

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

On Wednesday 7th September 2016

In The Village Hall, Wicken at 7.00 pm

Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7.00pm and extended condolences to the families of Michael Hall and Richard Bains who have recently passed away.

60/16 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman
Cllr. Celina Francklin,
Cllr. Richard Forman, **Apologies Received**
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,
Cllr Med Blower **Apologies Received**
Cllr Andrew Edmondson
Cllr Marcus Rixon
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland **Apologies Received**
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker, **Apologies Received**
Sally Willis - Clerk
5 members of public

61/16 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

62/16 Open Forum

Mrs Langton, secretary of the Royal British Legion gave an update on the Deanshanger and Wicken Royal British Legion Branch. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Deanshanger Conservative Club. Anyone is free to attend or join. They are currently working closely with Elizabeth Woodville School on various projects. Despite it being Deanshanger and Wicken Branch there are no Wicken members and would like to find ways to change this. They would like volunteers from Wicken to help sell poppies door to door.

Member of public chased on light on Pound Close. Clerk to chase EON.

63/16 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 6th July 2016* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

64/16 To receive conservation area proposal from South Northants Council and approve response

Katherine Harrison, South Northants Council conservation officer gave a brief presentation of what a conservation area is, and proposed changes to the conservation area in Wicken. This was discussed by councillors. Local Plan Committee had looked at the proposal in depth and agreed with the proposals.

It was proposed that the council thank the officer for updating the document and to say that the council is happy with the proposals and recommendations. **Resolved.**

2 members of the public leave.

65/16 To consider and approve required repairs to village hall windows and possible financial options.

Current financial position of the village hall was circulated, as was yearly rental income. Options for gifting funds to the village hall from solar farm monies, and possibility of loaning funds until the village hall is in a better financial position.

There was discussion about which option was best and the reasons for and against each option were put strongly. It was thought that although this needs to be done before the winter, that it would be better to wait until the next

meeting when there would be more councilors present.

66/16 To consider and approve church hedge / fence removal

It was agreed the Parish Council agreed with this proposal and it was proposed to write to the Church offering support.

67/16 To consider and approve proposal for exterior lighting for the church

The church plans to light the church with low level lighting. This would be to enhance the look of the church and help with security. The Parish Council proposed to write to the church offering support for the proposal.

68/16 To consider and approve course of action for village hall hedge

It was proposed to lower the hedge by the Autumn. Resolved.

69/16 To consider the role of the Sports club in the village

Cllr Cartwright suggested that for as long as the village hall is let commercially, the parish council should consider using the Sports Club as the defacto village hall for Wicken; holding elections, parish council meetings, Harvest supper, fete, dog show etc. Although the tenant has offered the parish council the use of the building for parish council meetings it would be better to keep the relationship strictly business. This would provide increase in activity in the club and help make it strong and viable.

This was discussed and thought that some things would not be appropriate. However some items could be. It was proposed to discuss further at the next meeting when people had more time to consider how the parish council could help.

70/16 To consider funding sources for village hall repair and maintenance.

This was discussed above in Item 65/16

71/16 To consider and approve options for children's playground

Proposal from Wicksteed was tabled. This was from meeting with councilors and Wicksteed. New items and repair to old items would be approximately £28k. It was thought that this could be done in phases, and that other quotes from other suppliers should be obtained. The Parish Council support the idea in principle but more work needs to be done. Cllr Edmondson offered to support Cllr Blower on the project.

72/16 To receive and update on Japanese Knotweed problem

The owner of the land in question has been identified as Grand Union Housing Group. They are going to get a contractor to kill the outbreak on the Brook Bank.

73/16 To consider and approve cause of action for uneven roads and pavements.

Pavements from Deanshanger Road along St Johns Lane and into Church Close are uneven. Clerk to Report to Highways to investigate. It was also noted that there are potholes at entrance to Akely Wood School on Wicken Park Road. Clerk to report these too.

74/16 To consider replacing tree on The Green which has died.

Cllr Edmonson advised that his father had planted the trees. He offered to find out species and look to replace like for like at the cost to the council.

75/16 To consider and approve attendance at NALC AGM

Clerk offered to attend. It was proposed she attend and could vote on motions.

76/16 To consider and approve response to Planning Application S/2016/1834/MAF – Variation to conditions and removal of condition 16 on S/2014/1374/MAF to extend life span from 25 years to 30 years – Mount Hill Farm.

It was proposed that the council had no objections to the proposal.

77/16 To consider and approve new community benefit offer should solar farm planning application be extended.

Advice from SNC is that a solicitor take a look at the paperwork before signing as this is outside normal S106 agreement. It was proposed to ask solicitor to look at the paperwork. Should this be OK, Cllr Ivens can sign and return. Resolved.

78/16 Finance.

- a) To receive and approve accounts for payment

Payee	CN	Reason		VAT
Lloyd Woodworking Ltd	657	Deposit for windows - Village Hall	1372.07	228.68
Eon	658	Lighting Maintenace	72.34	12.06
AH Contracts	659	Empty dog bins	43.20	7.20
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AON	661	Insurance	545.40	0.00
AH Contracts	662	Empty dog bins	104.64	17.44
S Willis	663	Clerk August	158.05	0.00
S Willis	664	Clerk September	157.85	0.00
HMRC	665	Tax / NI Q2	11.20	0.00
			<u>2507.95</u>	<u>272.58</u>

Receipts			
lloyds bank		interest	0.28
lloyds bank		interest	0.43
Sports Club		Driveway contribution	4579.00
			<u>4579.71</u>

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

b) To receive and approve budget to end of June.

Resolved: Budget received and approved.

79/16 To receive updates on outstanding issues and suggest items for next agenda

It was suggested and agreed that the date of the next meeting be brought forward a week.

Cllr Cartwright advised that Leckhamstead Parish Council have applied to Bucks County Council for Leckhampsted Road and Wicken Road to be designated Quiet Lanes. It was thought that we ought to do the same at Wicken end of these roads. On speaking to Northants County Council, there are no quiet lanes in the area, but will discuss and support Bucks County Council should this occur. It was thought this should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Eon have approached the council advising that there are some old mercury lanterns. It was confirmed that current policy is to replace these when needed due to failure of the light.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

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