

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

I S F MacGregor (Chairman)
Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
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 7th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17/041	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr MacGregor Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Mickelsen, Mundell, Nicholas and Wardrop; the Clerk. There were three members of the public present.
17/042	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework There were no declarations of interest.
17/043	Approval of Minutes Cllr Bass requested that the statement which ex-councillor Barry Sayers had read out at the meeting on 3 rd January 2017 should be attached to the minutes of a recent meeting. Councillors held an unscheduled vote and agreed that the statement would be attached to the minutes of the current meeting. Resolved: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21 st February 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24 th February 2017 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop.
17/044	Public Forum Two members of the public spoke against the proposed Witham Road bus stop location. Cllr Nicholas reported that Essex County Council's Highways division believed the location to offer safety improvements, for example by reducing the number of vehicle approach directions to two from four. Cllr Nicholas had received comments from two parishioners who both considered the proposed location to be safer than the existing, and acknowledged the concerns over traffic being briefly delayed along Witham Road and explained this would be once every half hour. A member of the public left the meeting.
17/045	Chairman's Report The Chairman reported the retirement of Cllr Mrs Tilly Pink from the Parish Council and paid tribute to Cllr Pink's 41 continuous years of service. Cllr MacGregor gave a precis of Mrs Pink's long involvement with civic and social organisations. In particular, the Chairman noted Mrs Pink's qualification as a Queen's Guide and deservedly becoming a Commander of the British Empire. Councillors joined the Chairman in expressing their gratitude and good wishes. The Chairman thanked councillors, members of the tennis club and the public for taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy litter pick on Saturday 4 th March. The Chairman concluded his report by mentioning the increased parish council activity due to planning matters and thanked the Clerk for her commitment and expertise.

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17/046	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk drew the meeting's attention to the updated list of issues which had been circulated. ECC Highways had advised that the manhole cover in Witham Road, which is lifted by drainage currents in heavy rains, does not meet the criteria for repair and action is therefore on hold.</p> <p>The Clerk was waiting for confirmation from Maldon District Council that the vacant parish council seat could be filled by co-option, and had notified MDC of Mrs Tilly Pink's retirement.</p> <p>The application for the Clerk to join the pension scheme had been submitted. The Parish Council had met its automatic enrolment responsibilities ahead of the July 2017 staging date.</p> <p>The Clerk would now be working to compile the audit documents and end-of-year accounts.</p>
17/047	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>There were no decisions by the Parish Clerk, Maldon District Council or the Planning Inspectorate to note.</p> <p>In his District Council role, Cllr Bass reported that the NW Area Committee had been unable to determine the application 'RES/MAL/16/01475 The Summer House Back Lane' due to insufficient clarity over its validity. As Chairman of the Committee, D/Cllr Bass along with D/Cllr Durham and the Vice Chair D/Cllr Mrs Thompson would decide whether the queries had been answered to their satisfaction and delegate the decision to the Planning Officer.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop stated that he was concerned that material planning matters highlighted by the Parish Council and parishioners had not been addressed in the Officer's report and questioned whether the Officer had a duty to consider them. The District Councillor apologised for the unsatisfactory report and explained that the District Council had to keep in mind that planning consent had already been granted, and so needed to be realistic over objections.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Bass to forward the decision to the Clerk for circulation once completed.</i></p> <p>With regard to the proposed judicial review of the 'Land North of 9 Church Road' appeal decision, D/Cllr Bass explained that should the District Council file the papers, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Mr Sajid Javid MP will have the opportunity to decide to contest or withdraw from the case. Once papers are served, all interested parties should request that the Secretary of State does not defend the judicial review by writing to Mr Sajid Javid MP, and the Minister for Housing and Planning Mr Gavin Barwell MP, with a copy to the Rt. Hon. Ms Priti Patel MP for Witham.</p> <p>Cllr Mickelsen expressed concern that MDC appeared to believe the Parish Council had committed to a higher donation figure than it had actually approved, and Councillors sought clarification over the process for returning any excess funds.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to circulate to the Parish Councillors her earlier response to the Chief Executive Ms Fiona Marshall and to write again, relaying the Council's questions.</i></p>
17/048	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>There were four visitors to the 18th February surgery. Residents queried the lack of smiley faces on the new SIDs and asked for a dropped kerb at the Arbour Lane/Blacksmiths Lane junction. A request for traffic calming at the Maypole Road/Back Lane junction was noted to be within Great Totham parish. Additional streetlighting, near The Mitre, was both advocated and opposed by attendees. Cllr Wardrop responded that he had enquired of Essex County Council Highways regarding the SIDs and a reply was outstanding, as were the existing Local Highways Panel requests for an extension to the footway along Church Road, and a new footway from Holt Drive to the Church Road/Blacksmiths Lane junction.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to encourage MDC to arrange for the organisations, responsible for the maintenance of the public spaces in Chantry Grove and Mackmurdo Place, to begin their duties.</i></p>

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	Attendees for the surgery on 18 th March will be Cllrs MacGregor and Wardrop. The following surgery will be held on 22 nd April to avoid the Easter weekend.
17/049	District Council Report The District Councillor reported that the annual budget meeting had been completed and MDC's Statutory Annual Meeting will be held on 11 th May, and that there was a high number of vacancies in the Planning department and recruitment was underway. D/Cllr Bass had recently attended the Chairman's Awards for Industry and visited a local vineyard.
17/050	Witham Road (Maldon-bound) Bus Stop Location Three letters of objection, three letters of support and a phone call in support had been received. A letter requesting a crossing point had also been received. Cllr Nicholas explained that the site, nearly opposite the existing Witham-bound bus stop, had been proposed by two members of ECC Highways. It was noted that some bus drivers had begun stopping in the new location on their own initiative. In addition to the safety improvements the site offered, Cllr Nicholas reported that the tarmac surface would be preferable to the muddy location in current use. Cllr Wardrop concurred with the suggestion that the new location would be safer and stated that the timetable ensured that buses travelling in opposite directions would not be at both Witham Road stops at the same time. It was stated that traffic heading out of Chantry Grove or along Witham Road towards Maldon would be delayed however this was acknowledged to be a normal consequence of a bus stop. Cllr Mickelsen pointed out that there was a logic in having the bus stops opposite each other. In response to Cllr Bates' concern that people from Tiptree Road would have to cross Snows Corner where there was no footway, it was explained that there will soon exist a linking footpath, through Mackmurdo Place and Chantry Grove, for these residents to use. Resolved: that the Parish Council would support the proposed location of the bus stop. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Two members of the public left the meeting.
17/051	Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor. The effectiveness of the internal controls was reviewed. It was recorded that the internal and external audit recommendations had been implemented. Resolved: that the Parish Council would donate £50 to the Parochial Church Council of Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted in recognition of the urgent delivery of the Parish Council's '9 Church Road Judicial Review' flyer, in accordance with <i>the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 S.1(1)</i> . Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Mickelsen. Action: <i>The Clerk to contact English Rural to suggest a combined opening ceremony for Mackmurdo Place.</i>
17/052	Air Raid Shelter The tidy-up of the air raid shelter will be held at 2pm on Saturday 20 th May 2017. Action: <i>The Clerk to advise the volunteers.</i>
17/053	Correspondence The emails confirming that Essex County Council will maintain the electronic bus timetable, and the diversion of Footpath 13, were noted.

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17/054	Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – No Decisions Required Cllr Wardrop stated that there had been no reported progress on the extension of the Church Road 30mph zone to Mope Lane. There had been no feedback from ECC Highways on the traffic count data, gathered to establish the case for a 40mph limit along Witham Road, nor on the buildout feasibility study for The Street or the SIDs repositioning process. Action: <i>The Clerk to check the status of the 'Land East of Malone Cottage' land sale</i>
17/055	General Village News The Welcome Evening for newcomers on 4 th May by St. Bartholomew's Church was noted. The Rt. Hon. Ms Priti Patel MP is expected to host a public meeting in the village hall on Thursday 13 th April 2017.
17/056	Dates of Next Meetings Friday 24 th March 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> Tuesday 4 th April 2017 Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm
17/057	Close of Meeting 9.38pm Items for future agendas (additional items to Chairman and Clerk by Friday 24 th March): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-option to vacant parish council seat (April) - Approval of annual accounts, governance statement and accounting statements (May) - Community Protection Team presentation (May) - Website refresh and Local Council Award Scheme (June)