

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I S F MacGregor (Chairman)
Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
Mrs R Johnson
S J Nicholas
Mrs R M Pink CBE
B F Sayers
I D Wardrop



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 1st March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Boardroom | |
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| Item | Subject |
| 16/022 | Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr MacGregor Present: Cllrs Bates, Johnson, Mickelsen, Nicholas, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Bass. There were nine members of the public present including the Tree Warden Mr. Chris Cooke. |
| 16/023 | Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework The Clerk advised the meeting that, in accordance with Sections 27 and 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the adopted Code of Conduct requires that members' conduct should be, and should be seen to be, open and impartial. That being the case, the Clerk agreed that Councillors may declare non-pecuniary interests in the business of considering planning applications from applicants personally known to Councillors. Action: <i>The Clerk to circulate the adopted Code of Conduct.</i> Cllrs Bates and Johnson declared non-pecuniary interests in 16/029 HOUSE/MAL/16/00128 10 Buckleys Close. Cllr Pink declared a non-pecuniary interest in 16/029 WTPO/MAL/16/00099 8 Handleys Lane |
| 16/024 | Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 nd February 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Pink. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12 th February 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Johnson. |
| 16/025 | Public Forum A member of the public requested that the letters and petition requesting a pedestrian crossing and speed restrictions in The Street be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Highways, County Cllr Rodney Bass. Action: <i>The Clerk to forward the petition as requested.</i> A member of the public spoke against application HOUSE/MAL/16/00128 10 Buckleys Close. The applicant spoke in support of the same application. |
| 16/026 | Chairman's Report The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr Mike Rowland for the removal and disposal of the broken bench at Snows Corner and asked if the replacement bench could be funded by the Best Kept Village winnings. Action: <i>The Finance Committee to consider how to fund a replacement bench</i> Thanks were also given to an unknown couple who had been observed removing litter. |

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| | <p>The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting at the District Council offices to meet the Leader and several Heads of departments, where they received promises of the Snows Corner affordable housing allocation criteria and support in progressing the outstanding LHP requests.</p> |
| 16/027 | <p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>Essex County Council had been quoted £900 to open up the air raid shelter and install a door, which would enable the Parish Council to conduct an internal survey. As this was in excess of the expected maximum of £500, ECC proposed to cover half the cost. The Parish Council would still be able to terminate the project following the survey, should it be deemed necessary, and would only become liable for the remaining £450 if it chose to continue. This being less than the expected and previously-agreed cost to the Parish, the Clerk had accepted the offer.</p> <p>The Clerk had begun emailing interested residents with the details of upcoming planning application discussions. Parishioners should contact info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org to be added to the list.</p> <p>The annual report will be compiled during April after the annual financial return.</p> <p>Action: Councillors to provide their annual report submissions to the Chairman and Clerk</p> |
| 16/028 | <p>Traffic Calming and LHP Requests</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop's report on traffic calming measures and the status of outstanding Local Highways Panel Requests was noted. In general, LHP Request progress was felt to be frustratingly slow. Cllr Wardrop highlighted the plan to extend Church Road's 30mph zone to Mope Lane, which was first submitted in February 2013 and was initially scheduled for 2014-15, and had lately been re-scheduled to 2016-17. Concerns were expressed over a lack of response by ECC to queries and recent submissions from other parishes taking precedence.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop stated that the village's speeding and traffic issues are expected to worsen once the North Heybridge Garden Suburb commences and suggested it would be desirable to have traffic calming measures in place, along The Street, prior to the expected increase in traffic volume. The 320-signature petition provided by residents requesting similar action, and the attendance at the February Parish Council Surgery, served to illustrate that the parish had a clear consensus on this issue.</p> <p>During February's Speedwatch sessions, 73 vehicles had been caught exceeding the speed limit.</p> <p>Action: The Chairman and Clerk to write to County Cllr R Bass inviting him to a meeting to review the traffic issues and consider solutions.</p> <p>Cllr Sayers advised that the BHSA is to improve the drainage along the Kelvedon Road end of Handleys Lane, with a contractor soon to be engaged to re-dig the ditches along Rainbow path.</p> |
| 16/029 | <p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p><u>Applications:</u></p> <p>OUT/MAL/15/00419 Land at Broad Street Green, Maypole and Langford Roads</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the plans for the northern relief road and staggered junction with Maypole Road.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval with conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section 106 Agreement should include provision for traffic calming measures in Wickham Bishops along Maypole Road, The Street and Witham Road, and; • The staggered junction should disallow right turns onto Maypole Road to traffic headed west on the relief road <p>Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> |

| <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Boardroom</p> | |
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| | <p>HOUSE/MAL/16/00170 24 Witham Road Wickham Bishops No letters of objection or support had been received. Councillors noted that Maldon District Council's yellow site notice had not been displayed. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Johnson. Two members of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>WTPO/MAL/16/00099 8 Handleys Lane Wickham Bishops No letters of objection or support had been received. The Tree Warden reported that the proposal was as recommended by MDC's Tree Warden. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/16/00128 10 Buckleys Close Wickham Bishops One letter of objection had been received. Comments against the application suggested the resultant property would be too large, would leave insufficient garden space and would overshadow a neighbouring property. Comments made in support claimed the extension would be smaller than that requested in 2005 and would build solely on existing patio, leaving the garden space unaffected. Councillors noted that Maldon District Council's yellow site notice had not been displayed. Councillors considered that the resultant property would present an overbearing aspect to the neighbouring dwelling to the north due to its bulk and unrelieved wall, and that the size would be out-of-keeping with the locality. For these reasons the application was considered to contravene Submission LDP policies D1 – <i>Design Quality and Built Environment</i> and H4 – <i>Effective Use of Land</i>. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended refusal. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>OUT/MAL/15/00636 Little Hill Farm Mope Lane Wickham Bishops – APPEAL The Parish Council had no further comments to make on this application.</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> The following decision made by Maldon District Council was noted: - FUL/MAL/15/01375 1 Station Cottages Station Road Wickham Bishops – REFUSED</p> <p><u>Appeals:</u> OUT/MAL/15/00267 Land East of Malone Cottage Maypole Road Wickham Bishops - APPEAL The Chairman of the Planning Committee Cllr Sayers had attended the Hearing and represented the Parish Council's reasoning in proposing refusal. A decision is not expected for some weeks. Action: <i>The Clerk to advise the District Council that two yellow notices had not been in place</i> A member of the public left the meeting.</p> |
| 16/030 | <p>Proposed Diversion of Footpath 22 The Parish Council considered whether it was expedient in the interests of the landowner, or of the public, or both, that the path should be diverted. Councillors were not aware of any benefit to the landowner, contrary to the requirements of Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. Councillors considered that the proposed route, running between two narrowly-spaced fences (one six feet in height), would feel claustrophobic in comparison to the open views to the north-east, east and south enjoyed by the existing wide public right of way along the access road.</p> |

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| | <p>The access road was noted to have good sight lines and infrequent traffic, such that any improvement to pedestrian safety offered by the proposed route would be minimal. The good condition of the access road was noted and compared to the likely damp and possibly muddy nature of the proposed enclosed route.</p> <p>Whilst some footpath users would prefer the organic surroundings of the proposed route, Councillors agreed that the majority of users would be happier on the hard, dry surface with open aspect, of the existing route. Councillors concluded that the benefits offered by the proposal to the public would be insufficient to outweigh the adverse effects on the public's enjoyment, contrary to the requirements of Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended refusal. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Sayers.</p> |
| 16/031 | <p>Governance</p> <p>Resolved: the updated Standing Orders were adopted. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p> <p>Resolved: the updated Financial Regulations were adopted. Proposed Cllr Johnson, seconded Cllr Nicholas.</p> <p>Resolved: the updated Planning Committee's Terms of Reference were adopted. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Johnson.</p> |
| 16/032 | <p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were thirteen visitors to the Surgery held on 20th February raising ten topics of interest. Traffic calming accounted for many of the questions.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Wardrop to provide an update on traffic calming measures to Cllr Bates for inclusion in the Parish magazine.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to request MDC removes the litter along The Street and Witham Road</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to contact the Access Officer at MDC regarding the steepness of the ramp at One Stop and the lack of handrail.</p> <p>Attendees for the 19th March Surgery were noted as Cllrs Mickelsen and Wardrop. The following Surgery will be held on 23rd April.</p> |
| 16/033 | <p>Tree Planting Scheme to Commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday</p> <p>The report from the Tree Warden, Mr Chris Cooke, was received and noted. Three locations have been identified, all on BHSA land. A meeting had been held between the Chairman of the BHSA Mr Peter Mickelsen, Cllr Sayers and the Tree Warden and a follow-up discussion will be held with the representative of Great Totham Parish Council, Cllr Delderfield.</p> <p>An application to The Woodland Trust, likely for a free pack of 420 tree whips, stakes and spiral guards, will be considered at the April meeting. Further discussion, including installation planning and alternative funding options, is required.</p> <p>Action: The Working Group to confirm proposals for adoption at the April meeting</p> <p>Action: Cllr Wardrop to provide Probation Service contact details to the Working Group</p> |
| 16/034 | <p>Parish Picnic</p> <p>The date of the re-scheduled village picnic was noted as 2nd May and will take place between 12noon and 2pm. The theme will be 'Royalty'.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to devise an advertising poster and Cllr Bates to publicise the event in the Parish Magazine</p> |
| 16/035 | <p>District Council Report</p> <p>There was no report available from the District Council.</p> |

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| 16/036 | Finance The balances and payments were noted. |
| 16/037 | Correspondence Requiring Decisions: There was no correspondence requiring a decision. |
| 16/038 | General Correspondence to Note: The Clerk's letter refuting slanderous comments and the resultant full retraction and apology, and the 320-signature petition requesting further traffic calming measures, were noted. |
| 16/039 | Progress Reports from Councillor and Committees – No Decisions Required Cllr Mickelsen advised that the drainage survey had been completed and the ditch network in the village would now be charted. The completed maps will be sent on to the County Council. Action: <i>The Clerk to write to parishioner Mr Alan Sergeant expressing the Parish Council's gratitude for his participation in the project.</i> The Church Road ditch near Church Green was reported to be full during wet weather. Cllr Nicholas advised that it has been investigated and he is continuing to monitor the situation. |
| 16/040 | General Village News The annual litter pick to be held on 9 th April will commence at 9am. Volunteers should meet outside One Stop. Action: <i>The Clerk to promote the event on the notice board and Cllr Bates in the Parish Magazine</i> Action: <i>The Finance Committee to consider additional bulb planting in the village</i> The gas main will be replaced along Church Road which will necessitate road closures |
| 16/041 | Dates of Next Meetings Friday 18 th March 2016 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am Friday 18 th March 2016 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> Tuesday 5 th April 2016 Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm |
| 16/042 | Close of Meeting 10.05pm Items for April agenda (additional items to the Chairman and Clerk by Friday 25 th March): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy Approval: Grant Awarding - Emergency Planning update - Tree Planting project approval Items for future agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy approval: Model Publication Scheme - Quality Council - Neighbourhood Plan |