

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
P D Edwards
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
Ms 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 Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 nd May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17/078	Election of Chairman Resolved: that Cllr Mickelsen was elected to the office of Chairman of the Parish Council. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop. The Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received. Chairman Mickelsen gave a public vote of thanks, which was endorsed by all present, to outgoing chairman Cllr MacGregor for his hard work and support over his four-year chairmanship.
17/079	Acceptance of Office Ms Jane Williams made her Acceptance of Office of Parish Councillor. Mr Paul Edwards made his Acceptance of Office of Parish Councillor.
17/080	Election of Vice-Chairman Resolved: that Cllr Wardrop was elected to the office of Vice-Chairman. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Bass.
17/081	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Edwards, MacGregor, Mundell, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Nicholas. District Cllr Durham and eleven members of the public, including Tree Warden Mr Chris Cooke, were present.
17/082	Appointment of Members to Committees In consideration of the new councillors, committee appointments were deferred to the June 2017 meeting to allow time for any preferences to be expressed. Action: Councillors to advise the chairman of any role preferences
17/083	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework Cllrs Mickelsen and Wardrop declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17/089 FUL/MAL/17/00389 - Land Adjacent Park House Wickham Hall Lane Wickham Bishops due to being acquainted with the applicants.
17/084	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 th April 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.

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17/085	Governance: To Consider for Re-Adoption the General Power of Competence Resolved: The Parish Council resolved, from 2 nd May 2017 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the <i>Localism Act 2011</i> and <i>SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012</i> , to adopt the General Power of Competence. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
17/086	Public Forum A member of the public spoke on behalf of planning application <i>FUL/MAL/17/00389 - Land Adjacent Park House Wickham Hall Lane Wickham Bishops</i> .
17/087	Chairman's Report The Chairman welcomed new Councillors Edwards and Williams to the Council, and thanked Cllr MacGregor for his leadership and professionalism over the previous four years.
17/088	Clerk's Report The Clerk advised the Council that the £12000 Precept had been received and the annual VAT claim had been submitted, for £1048. The local connection claims of the Mackmurdo Place affordable housing applicants had been verified to the Rural Community Council of Essex and applications were progressing well. The Clerk reported that the Annual Report would be sent to print once funding was approved, and the Annual Return would be submitted to the Internal Auditor once approved and signed. A Transparency Code claim for the projector cost would also be put forward. A parishioner had reported the single remaining bin outside One Stop was becoming overfilled. Councillors confirmed the issue. Action: <i>The Clerk to request Maldon District Council to increase the bin-emptying frequency.</i> Councillors were reminded to check, and if necessary update, their Register of Interests. Action: <i>The Clerk to circulate the link to the online Register of Interests.</i>
17/089	Planning Applications and Decisions Cllr Mickelsen explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the application due to the potential for him to vote at the District Council planning meeting, and Cllrs Mickelsen and Wardrop refrained from voting due to their declared non-Pecuniary Interests. <u>Application:</u> FUL/MAL/17/00389 - Land Adjacent Park House Wickham Hall Lane Wickham Bishops One letter of support had been received. Councillors reported that the 2017 Wickham Bishops Housing Needs Survey identified a local need for smaller properties for downsizing; it was considered that the proposed dwelling would support this need with no effect on the street scene due to it being well screened and set back from the road. Councillors considered that the development would constitute back garden development, contrary to the Wickham Bishops Village Design Statement and noted that the site was in a rural location outside the defined settlement boundary. For this reason, it was concluded that the application was contrary to RLP saved policy <i>S2 – Development Outside Development Boundaries</i> and Submission LDP policies <i>S1 – Sustainable Development</i> and <i>S8 – Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside</i> . Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mundell.

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	<p>The decision made by Maldon District Council was noted. There were no decisions by the Parish Clerk or the Planning Inspectorate to note.</p> <p>A member of the public joined the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Bass explained that communications were on-going between the District Council and Gavin Barwell MP regarding the judicial review of the 'OUT/MAL/15/01342 - Land North of 9 Church Road' appeal decision, however the matter was <i>sub judice</i> and could not be further reported.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop stated that he and Ms Fiona Marshall, Chief Executive of Maldon District Council, were in agreement that an application for 'Rule 6 status' would depend on a future appeal being a public inquiry, rather than a hearing. If Rule 6 status could be achieved, the Parish Council could submit its own evidence at the inquiry.</p>
17/090	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were four visitors with six queries at the 22nd April Surgery.</p> <p>A visitor reported a missing fingerpost from footpath 16 and that barbed wire had been deployed along both sides of the new route of footpath 13. Both these matters had been reported to Essex County Council's Footpath Officer in the previous week by Cllr Nicholas.</p> <p>Repairs have still not been undertaken to the damaged pavement outside 16 Blacksmiths Lane; ECC Highways do not consider there to be a trip hazard.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to ask ECC Highways to escalate the priority with the homeowner.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Bass to update Councillors on the MDC investigation into the 'RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane Wickham Bishops' planning decision.</p> <p>Attendees for the 20th May Surgery will be Cllrs MacGregor and Mickelsen; Cllrs Edwards and Mundell will attend the Surgery on 17th June.</p>
17/091	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>District Councillor Bass advised that the Statutory Annual Meeting of the District Council would be held on 11th May, at which there was a likelihood that he would become Chairman of the Council and D/Cllr Durham would become Leader of the Council.</p>
17/092	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would employ Solopress to print the annual report at a maximum cost of £200, in accordance with <i>the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 S.1(1)</i>. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Williams.</p>
17/093	<p>Approval of Annual Governance Statement</p> <p>Resolved: that the Annual Governance Statement was approved. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Williams. The Chairman signed Section 1 of the Annual Return.</p>
17/094	<p>Approval of Annual Accounting Statements</p> <p>Resolved: that the Annual Accounting Statements were approved. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Bates. The Chairman and Clerk signed Section 2 of the Annual Return.</p>
17/095	<p>Local Highways Panel Requests</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop reported that he had received a response from ECC Highways. Results from the supplier of the two Speed Indicating Devices were still outstanding; until ECC has these results, no progress can be made on the process for rotating the SIDs around the six poles.</p>

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	<p>The feasibility study into build-outs in The Street was expected to be deferred to fiscal year 2018/19, due to over-delivery of other Local Highway Panel schemes. There remained a lack of clarity as to why the extension of the 30mph zone along Church Road had been delayed, and there had been an acknowledgement from ECC that communication needed to be improved. The request to consider a 40mph zone before the 30mph zone on Witham Road had been rejected due to the December 2016 speed-count data showing the criteria had not been met.</p> <p>The next LHP meeting will be in June 2017, when a new Chairman will be elected.</p> <p>Councillors felt that the recent changes and deferments from the LHP were being decided in an undemocratic manner and the Parish Council should reach out to the new Chairman to deliver the promised improvements.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Parish Council to review the LHP progress at the July meeting and to consider contacting the new LHP Chairman.</i></p> <p>Cllr Bass observed that congestion at Blue Mills bridge had worsened and suggested that the Blue Mills Hill / Maldon Road traffic lights should be operational all day, as the lights would create a gap in traffic allowing queueing vehicles from Wickham Bishops to cross.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Parish Council to consider at the June meeting, a request to Braintree District Council to extend the operational times.</i></p> <p>Two members of the public joined the meeting.</p>
17/096	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence to note.</p>
17/097	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – No Decisions Required</p> <p>The air raid shelter tidy-up, due to commence at 2pm on Saturday 20th May 2017, was noted.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Tree Warden to view the site and advise on ivy removal.</i></p> <p>Cllr Mundell reported that the migration to the new email hosting service would commence within two weeks and offered his expertise in setting up Councillors' access.</p>
17/098	<p>General Village News</p> <p>There was no general village news to report.</p>
17/099	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Friday 19th May 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></p> <p>Tuesday 6th June 2017 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm</p>
17/100	<p>Close of Meeting 8.00pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas (additional items to Chairman and Clerk by Friday 26th May):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of members to Committees (June) - Email migration (June) - Air raid shelter project update (June) - Blue Mills bridge congestion (June) - Internal Audit report (June) - LHP progress (July)