short list of items to look at had been pulled together, but it had been thought that there is too many relating to the sports club. Some items need more investigation but others were discussed:

It was proposed that up to £1500 is put aside for the purchase of a defibrillator for the village. The owners of the White Lion have offered for it to be put by their back door. Cllr Blower and the clerk to look at placing the order. There was suggestion of updating the playground, but it was thought this could be a bigger project. Clerk advised that an inspection is due and that it may be worth waiting for that before making big decisions. It was suggested that the new homes bonus money could possibly be used for this. It was proposed that £2000 is put aside for a new piece of equipment. Cllr Blower to investigate and look to see if we can support local company such as Wicken Toys.

Sports Club would like to relay the drive. Quotes received so far vary from £11k to £24k. The sports club are still obtaining and negotiating on quotes. It was proposed that the council would make a £5000 contribution to these works. **Resolved**

### **24/16 Village Hall;** To receive update and approve any actions

Legal Agreement is near completion. There are some issues such as electrical, asbestos and fire extinguisher reports which have now been completed. Windows need repairing (economically unrepairable). This will need to be done over time as the rent comes in. There was also discussion about applying for funding from the National Lottery, it was thought that if Phoenix rising were a charity this may help the requests.

There was a query over the council / village hall trustees' relationship. Cllr Blower to investigate and report back. Cllr Franklin offered to obtain quotes for windows.

### **25/16 Village Plan;** to receive update and approve next steps

Committee made up of Anthony Oswell, Sue Forman, Giles Butterfield, Leo McNair, Neil Gordon Lee, Richard Wiggins and Alan Cartwright. Seminars are being held in April, to which 2 of these will attend.

### **26/16 Littering;** To discuss issue and approve action

Cllr Cartwright had written to Andrea Leadsom MP regarding his concern about casual littering from cars. He has asked if it is possible for Northamptonshire to bring in fixed penalty fines, such as those in London. She responded saying she would contact Chief Executive at Northants County council and Marcus Jones MP, Parliamentary undersecretary of State and Minister for Local Government asking for their comments. We await the response. Cllr Ivens noted that he had seen flytipping on the A422. Clerk to notify South Northants Council.

### **27/16 Dog Fouling on the Sports field;** to receive update and approve next steps

Flyers have been distributed and dog bag dispenser has been installed in Sports club entrance with notice. Bags are being used and bins filling up, so it seems to be working. This needs ongoing monitoring. **Resolved**

**28/16 Tree Works:** To discuss and approve trimming tree within round seat at Cross tree road. All agreed that this needed doing. Cllr Ivens to obtain quotes. **Resolved**

### **29/16 Lighting:** To receive updates and approve actions on issues in Leckhamsted Road and Wicken Park Road.

The light on Wicken Park Road has now been fixed and is working.

Some residents of Leckhamsted Road would like the light to remain off, however the clerk advised that a member of the public had reported it to be fixed. Cllr Cartwright to speak to residents to decide if this light should be lit or remain off.

### **30/16 ACRE:** to consider and approve membership to ACRE

It was agreed to renew membership. **Resolved.**

### **31/16 Licensing Application.** To consider response to South Northants Council regarding Licensing application for the Old White Lion

There were no objections to this application which all thought was the same as before but for the new owners.

**32/16 Planning: Applications to discuss and comment on:**

S/2016/0485/FUL – Demolition of existing side extension and replace with single storey extensions to front & side – 11 Church Close

No objections

S/2016/0410/LBC - Listed building consent for replacement of concrete paved floor with stone, installation of screen walling, formation of new linking door with main dwelling and installation of 1 no conservation roof window in the west facing roof slope - Oldstone Place 6B Leckhampstead Road

No objections

S/2016/0402/LBC - Listed building consent to replace all existing bar pattern hardwood windows with new hardwood Oak windows(casement style) without the glazing bars, internal alterations to facilitate installation of new timber staircase serving the 2nd floor - Oldstone Place 6B Leckhampstead Road

No objections

**33/16 Finance.** To receive and approve accounts for payment

Payee	Cheque number	Amount
Eon - maintenance	628	72.34
Eon - lighting power	629	283.09
Eon - maintenance	630	45.92
SJ Willis Feb	631	126.40
AH Contracts	632	43.20
AH Contracts	633	43.20
SJ Willis - Laptop purchase	634	273.48
SJ Willis - Home work Allowance	635	216.66
SJ Willis Mar	636	126.40
HMRC - Q4	637	94.80
ACRE	638	35.00

Bank Balance As 29 Feb 2016

Savings Account	747.99
current account	14,369.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,117.00</b>

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

**88/15** To receive updates on outstanding issues and suggest items for next agenda

Chairman asked about the audit. Clerk advised that once end of March statements have been received she can prepare year end accounts and audit paperwork will be ready for signing at May meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

**Chairman's Signature**

**Date**

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