

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
K W Jarvis
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
J Williams



Winner Best Kept Village 2009, 2015
3rd Place Essex Village of the Year 2015
www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

Parish Clerk

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MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
18/233	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the chair: Cllr Wardrop</p> <p>Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis, MacGregor, Mundell, Nicholas and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mickelsen. There were twenty-two members of the public present (including four arr. 7.45pm) including two PCSOs and County and District Cllr Mark Durham CC.</p> <p>The Chairman of the meeting welcomed Cllr Jarvis to his first meeting as a Parish Councillor and thanked the PCSOs and D/Cllr Durham CC for attending.</p>
18/234	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interests.</p>
18/235	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd November 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p>
18/236	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>In the interests of the large number of residents attending, the Chairman extended the suspension of the meeting to 30 minutes.</p> <p>Eleven members of the public spoke against the County Council's proposed library strategy, that would see up to 44 libraries close, including the Wickham Bishops library. Residents stated that social isolation would worsen and there would be an erosion of the village way of life. The reading groups, Children's Summer Reading challenge and Rhyme Time were given as examples of important community events that would be lost, and the excessive distance to the nearest remaining libraries would prevent the young and the infirm from accessing a library service.</p> <p>Four members of the public joined the meeting.</p> <p>The Parish Council was urged to challenge the proposals, to work towards retaining the building for the community and to work with other Essex groups to campaign against the proposed library strategy.</p> <p>D/Cllr Durham CC, in his County Councillor capacity, urged everyone to complete the Library Strategy Consultation survey and said that communities should not be wedded to the idea of keeping the service in its current location but to consider other alternatives, for example, the reintroduction of a local mobile library service.</p> <p>Action: D/Cllr Durham CC to provide to the Clerk, footfall and operating costs for the Wickham Bishops library service and building.</p> <p>A member of the public, representing Mope Lane residents, demanded that action be taken over rising criminality in the village. Citing eight thefts from Mope Lane, the parishioner complained about a poor</p>

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	<p>Police response and a lack of Neighbourhood Watch information. The resident was referred to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and asked that a Mope Lane resident volunteer as a street coordinator, which would guarantee information flow. The Clerk explained that details of suspicious activity should not be posted on the Parish Council's Facebook page as it was open to anyone; this would risk warning criminals and damaging prosecutions.</p> <p>The PCSOs introduced themselves to the meeting and asked that all incidences be reported via 101 or online to help the Police target affected areas. Officers would try to attend all community events to which they were invited, whenever operational circumstances allowed.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Williams to raise with the BHSA, an issue of impeded sightlines at the junction of Church Road and Witham Road due to ivy in the oak trees.</p> <p>A member of the public and the two PCSOs left the meeting.</p>
<i>In consideration of the members of the public attending, item 18/240 was discussed following item 18/236.</i>	
18/237	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Chairman of the meeting reported on behalf of Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Mickelsen. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Jackie Geller and her partner for their work in restoring the village sign, to Cllrs Bass and Mundell for preparing the ground for the sign's pole, and to Cllr MacGregor for removing and safely storing the soldier silhouette. Cllr Mickelsen had found the wreath laying and beacon lighting a moving experience, and her gratitude to all those involved in the organisation were noted.</p> <p>D/Cllr Durham CC left the meeting.</p>
18/238	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk reported a busy month, beginning with her attendance at the Maldon District Clerks' Forum. A Green infrastructure Survey would be taking place, to inform the District Council's new planning policies.</p> <p>In support of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Clerk had written to the owner of a field off Church Road, advising that it was being considered for Local Green Space registration; the Clerk would be writing to the owner of a field off Tiptree Road and Handley's Lane once the owner's address was identified.</p> <p>The Local Highways Panel request to provide a 40mph buffer zone from Blue Mills bridge to the 30mph zone on Witham Road had been resubmitted, following October's fatal road traffic collision.</p> <p>Finally, pending the Band D equivalent figure, the 2019-2020 budget and Precept request had been prepared for approval at the January 8th 2019 meeting.</p>
18/239	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. D/Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the applications due to the possibility of his involvement in determining the applications at MDC.</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p><u>18/01362/FUL - Wickham Barn Station Road Wickham Bishops</u></p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor reported that the application was to remove a non-residency condition and that consent for building had been established and building begun. Councillors were sympathetic to the owners' personal circumstances but noted that these did not constitute planning considerations, and that consent would create a residential property by sub-division of a garden outside the development boundary.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Williams. Cllr MacGregor asked that his vote against the recommendation to refuse be recorded.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p> <p><u>18/01250/HOUSE - Lauren House 14 Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops</u></p> <p>No letters of representation had been received relating to the application. A letter of objection, which resulted in the enforcement action and subsequent application, had been received previously.</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor reported that no yellow notice had been put in place by the planning authority.</p>

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	<p>Councillors considered the pillars to be over-bearing due to their height, detrimental to the street scene and out of keeping with the character of the area. It was noted that the neighbouring dwelling had received retrospective approval for similar pillars due to the existence of expensive gates, and that the site under consideration did not have gates.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Williams.</p> <p>The decision made by Maldon District Council was noted. The further decisions were noted: FUL/MAL/18/00947 - The Mulberry Tree 2 The Street Wickham Bishops - APPROVED FUL/MAL/18/01194 - Pinetrees Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops - APPROVED LDP/MAL/18/01206 - Ballards Wickham Hall Lane Wickham Bishops - APPROVED FUL/MAL/18/01180 - Maltings Cottage Maypole Road Great Totham - REFUSED</p> <p>D/Cllr Bass asked that the Parish Council consider what it would like to see at the site of FUL/MAL/18/01180, and was referred to the Parish Council's adopted Pre-Application Protocol.</p> <p>The delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk, and Planning Inspectorate decision, were noted.</p>
<i>In consideration of the members of the public attending, item 18/240 was discussed following item 18/236.</i>	
18/240	<p>Essex County Council's Library Strategy</p> <p>Acknowledging the points raised by residents and the nine letters of objection received, Councillors discussed the impact of the proposed strategy and closure of Wickham Bishops library. The young and elderly in Wickham Bishops were reported to be unfairly targeted by the proposals and possible flaws in the criteria weightings were highlighted.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would challenge the closure and work towards retaining a Wickham Bishops library service and the library building. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>D/Cllr Bass advised that the Clerk's applications to list the building as an Asset of Community Value and to be on the Local Heritage Assets list were progressing. Cllr Mundell reported that the ownership of the building was being researched and two Freedom of Information requests made.</p> <p>D/Cllr Durham CC stated that any closure was unlikely to be effective before January 2020.</p> <p>Action: <i>D/Cllr Durham CC to provide the statistics behind the weightings' calculation to the Clerk</i></p> <p>Resolved: A Library Committee would be created, the proposed Terms of Reference were adopted and the provision of a budget agreed, the exact amount to be confirmed during the January 8th 2019 meeting. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis and Mundell were appointed to the Library Committee.</p> <p>Twelve members of the public left the meeting.</p>
18/241	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chairman of the Steering Group, Cllr Williams, reported that the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening was about to begin, with progression to the Regulation 14 consultation in January. Cllr Williams would be attending the Rural Community Council of Essex's upcoming coffee morning to watch presentations on planning consultancy and support for Neighbourhood Plans.</p>
18/242	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were three visitors to the 17th November Surgery, at which the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Ms Sian Bewick, and two PCSOs, were present. Issues regarding the Library Strategy consultation and speeding on Witham Road were raised.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Wardrop to request TRUCam monitoring near the junction of Birch Rise and Witham Road.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>D/Cllr Bass to suggest to the Local Highways Panel, the addition of unbroken double white lines between Blue Mills bridge and Witham Road.</i></p> <p>Attendees at the 15th December Surgery will be Cllrs MacGregor and Mundell.</p>

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18/243	District Council Report D/Cllr Bass had asked Maldon District's Enforcement team to investigate an undriveable red Fiesta which had been parked in Great Totham Road for several days. Investigations into the building works at 11 Wellands Close, and a caravan stationed at Magellan's Rest, were underway. The reorganisation at MDC had begun and some staff's roles had been terminated. Two members of the public left the meeting.
18/244	Neighbourhood Watch Report On behalf of the NHW Coordinator, Cllr Williams asked that all incidents be reported to 101 or online, and that only closed-group Facebook pages be used for details of suspicious activity.
18/245	Traffic Calming Cllr Wardrop reported that the SLOW sign for Wellands was still in validation, and that details of 77 vehicles exceeding the speed limit had been captured by Speedwatch in November. TRUCam had caught 25 vehicles, all now subject to Police action, and one Fixed Penalty Notice for littering had been imposed. A member of the public left the meeting.
18/246	Finance The Clerk reported the addition of Dog Waste Bags and Bag Holders to the current year's budget by the Finance Committee (<i>in accordance with the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, s.1(1)</i>) and highlighted the projected end of year balance. Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mundell. Resolved: The Parish Council would re-appoint Heelis and Lodge, as internal auditor for a fourth year.
18/247	Correspondence to Note: The emails regarding the Grange Road flooding alleviation scheme, and regarding protection for the Handleys Lane byway, were noted.
18/248	Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees The court case for the Witham Road fatal collision had been adjourned to the end of November. No further information had been received. D/Cllr Bass had obtained fifty, three-year-old native species trees to replace the damaged trees in Rainbow Field, and was arranging for the Community Payback scheme to plant them. Cllr Nicholas stated that the Community Protection team was investigating reports of persistent dog fouling on Rainbow Path and had provided warning notices.
18/249	General Village News There was no further village news.
18/250	Dates of Next Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library Committee meeting, date to be arranged - Friday 21st December 2018 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> - Tuesday 8th January 2019 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm
18/251	Close of Meeting 9.55pm Items for future agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget and precept approval (January) - Crime