

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

**On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

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

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Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7pm

**61/15 – Open Forum.** Chairman invited members of the public to ask questions at the appropriate part of the agenda if they wished.

One member of the public asked about trees on The Green being knocked by the grass-cutter. The clerk is aware and is investigating.

**62/15 Attendance and apologies;** To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman,

Cllr. Richard Edmondson,

Cllr. Celina Franklin,

Cllr. Jef Williams,

Cllr. Richard Forman

Cllr. Alan Cartwright,

Cllr Med Blower **Apologies Recieved**

District Cllr. Dennis Loveland

County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,

Sally Willis - Clerk

2 members of public

**63/15 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.

Re 69/15a – Cllr Edmondson

Re 69/15b – Cllr Ivens

**64/15 Approval of Minutes;** To agree the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015*. Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

**65/15 Matters arising from minutes 1st July:**

a) Letter to Stony Stratford Cycling Club

Response had been received today advising that they would make their riders aware. This to be forwarded to residents who had made initial comments. It was noted that cyclists not part of this group would not be aware but there is no way of contacting them.

b) A422 diversion update

This had been discussed at Deanshanger Parish Council planning committee, but it seems the new police routine has had an impact. Previously Police would divert traffic of A422 through Wicken and Deanshanger, now they are diverted back to A5. The question is who would deploy a no through road sign when one is needed. The Police have said this would not be them but County Council. Cllr Cartwright to continue investigation

c) Akeley Wood school Letter

The clerk had sent a letter but it would have been received as the school closed for summer, so no response as yet.

d) Wicken Park Road remedial work update

Works should start this week, but have not as yet. Highways have suggested that if Western Power do not do this work soon they will make the road good and bill Western Power as it is dangerous

e) Merchant venture discussion update

Cllrs Ivens, Cartwright and Foreman had opened a discussion with the merchant venturers regarding

Sports field. Merchant venturers would be looking land as development opportunities. Cllr Foreman to advise of any updates.

District Councillor Loveland and County and District Councillor Walker join the meeting.

**66/15 Solar Farm Grant** - To discuss inputs from residents on grant funds and approve nominations for Solar Farm Committee and approve next steps.

There has been a good response to questionnaire asking for ideas on what to use the funds for. Volunteers for a committee had been put forward from Conservation Society (C. Martindale), Sports Club (P Rutledge), Church (M. Rixon), N. Gordon Lee and T Levitt. It was proposed that Cllr Blower may wish to represent the Parish Council on the committee.

Terms of reference for the committee were discussed, the committee to investigate ideas and propose to Parish council. Items that would be covered by other authorities were not be considered, though there may be room to consider a subsidy to get work completed or started early. Members need to consider village as a whole not just the groups they represent.

Cllr Franklin to speak to Cllr Blower regarding participation. Cllr Cartwright and Clerk to work with Cllr Blower regarding details

**67/15 Internal Audit;** to receive internal audit and approve any required actions.

Matters that had been raised last year had been addressed or were in progress. Thanks went to previous clerk for her work in this area.

It was noted that VAT had not been reclaimed for 2014/15 and the clerk was in the progress of doing this.

**68/15 General Power of Competence;** To consider and approve use of the General Power of Competence

The clerk gave a brief overview of the General Power of Competence. It was RESOLVED that Wicken Parish Council should use the General Power of Competence from this meeting until the next election.

**51/15 Planning; Applications; to discuss and comment on;**

a) **S/2015/1926/FUL** at Pightle Farm Wicken Park Road - Demolition of an existing redundant Dutch Barn, construction of a new building to create 2no 3 bed 2 Storey units, 2no 1 bed studios and 1no 2bed Wheelchair unit. All for short/holiday letting.

Cllr Edmondson gave details of the application. He abstained from the vote.

There were no objections to the application

b) **S/2015/1928/FUL** at Folly Buildings Folly Road Wicken - The proposal is for an equine isolation unit in conjunction with Buckingham Equine Vets. The proposal consists of 2no. stables and 1no. examination room, one dwelling for the occupation of a Veterinary Surgeon and his family, renovation of an existing redundant barn to be used as a garage and storage area.

It was noted that this was in Deanshanger Parish boundary, but Wicken Parish Council were being consulted due to closeness. This is on the site of an original farm and pre-planning advice had been sought.

There were no objections to the application. Cllr Ivens abstained from the vote

**70/15 Finance.** To receive and approve accounts for payment

Payee	Power	Cheque	Amount
EON unmetered	LGA 1972 s14 para 27	611	249.04
AH Contracts June & July	Litter Act 1983,ss5	612	86.40
SJ Willis - July & Aug remunerations	LGA 1972 s112	613	252.80
SJ Willis - Sept remunerations	LGA 1972 s112	614	126.40
HMRC - Q2 Tax/NI	LGA 1972 s112	615	126.40
AON - Insurance	LGA 1972 s111	616	527.96

Payments received

name	reason	amount
Savings Account	Interest June	0.03
Savings Account	interest july	0.03

Current Account	Solar farm deposit	10,000.00
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Account balance 23rd July 2015

Savings account	747.78
Current account	13,499.56
Total	14,247.34

**71/15 Website.** To consider clerk taking ownership of Parish Council element of Wicken village website.

Clerk advised that due to new transparency and openness regulations the council needed to start adding more information to the website than it does presently. A conversation had been started with the website administrator to discuss options. 1 – Continue as we are with clerk forwarding information to be uploaded, 2 – clerk to learn how to upload to Parish Council section, 3 – New website.

It was resolved that the clerk look to upload information on behalf of the council. Clerk to speak to administrator

**72/15 Insurance.** To consider and approve insurance for next 12 months

Renewal received for same amount as last year, or discount of 5% for 3 term agreement with AON. It was resolved to take the 3 year contract and discount.

**73/15 Wild Flowers** To consider and approve to apply for wild flower seeding on verge alongside Pund Close and the churchyard

This had already been approved by council. The conservation Society needed letters from the Parish council and adjoining landowners to obtain the license. Letter from parish council was agreed.

Chairman asked Cllr Walker and Cllr Loveland for their updates:

Cllr Walker – Continued investigations into new generation working at county council, including options to link up with Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, and possibly Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. There is also strategic discussions for Highways, including a future transport policy for A5/A508/A422 as problems in this area when M1 is closed needs addressing.

Cllr Loveland – not much to update from South Northants. At last meeting he was asked about changes to bus service. This will stay as it is.

There was a discussion about the need for a bus stop sign at bus stop in Wicken. Clerk to contact Northants County Council to request.

Cllr Cartwright asked to give some other updates:

- There is a street light on Wicken Park Road which is broken, it appears this may have been done during maintenance. Clerk is investigating.
- There has been no response on 20mph speed limit request yet though it is understood the Police need to be consulted. Cllr Walker offered his support for this initiative.
- Leasing of Village Hall – 2 companies have visited this week and we await to see if either are interested.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

**Chairman's Signature**

**Date**

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