

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 5th April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom | |
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| Item | Subject |
| 16/043 | Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr MacGregor Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Johnson, Mickelsen, Nicholas, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop; the Clerk. There were no apologies for absence. There were thirty-four members of the public present including Tree Warden Mr. Cooke. |
| 16/044 | Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework Cllr Johnson declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 16/049 application FUL/MAL/16/00243 Cllr Nicholas declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 16/049 application HOUSE/MAL/16/00187 |
| 16/045 | Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 st March 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Pink, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 18 th March 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 th March 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Sayers. |
| 16/046 | Public Forum Five members of the public spoke against application FUL/MAL/16/00243 Pinetrees. Objections included overcrowding of the plot and poor design, resulting in an overbearing scale of development, out-of-keeping with the character of the area. Insufficient parking, unsuitable road access for the future residents and building contractors and poor pedestrian safety were cited. A member of the public questioned the progress of long-awaited traffic calming measures and the efficacy of the Speedwatch initiative. Cllr Wardrop advised that the recent view of Essex Police was that the incidence and degree of speeding has reduced since the Speedwatch team began its monitoring. The District Councillor explained that an application for Section 106 money, to be used for alleviating traffic issues likely to be exacerbated by the future North Heybridge Garden Suburb development, would also be progressed. A resident advised against speed bumps and white gates and recommended hedging be used. A parishioner queried the future of Blue Mills bridge and was answered by Cllr Wardrop who stated that there are no plans to alter the pinch-point, which acts as a useful method of discouraging heavy vehicles and through-traffic. |
| 16/047 | Chairman's Report The Chairman congratulated the Clerk on passing her Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Parish Council will now be able to progress the Local Council Award Scheme. Action: The Clerk to report the necessary actions to achieve the basic, silver and gold standards. The BHSA has begun negotiations over the possibility of an unobtrusive telecoms mast, serving |

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| | <p>the Vodafone and O2 networks, to be installed on the sports field.</p> <p>The Chairman represented the Maldon area parishes, at the recent meeting of the Essex Association of Local Councils.</p> |
| 16/048 | <p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk drew the Councillors' attention to the updated items on the Issues List.</p> <p>The emails detailing current and upcoming Planning Applications had been well received, with additional residents asking to be added to the list. Interested parishioners were advised to contact info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org</p> <p>The EALC has refunded the Clerk's £150 CILCA training costs following her success in passing.</p> |
| 16/049 | <p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Sayers, explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. It was therefore important that residents make their views known to Maldon District Council as well as to their Parish Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Bass refrained from voting on any applications due to the potential for him to vote as a District Councillor.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/16/00243 Pinetrees Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops</p> <p>Sixteen letters of objection had been received. Cllr Sayers read out a summary of the main arguments which echoed comments made by residents in the Public Forum. Cllr Johnson read out her personal letter of objection to the proposal; the Clerk as Proper Officer explained to the meeting that the wording could be interpreted as a pecuniary interest and that at this part of the meeting might suggest pre-determination and for these reasons, recommended Cllr Johnson refrain from voting on this application. The Chairman of the Parish Council concurred with the Clerk's recommendation.</p> <p>Councillors considered that the density of the proposed housing would lead to a cramped appearance, out-of-keeping with the area, with plots sizes too small and not in accordance with good design. The scale and bulk of the dwellings, the difference in ground level between the proposed buildings and the lower, south, side of Blacksmiths Lane, and the proximity of the Arbor Lane houses to the road, would result in an overbearing pattern of development adversely affecting the amenity of established properties and the street scene. Some neighbouring properties will be affected by a loss of light; others by light pollution from headlights. The suburban design of the dwellings was thought to be out-of-keeping with the varied nature of neighbouring houses and would materially affect the rural character of the village. For these reasons the proposal was considered to contravene Submission LDP policies D1 – <i>Design Quality and Built Environment</i> and H4 – <i>Effective Use of Land</i>.</p> <p>Councillors noted that a petition had recently been presented by parishioners, over traffic issues and risks to pedestrian safety at the junction of The Street, Blacksmiths Lane and School Road. The proposed access to Plot 1 would be expected to exacerbate the safety issues. Further, Blacksmiths Lane is a main pedestrian route for schoolchildren and the proposal would introduce vehicles crossing that route in an area without footways or street-lighting.</p> <p>It was observed that the proposal did not allow for visitor parking and so over-spill vehicles would be expected to park on the highway. Blacksmiths Lane and Arbor Lane are both narrow and will suffer congestion from on-street parking, whilst The Street is a busy thoroughfare with no on-street parking allowed. Councillors therefore concluded that the proposal was contrary to Submission LDP policies T1 – <i>Sustainable Transport</i> and T2 – <i>Accessibility</i>.</p> <p>The application was considered to contravene Submission LDP Policy N2 – <i>Natural Environment</i>,</p> |

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| | <p><i>Geodiversity and Biodiversity</i> by proposing the removal of several trees thought to be protected by TPOs, and other trees in an area where owls and bats are regularly observed and believed to nest.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that further large houses would not serve the village's needs, which are for dwellings better suited to retirement living and down-sizing. There was some consensus that 2 or 3 low-rise dwellings might be compatible with the NPPF, LDP, Wickham Bishops Village Design Statement and local housing need but for the reasons above, this proposal would be to the detriment of Wickham Bishops.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended refusal. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Cllr Johnson refrained from voting.</p> <p>Several members of the public left the meeting, leaving seven visitors and the Tree Warden.</p> <p>LBC/MAL/16/00219 16 Kelvedon Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of objection or support had been received.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p> <p>HOUSE/MAL/16/00187 29 Wellands Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of objection or support had been received.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Cllr Nicholas refrained from voting.</p> <p>Two members of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/16/00218 Wickham Barn Station Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of objection had been received. Two letters of support had been received.</p> <p>Some Councillors had visited the site and advised that the proposal would not be over-bearing to users of the nearby public footpath due to the difference in levels and natural screening. It was noted that no trees would be removed.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval with appropriate conditions to prevent residential or business use beyond that detailed within the application. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Three members of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>FUL/MAL/16/00184 Willowcroft Kelvedon Road Great Totham</p> <p>No letters of objection or support had been received. Cllr Sayers read out the report from the Tree Warden Mr. Cooke. Councillors concluded that the proposed works were both detailed and necessary.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended approval. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr MacGregor.</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u></p> <p>The following decisions made by Maldon District Council were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HOUSE/MAL/16/00035 Midfield 26 Church Road Wickham Bishops – ALLOWED - WTPO/MAL/16/00075 I High Hall Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops – ALLOWED - HOUSE/MAL/16/00021 – 29 Byron Drive Wickham Bishops – APPROVED - HOUSE/MAL/16/00016–Avon Cottage 14 School Road Wickham Bishops – APPROVED - WTPO/MAL/16/00074–26 Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops – APPROVED - FUL/MAL/15/00853 –Orchard House Langford Road Wickham Bishops - APPROVED |
| 16/052 | <p>District Council Report</p> <p>District Councillor Bass reported that the appeal decision, to allow application <i>OUT/MAL/15/00267 Land East of Malone Cottage Maypole Road</i>, had been referred to the</p> |

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| | <p>Secretary of State by Priti Patel MP. This was due to the Planning Inspector not appearing to consider the Secretary of State's earlier letter regarding the LDP.</p> <p>A new Inspector has been appointed to continue the examination-in-public of the LDP.</p> <p>The new recycling and waste service will commence 6th June. Letters have been sent to residents.</p> <p>Maldon District Council has been working collectively with neighbouring districts to achieve economies of scale in building control.</p> <p>The number of schools and Year 6 audiences visited by District Councillor Bass, to talk about democracy, has now reached fifteen. The children have been lively participants in the discussion.</p> <p>Following his report, Cllr Bass left the meeting to attend a District Council meeting.</p> |
| 16/050 | <p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were two visitors to the Surgery held on 19th March with two queries.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to check progress with MDC following her report of the steepness of the ramp at One Stop and the lack of handrail causing access problems.</i></p> <p>Attendees for the 23rd April Surgery were noted as Cllrs Mickelsen and MacGregor. The following Surgery will be held on 21st May.</p> |
| 16/051 | <p>Tree Planting Scheme to Commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday</p> <p>The Tree Warden Mr. Chris Cooke presented the working group's recommendations for the Community Planting Scheme.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council agreed that an application would be made to The Woodland Trust for a free pack of 420 saplings and that backup funding was approved should the application fail. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Sayers.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholas left the meeting due to being unwell.</p> |
| 16/053 | <p>Finance</p> <p>The balances and payments were noted. The cash balance was reported as £16,462 being a reduction of £987 over the 2015-16 full financial year.</p> <p>Resolved: A payment of 50 extra hours at basic rate towards the Clerk's CiLCA workload would be made. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to research 30mph wheelie bin stickers, ideally of a reflective material</i></p> |
| 16/054 | <p>Correspondence Requiring Decisions</p> <p>There was no correspondence requiring a decision.</p> |
| 16/055 | <p>General Correspondence to Note:</p> <p>The letter delivered to County Councillor R Bass requesting traffic calming meeting and the letter received from MDC confirming the name "Mackmurdo Place" for the (Tiptree Road-side) new road at Snows Corner were noted.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to follow-up the traffic calming meeting proposal with County Councillor R Bass</i></p> <p>A letter from MDC confirming the new TPO at The Spinney Kelvedon Road had been received.</p> |
| 16/056 | <p>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – No Decisions Required</p> <p>Promotional materials for the Village Picnic on 2nd May had been ordered and Great Totham Primary School had agreed to send a flyer home with each child.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to advertise the picnic at the Library and in One Stop.</i></p> <p>A meeting, between Cllrs MacGregor and Mickelsen and the Clerk, had been held to update the Emergency Plan. The Village Hall would be the main emergency centre. St Bartholomew's church</p> |

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| | <p>would consider a request to be a back-up location at its PCC meeting on the 10th April.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Sayers to confirm the village hall doors operate under a battery back-up in the case of a power failure.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to complete updating the Emergency Plan document</i></p> <p>The annual report will be compiled during April after the annual financial return.</p> <p>Action: <i>Councillors to provide outstanding annual report submissions to the Chairman and Clerk</i></p> |
| 16/057 | <p>General Village News</p> <p>The Tennis Club will be helping at the Annual Litter Pick on the 9th April. Volunteers should meet outside One Stop at 9am.</p> <p>Great Totham Parish Council will provide a courtesy bus to the lighting of the beacon on Thursday 21st April at 7.30pm, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Wickham Bishops pick up locations are Snows Corner and One Stop.</p> <p>MDC Planning Department has been asked to advise on the lawfulness of Chewton Rose's proposed 40 advertising boards, promoting themselves and the 12th June Open Gardens event.</p> |
| 16/058 | <p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Friday 22nd April 2016 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></p> <p>Tuesday 3rd May 2016 Annual Meeting of the Council at 7.00pm</p> <p>Tuesday 3rd May 2016 Annual Parish Assembly at 8.45pm</p> |
| 16/059 | <p>Close of Meeting 9.55pm</p> <p>Items for May agenda (additional items to the Chairman and Clerk by Friday 22nd April):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy approval: Model Publication Scheme - Housing Needs survey <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood Plan - Snows Corner bench replacement (June) - Spring bulbs (to suit a November planting) |