

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I D Wardrop (Chairman)
Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chair)
H M Bass
P J Bates
P D Layley
S Morgan
C Nappo
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 Wickham Bishops Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom

Item	Subject
24/022	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the Chair: Cllr Wardrop. Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Layley, Nappo (from 8pm) & the Clerk.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from: Cllrs Mickelsen, Morgan & Williams. There were 7 members of the public present.</p>
24/023	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework Cllr Bates declared a non-pecuniary interest in 24/00147/HOUSE being a near neighbour.</p>
24/024	<p>Approval of Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th February 2024 were approved as a true record, proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Layley, all in favour.</p>
24/025	<p>Chairman's Report After careful consideration, the resident who had expressed an interest in filling the councillor vacancy had withdrawn his application. His comment that the meeting he had attended was an impressive example of good governance was noted. The vacancy would be re-advertised.</p> <p>The Chairman had attended Great Totham PC's Meeting when the application for 25 houses in Kelvedon Road was discussed and reported that WBPC had recommended refusal. GTPC came to the same conclusion.</p>
24/026	<p>Clerk's Report Following correspondence with Moat Homes, the owner of the overgrown hedge in Kelvedon Road had been identified and a letter sent. It was noted that it had since been trimmed back.</p> <p>Unfortunately, more rubbish bags had been deposited in Handleys Lane and the Clerk had again notified Moat Homes.</p> <p>Following deposits of household rubbish in the litter bin outside One Stop, MDC had agreed to trial an adapted litter bin with a smaller aperture.</p> <p>Broken footpath fingerpost signs on BR21 (off Langford Road) had been reported to ECC as had a trip hazard on FP15 off Station Road.</p>

24/027	<p>Public Forum - a maximum of 15 minutes with no more than 3 minutes per person</p> <p>Members of the public expressed their concern over plans for 15 houses to the rear of Byron Drive. It was understood a Leigh Drive resident had been approached to sell their home with a view to demolition to gain access to land behind.</p>
24/030	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>Cllr Bass took the chair for this item and explained to members of the public present that WBPC were merely a consultee, with the final decision being made by MDC.</p> <p>24/00147/HOUSE 18 Church Green. Proposed single storey rear and side extension. Members had no objection and recommended APPROVAL. (Cllr Bates abstained)</p> <p>The following response delegated to the Clerk was noted: FUL/MAL/24/00013 Tumbrials, 14 Tiptree Road. Construction of a replacement dwelling with detached outbuilding. Amendments to fenestration. WBPC had no objection.</p> <p>The following decisions made by MDC were noted: HOUSE/MAL/23/01189 Ockleys, Maypole Road. External covered walkway with gate. APPROVED.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/23/00989 Glensfold, 9 Wellands. Alterations to roof inc raising ridge height, new glazed elements, addition of dormers to front & rear. Single storey side extension to lobby inc glazed elements. Changes to fenestration. APPROVED.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/23/01064 Wickham Art Barn, Station Road. Erection of hay barn and machinery store ancillary outbuilding. APPROVED.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/23/01171 The Lodge, 53 Church Road. Single storey rear/side extension, alterations to fenestration to facilitate garage conversion to annexe. APPROVED.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/23/01173 Land adjacent to Fieldway, Station Road. Single storey agricultural barn building for viticulture and use of field as vineyard. APPROVED.</p> <p>The following Appeal Decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate were noted: 22/00932/FUL (Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/23/3322035) Land adjacent 2 Grange Road. Construction of two storey detached dwelling. APPEAL DISMISSED</p> <p>23/00638/HOUSE (Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/D/23/3333177) 19 Church Green. Two-storey side extension, part single & part two-storey rear extension, a loft conversion. APPEAL DISMISSED</p> <p>The following to be considered at North-Western Area Planning Committee 6.3.24 was noted: 23/01234/FUL Land North of Orchard Way, Mope Lane. Construction of 1 no dwelling, associated landscaping and access (resubmission of 21/00415/FUL). District Councillor Morgan had been reminded of WBPC's reasons for recommending refusal of the original application.</p> <p>The following was noted for information only: 24/00131/REQDC & 24/00112/REQDCO Widening Project for A12, Requirement 3 – 2nd iteration Environmental Management Plan. The residents affected by re-routing of the gas pipe confirmed that they did not have any concerns.</p> <p><u>Land adjacent to Summer House, Back Lane - update on enforcement issues</u> Attempts had been made by MDC to gain access, without success. The Chairman reported that an Enforcement Officer would be attending the property tomorrow and if access could not be gained, a warrant would be obtained.</p>

	(Cllr Nappo arrived)
24/031	<p>Other Planning Matters</p> <p><u>Land rear of 9 Church Road – update, if any</u> The Chairman confirmed that he had written again to ECC Highways regarding their comments on the suitability of traffic using Mope Lane and Wickham Hall Lane and to MDC asking how and why the officer had recommended approval. No response had been received. It was noted there had been no Appeal to date.</p> <p><u>Report on meeting with potential developers regarding possible development off Roots Lane</u> The Chairman reported that Cllr Bass, the Clerk and himself had met with a developer who had approached the Parish Council. Councillors had listened to the proposals for 15 homes on land currently occupied by Crispins, Roots Lane (WBS8 on the Call for Sites). There had been no formal application as yet, but it was understood the plan would include the demolition of Crispins, 15 new dwellings in total with 6 affordable homes and 4 bungalows. Cllrs Wardrop and Bass had been non-committal but pointed out to the developer that the site was outside the development boundary, there was no housing need in WB and Maldon had a 5-year housing land supply.</p> <p>WBPC agreed to keep residents updated as and when more information became available.</p>
24/032	<p>Traffic Calming & Highway Matters update, if any</p> <p>Action: Cllr Wardrop to chase CCllr Durham for an update on the Local Highway Panel. Action: The Clerk to chase DCllr Morgan regarding the ‘H’ markings for Great Totham Road.</p> <p>General parking problems were noted including vehicles parking in the narrow part of Blacksmiths Lane near the junction with The Street.</p> <p>Overgrown vegetation from Benton Hall was raised. Action: The Clerk to write to them.</p> <p>The latest captures by Trucam were noted (50 during February). Action: The Clerk to ask Trucam to attend between 4pm – 5pm if possible.</p> <p>Obscured signage on approach to Blue Mills bridge was noted. Action: The Clerk to report again to ECC.</p>
24/033	County Councillor Report County Councillor Durham was not present.
24/034	<p>Consider Parish Magazine following Rev Hilary’s retirement and Editor’s wish to stand down. After much discussion, members agreed that the Editor should advertise for a replacement. The Clerk would share the advert on noticeboards, FB page etc.</p> <p>On the subject of the church in general, and the possibility of a ‘shared’ vicar in future, concern was expressed about the future of The Rectory. Action: The Clerk to make enquiries into having the building Listed. A suggestion that WBPC write to the Bishop of Chelmsford to encourage the diocese to appoint a dedicated WB vicar was not considered to be in the parish council’s remit.</p>
24/035	<p>2024 Remembrance Sunday Event – update following contact with Zurich Insurance Following discussion around the use of a local special constable to manage the road closure and assurances from Zurich Insurance that this would be acceptable, the Remembrance Day Committee had since received conflicting advice from the local police and ECC highways. Cllrs Wardrop and Williams had attended a meeting of the three parish councils on Saturday where it seemed the only way forward acceptable to Little & Great Braxted PCs was to continue to employ a traffic management company and split the costs per usual residents (2021 Census data) amounting to 77.3% WB, 15.6% GB and 7.1% LB. An alternative way of apportioning the cost</p>

RECEIPTS LIST								
Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
6	Remembrance Day	18/01/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Remembrance Day contribution	Great Braxted Parish Council	160.60		160.60
7	Remembrance Day	15/02/2024	Unity Trust Current Account	Remembrance Day contribution	Little Braxted Parish Council	73.09		73.09
Total						233.69		233.69
24/040	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors – no decisions required <u>Changing to a gov.uk domain (brief report from Cllr Bates)</u> Cllr Bates explained that parish councils were being encouraged to change as the gov.uk domain was professional, credible and trusted by people. A list of approved registrars had been provided along with £100 + VAT discount and assistance with the process. Resolved: Cllr Bates and the Clerk to obtain prices for the switchover for consideration. Email problems being experienced by Cllr Williams were noted.</p> <p><u>BHSA</u> The Clerk read some notes following Cllr Williams attendance at a recent BHSA meeting. She had enquired about the use of the Village Hall car park to alleviate parking problems in the village. BHSA's response had indicated that this would be possible if motorists were prepared to pay. Resolved: The Clerk to ask BHSA for details with a view to WBPC liaising with local businesses. The Clerk would also obtain Library parking charges.</p> <p>BHSA asked if WBPC would support a grant application in respect of future repairs and development of the play area. Cllr Williams suggested sending details to the parish council for consideration when they had a firm proposal in mind, and they would be considered accordingly.</p>							
24/041	<p>Correspondence An email had been received drawing members attention to the proposal by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to introduce parking charges along Witham High Street. The Clerk had established that Witham Town Council were opposed to this and had started an online petition.</p>							
24/042	<p>Parish Council Surgeries <u>To note any requests received at February surgery - consider action if required</u> Two visitors had attended, one disappointed at damage to the Library verge and another concerned at planning breaches at Magellans Rest. Following enquiries through DCllr Morgan, it was established that MDC were currently working on enforcement issues at this property.</p> <p><u>Saturday 16th March surgery</u> – Cllr Bates and Cllr Wardrop volunteered to attend.</p>							
24/043	<p>General Village News and Events to Note None.</p>							
24/044	<p>Date of Next Meetings: Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2024, 7.30pm Village Hall Boardroom Spring Litter Pick – Saturday 6th April 2024, 11am Library Statutory Annual Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7pm Village Hall Boardroom Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday 7th May 2024, 8.30pm (to be confirmed)</p>							
24/045	<p>Close of Meeting There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm</p>							