

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

On Wednesday 1st March 2017

at The Sports Club, Wicken at 7.00 pm

Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

15/17 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman
Cllr. Celina Francklin, - apologies received
Cllr. Richard Forman, - apologies received
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,
Cllr Andrew Edmondson
Cllr Marcus Rixon – apologies received
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland – apologies received
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,
Sally Willis - Clerk
1 member of public

16/17 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.

None declared

17/17 Public Forum

Member of public was asking why there was not an update on the church planning application on the agenda. The chair advised that the section of the application for flood-lighting has been withdrawn. Member of public advised that there is still concern in the village regarding the removal of the hedge and fence. He was advised that the planning officer had taken the objections into account, but from planning law there was no reason to not approve.

There was a lengthy discussion about the consultation and feelings about the changes to the church from members of the public and the conservation society. However, the approval has been given and the church is now waiting to hear from the diocese.

Cllr Allen Walker advised that the budget for 2017/18 has been approved for County Council. There will be a 4.98% increase in council tax, of which 3% is ringfenced for social services. As far as he is aware there are no cuts to the bus and library services.

18/17 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 4th January 2017* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

19/17 To consider and approve co-option of new councillor

Only 1 person had expressed an interest in joining the parish council. It was proposed that Ian Howett is co-opted to Wicken Parish Council. **Resolved.**

20/17 To consider damage to grass on The Green and approve actions

It was noted there has not been cars parked on The Green recently. It is believed that South Northants Homes had been in contact with the relevant residents. It was decided that the situation needs to be monitored and raise again should it become an issue again.

21/17 To report on potholes in Wicken Park Road and approve actions

Potholes by Folly Lane and Pigthle Farm. All potholes need reporting on Street Doctor, but the whole road is terrible and needs looking at. Cllr Walker suggested asking Highways engineer to come and take a look, as they can assess and add it to the schedule of works. It is believed some is due to poor repairs made by Western Power.

At this point there was also a discussion about passing bays on Wicken Park Road. It was thought that this could

also be discussed on site with the engineer. Clerk to contact and arrange meeting with Cllrs Cartwright and Edmondson.

The head of Akeley School is sympathetic and is aware that a lot of traffic on that road is due to them and would support the Parish Council in aims to bring the road back to a good standard.

22/17 To consider report from Highways regarding speed monitoring project and to consider and approve options for Vehicle Activated Signs

The speed monitor has been put up this week, so it will be a couple of weeks until we get data to analyse. Engineer is happy to discuss results with the council and make suggestions on best type of sign based on those results. Clerk to arrange meeting when the results are ready.

23/17 To consider provision of traffic passing bays on Wicken Park Road

This was discussed above in 21/17. Meeting to be arranged with Highways

24/17 To receive update on Japanese Knotweed situation

This will be poisoned soon, once it has started to grow, with another application a little later, which should kill it off.

25/17 To consider and approve response to planning application S/2017/280/LBC - Listed building consent for the removal of ground floor partition adjacent to kitchen/playroom and raise floor by 90mm - Wicken Manor, 1 Church Lane

As this work is internal there were no objections.

26/17 Finance.

- a) To receive and approve accounts for payment

Payee	CN	Reason	Amount	VAT
AH Contracts	681	Empty dog bins	64.80	10.80
AH Contracts	682	Empty dog bins Clerk	43.20	7.20
Mrs S Willis	683	February	157.85	0.00
Mrs S Willis	684	Clerk March	158.05	0.00
HMRC	685	Tax / NI Q4	11.00	0.00
			434.90	18.00

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

- b) To receive and approve budget to end of January

Resolved: Budget received and approved.

27/17 To receive Village Hall Finances

All bills have been paid to date which leaves a balance of £5361.90, no further bills are expected until late 2017.

28/17 To receive updates on outstanding issues and suggest items for next agenda

There is a lot of litter on Wicken Park Road. Conservation Society have a litterpick on 19th March and they will concentrate on this area. It was asked if the law will be changed to enable prosecution of car drivers who throw litter from the car. As yet Cllr Walker was not aware of this. It was thought that litter attracts litter so tidying the area will help.

Cllr Edmonson hopes to be able to pick up play equipment project, but needs details to be passed from previous councillor.

Cllr Walker asked if the parish council were happy with the proposed confines for the village. These have altered slightly with the Local Plan and now include back gardens. Clerk to see if this documentation is available.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

Chairman's initials

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01/03/2017

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