

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
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 Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17/165	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, MacGregor, Mundell, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Tree Warden Mr Chris Cooke and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Ms Sian Bewick. Nine members of the public were present.
17/166	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no Declarations of Interest.
17/167	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 th September 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Nicholas. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 22 nd September 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr MacGregor.
17/168	Public Forum A member of the public asked about the progress of the re-hearing of the appeal against refusal for application <i>OUT/MAL/15/01342 - Land at and to the Rear of 9 Church Road</i> . The Chairman described the process that had been followed and referred to the public consultations and discussion at the Planning Committee meeting of 22 nd September, which had informed a draft version of the Council's response to the re-hearing. Cllr Mickelsen then explained the Council's plan to finalise and agree its response under item 17/171.
17/169	Chairman's Report The Chairman thanked the Tree Warden, Cllrs MacGregor, Mundell and Bass, and the Clerk and a friend of Cllr Bass, for completing the clear-out and ivy removal at the air raid shelter. Heybridge Parish Council will be hosting a quiz night on 20 th October, to which neighbouring parish councils are invited. Interested councillors were asked to advise Cllr Mickelsen.
17/170	Clerk's Report The Clerk had received several queries during the month that had been addressed. The Clerk reported that engagement with residents via social media was growing, with an increasing number of queries originating via Facebook. The verge outside the village hall that was obscuring sightlines had been cut back, and some clearance works in Wickham Hall Lane had been noted. A sightline issue for a resident of a new house on Maypole Road, just inside Great Totham, was found to be due to the developer not meeting a planning permission condition; the resident was referred to his county and district councillors and to the Planning Officer.

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	<p>A parishioner, querying the white lines that had appeared on carriageways throughout the parish, was advised that resurfacing treatments were being planned by Essex Highways; the specifics would be circulated when available.</p> <p>The Clerk was pleased to report that Witham Town Council would review the application to extend the hours of operation of the traffic lights at the end of Blue Mills Hill, at its next Planning meeting.</p> <p>A report that the weight limit signs were obscured and missing from Station Road bridge was verified by Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to request Essex Highways and the Rangers replace/clear the signs.</i></p>
17/171	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p><i>Applications are circulated to all Councillors, prior to publication of the agenda, for study ahead of the meeting. Copies may be obtained from the District Council's website and offices.</i></p> <p>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 applications due to the potential for him to vote at the District Council planning meeting.</p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>LDP/MAL/17/00004 - APPEAL - Orchard Cottage 11 Handleys Lane Wickham Bishops</p> <p>No letters of objection had been received. Councillors had no further comments to make.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p> <p>OUT/MAL/15/01342 - APPEAL - Land Rear of 9 Church Road Wickham Bishops</p> <p>Resolved: Councillors APPROVED the proposed letter of representation with amendments to the ordering of items, expansion of the land supply and sewerage argument, references to the Local Development Plan and emerging Neighbourhood Plan and a request that the Parish Council be allowed to speak at the Hearing. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Mundell and the Clerk to finalise and submit the response before 5th October 2017.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to publish the response on Facebook and explain that the Hearing is open to all.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to arrange a meeting between Maldon District Council's Principal Planning Officer and Parish Councillors Wardrop and Williams.</i></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk, or decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate, to note.</p> <p>The decision by Maldon District Council to refuse permission for application RES/MAL/17/00719 - <i>Land East of Malone Cottage Maypole Road</i>, was noted.</p>
17/172	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were six attendees with four queries at the Surgery on 23rd September. Cllr Bass has since arranged for the District Council's Planning Officer and Tree Officer to review the planting and footway at Snows Corner along Tiptree Road; a request to provide a 'No Through Road' sign at Church Close was being considered by MDC.</p> <p>The October Surgery will be held on the 21st, with Cllrs Bates and Williams attending. Attendees at the Surgery on 18th November will be Cllrs Wardrop and Mickelsen.</p>

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17/173	District Council Report <p>The District Councillor's report, on outstanding Local Highways Panel requests, was noted. The re-surfacing of the Handleys Lane byway had been scheduled and the Highways Rangers had been asked to commence vegetation clearance in readiness. The Rangers had also been tasked to trim the hedge on Great Totham Road near '8 Acres'.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Bass to investigate the LHP's reference to outstanding works for Footpath 1.</p>
17/174	Neighbourhood Watch Report <p>There was no change to the Neighbourhood Watch plan. Paper and ink had been provided to the NHW Coordinator by the Clerk.</p> <p>Three members of the public left the meeting.</p>
17/175	Website Refresh <p>Cllr Bates presented the new website to the meeting and explained some of its operation and upkeep requirements. Cllr Mundell and the Clerk volunteered their help in its maintenance. Councillors were appreciative of Cllr Bates' efforts and the more modern appearance of the website, which is expected to go live within the month.</p>
17/176	Mobile Library Consultation <p>Resolved: Councillors considered that the changes would not affect the parish of Wickham Bishops, and asked the Clerk to complete the survey to that effect, with a preference that the Great Totham Primary School stop remain. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to submit to Parish Council's response.</p> <p>Three members of the public left the meeting.</p>
17/177	War Memorial Listing Consultation <p>Resolved: The Parish Council would support the listing of the War memorial by Historic England. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk to submit to Parish Council's response.</p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p>
17/178	Blocked Drainage Affecting 1 Grange Road <p>The Chairman explained that she, Cllr Bass and the Clerk, had attended a meeting with representatives of Essex County Council's Water Planning and Environment department, to discuss the flooding affecting Baytree Cottage and nearby dwellings on Grange Road. ECC was offering a grant, to be applied for by the Parish Council, that would be used to provide new gullies and ditches and connection into the main drainage system.</p> <p>Councillors expressed concern that the Parish Council could be left managing the project without the requisite knowledge, experience and resources, particularly if the project were to overrun its funding.</p> <p>Action: The Chairman and Clerk to ask ECC to confirm that the Parish Council would be indemnified against any liabilities arising, and to invite County Councillors Mark Durham and Sue Barker to discuss the funding and project management mechanism at a future meeting.</p>
17/179	Local Highways Requests Report <p>Cllr Wardrop queried an estimate from the LHP that the extension of the 30mph speed limit in Church Road would be in place by December 2017, as it was his understanding that the Traffic Regulation Order would require six to nine months for approval.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Bass to investigate the LHP's estimate of completion for the request.</p>

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17/180	Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr MacGregor.
17/181	Correspondence The letter from resident of 1 Grange Road regarding drainage was noted.
17/182	Air Raid Shelter Project Planning Cllr MacGregor reported that the air raid shelter had been brushed out, ready for painting on 21 st October at 2pm. The brushes and paint had been purchased. Action: <i>The Clerk to send a letter to the tree Warden Mr Chris Cooke for his efforts in removing the ivy and trimming the overhanging branches.</i>
17/183	Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees Cllr Williams stated that the Neighbourhood Plan's business survey had been issued, in hard copy and online. The residents' survey is expected to be issued within two weeks. Results from the surveys will be used to inform the draft policies of the emerging Plan. As Speedwatch coordinator, Cllr Wardrop advised that a persistent offender had been reported to Essex Police. The motorist had then been targeted and caught speeding by Essex Police and was subject to Police action. A further 101 offenders had also been caught.
17/184	General Village News In response to a report that The Chequers could soon be sold, most likely to be converted to an Indian restaurant, Cllr Bass said that he understood this not to be the case and that the suggestion had arisen as a result of a disagreement between the owner of The Chequers and the local branch of CAMRA. It was thought that such comments were unhelpful.
17/185	Dates of Next Meetings Friday 20 th October 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> Tuesday 7 th November 2017 Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm Friday 24 th November 2017 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am Friday 24 th November 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i>
17/186	Close of Meeting 9.47pm Items for future agendas (additional items to Chairman and Clerk by Friday 27 th October): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Presentation on 'Guardians of Local Churches' (November)