

**WICKHAM BISHOPS PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2013**

**Present:** Cllrs Dennison (Chair), Johnson (vice Chair), Pink, Mickelsen, Jacob, MacGregor, Bates, Sayers, Bass (Cllr. Bass arrived late during item 4) Terri Ulrich (Clerk), 9 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. Durham, PC Lea Keene, Mr Hudson

**2. Speeding:** The parish council meeting was suspended and a public meeting on speeding was held.

**3. Public Forum:** this item was moved to 10A

**4. Approval of minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were approved.

**5. Matters arising:** matters arising are covered in other sections.

**6. Chairman's report:** The chairman gave an update on his health.

**7. Clerk's report:** The clerk reported that PC Keen is on a course until 13<sup>th</sup> January; she is still trying to arrange the speed watch and has chased up her colleague. PC Keane is now responsible for Heybridge also, she hopes to continue to attend all the parish council meetings for the parishes she covers and to this end the clerk has supplied PC Keane with the dates of 2013's meetings.

This month the clerk will be completing the parish council's VAT reclaim, the January 2012 reclaim was for £451. The clerk reported that the EALC has written to Eric Pickles objecting to the proposed changes to the setting and budgeting of precepts, the EALC has standardised this so that it can be copied to send by interested parties, the clerk will provide copies for each of the councillors to sign.

**8.** No declarations of interest.

**9.** No Police report received.

**10. Neighbourhood watch** - The clerk confirmed that a report had been received and this has been included in the correspondence box.

**10A. Public Forum:** A member of the public reported that following heavy rain flooding occurs in Church Road by the junction with Blacksmiths Lane.  
**Action** Cllr. MacGregor to escalate to Highways.

4 members of the public raised objections to the planning application concerning 31 Wellands, they objected to:

- The height of the proposed development being regarded as too high

- The proposed grey colour of the cement cladding not being in keeping with render seen elsewhere in the village
- Windows on the second floor will mean that several neighbouring properties will be overlooked
- The development of a bungalow to a 4 bedroom house does not fit with the Village Design Statement which identifies a need for smaller houses for residents to downsize to.
- There is concern that the development may cause movement to surrounding properties, there has been instances of subsidence in some nearby properties.

A member of the public enquired if the Parish Council still paid a fee towards the PSCO, it was confirmed that the scheme had ended and the Parish Council therefore does not pay for this.

Cllr. Sayers asked Cllr. Dennison if he had written to the occupiers of 13 Wellands concerning their overgrown trees as previously agreed. Cllr. Dennison replied that he had misunderstood the property in question and had believed therefore that the trees had been cut, the cherry trees at the rear of 6 and 8 Wellands Close have been pruned by ECC. **Action** the clerk to write to the occupiers of 13 Wellands to ask that they cut their trees.

**11. Planning:** For the benefit of the public Cllr Bass stated that he does not vote on the planning decisions as he must remain impartial as he sits on the district planning committee at MDC.

#### **WTPO/MAL/12/01054**

1 High Hall Blacksmiths Lane

TPO 1/76 T11 (T1 on plan) Sycamore – Crown lift to 3 metres by removing 3 lowest branches, crown thin by 20%, crown reduce extremities by 1 metre to balance crown.

**Recommend approval with the provision that a suitably qualified professional be used to carry out the works.**

#### **HOUSE/MAL/12/01003**

16 Holt Drive

Proposed new pitched roof over existing single storey with flat roof

**Recommend approval**

#### **HOUSE/MAL/12/01079**

31 Wellands

Development of bungalow to a 2 storey 4 bedroom house

**Recommend refusal for the following reasons:**

- The proposed dwelling is too large for the situation (i.e. when compared to surrounding properties)
- Replacing a smaller bungalow property with a large home is contrary to the VDS
- The proposed development will intrude on its neighbours privacy

Cllr. Sayers confirmed the decisions from MDC as per the agenda:

**HOUSE/MAL/12/00891**

Rear extension

22 Holt Drive Wickham Bishops Essex CM8 3JR

(UPRN - 100090568562)

Mr Stuart Latter

**APPROVE**

**WTPO/MAL/12/00883**

**Wickham Bishops**

*Proposal Summary 1:* TPO 3/89 - T1 Horse Chestnut - repollard

Edengarth 18 Tiptree Road Wickham Bishops Essex

(UPRN - 100090568725)

Mr Richard Banwell

**REFUSE** for the following reason:-

The proposed works are inappropriate at present and will result in a deterioration of the health of this tree.

And

*Proposal Summary 2:* TPO 3/89 T1 Horse Chestnut - Cut back encroachment to overhead wires by tip pruning the lateral re-growth adjacent to overhead wires. Remove 0.5m, cutting back growth points. Monitor and review the tree in Autumn 2013.

**APPROVE**

Cllr. Sayers reported the following:

There had been a complaint concerning playground equipment at White House Farm, this has proved to be false.

1A Church Close – it is suspected that an extension has been erected without consent, MDC are reviewing this.

**12. Correspondence:** Given the late hour, it was agreed that the clerk would not read out any correspondence but the following items were highlighted for the attention of all councillors:

Item	Date	From	To	Concerning
1	10/12/2012	The clerk	Mr Chard	Response to Mr Chard's request that the PC support speed cushions
2	11/12/2012	Mr Chard	The clerk	Response to clerks email
3	06/12/2012	Essex Highways	Cllr. MacGregor	Response to request attendance at PC meeting
4	06/12/2012	Maldon & Burnham Standard	The clerk	Request for anecdotes about Alistair Cook
5	December	Various Parish Councils	The clerk	Compilation of information regarding speed calming solutions
6	07/12/2012	ECC	The clerk	Invite to Replacement Minerals Local Plan briefing seminar on 10 January 2012
7	07/12/2012	Inspector Kilgallen	The clerk	Police participation at PC meetings
8	12/12/2012	MDC	The clerk	Invite to planning workshops
9	14/12/2012	MDC Highways	The clerk	Invite to submit 2 proposed schemes plus a reserve to Highways
10	29/12/2012	Mr Nicholas	The clerk	Email from a resident who opposes speed cushions

11	18/12/2012	MDC	The clerk	Emergency contacts required x 2
12	07/01/2013	ECC	The clerk	Highways investigation into the route of Handleys Lane
13	07/01/2013	Essex Highways	The clerk	Temporary road closure Wickham Hall Lane 9 and 16 January 2013
14	06/01/2013	ECC	The clerk	Lent time investment scheme
15	December	EALC	The clerk	Courses available

**13. District Council report:** Cllr. Bass relayed Cllr. Durham's apologies. Cllr. Bass reported that he has been looking into drain problems in Mope Lane that seem to be caused by access to a structure in the garden of Springs, Mope Lane.

Cllr. Bass has observed an accumulation of litter in the lower end of Station Road from Hand Post Cottages to the district boundary. Action Cllr. Jacob to report to MDC.

Cllr. Bass was pleased to report resolution to the refuse outside Bishops Court – the housing association is providing a large, wheeled bin.

Cllr. Bass attended the North West planning meeting, there were no items for Wickham Bishops.

Cllr. Dennison complained about MDC's response to the recent snow and the impact this had on Maldon and Wickham Bishops. Cllr. Bass responded that this is an item for ECC and should be addressed to the Highways department.

**14. EALC Report:** Cllr Pink reported that she will be attending the finance and HR committee meeting on 9 January 2013.

**15. Finance:** The cheques for January 2013 were agreed and signed. The budget was signed.

**Action** the clerk is to draw up an invoice for the poppy contribution.

#### **16. Committee reports:**

(a) BHSA: The fete will take place on 22 June 2013 and there will be a quiz on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

(b) Environment: There is a problem with flooding in Handleys Lane **Action** Cllr Sayers to investigate. Cllr. Mickelsen asked if Cllr Jacob could chase up the repair/replacement of the damaged dog bin in Grange Road. **Action** Cllr. Jacob to escalate item.

(c) PRow: Nothing to report

(d) Amenities: Cllr. MacGregor reported that the works to the library triangle will take place this year, details of what will be done have not been confirmed by ECC.

(e) Highways: Cllr. MacGregor will escalate the potholes in Blacksmiths Lane and The Street

(f) Transport: Minor changes to the bus timetable

(g) Emergency planning: Cllr. Pink attended a course

(h) Parish Plan: Nothing to report

(i) Website: Nothing to report

**17. Housing Matters:** This item was deferred to the next meeting. **Action** the clerk to add to the February agenda.

**18. General village presentation:** The Clerk agreed to find out the dates for the Best Kept Village competition organized by the RCCE.

Cllr Jacob reported that she is happy with the arrangement Mike Hall has proposed for covering the role of Tree Warden, she will speak to Mike Hall directly.

It was agreed by all that Cllr. Mickelsen should include County Councillor Bass' positive comments about the Parish Council be included in the parish magazine.

**19. Close of meeting:** the meeting closed at 10.24