

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
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 3 rd January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17/001	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the chair: Cllr MacGregor</p> <p>Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Mickelsen, Mundell, Nicholas, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop; the Clerk.</p> <p>There were four members of the public present.</p>
17/002	<p>Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 17/007 Telecoms Mast Consultation due to his role as a Trustee of the BHSA.</p> <p>Cllr Pink declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 17/007 Telecoms Mast Consultation due to her owning property bordering the application site.</p> <p>Cllr Bates declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item LDP/MAL16/01450 - 8 Church Green due to knowing the applicants.</p> <p>Cllr Sayers read out a statement from the Monitoring Officer explaining that, as the Parish Council is purely a consultee in planning matters, Parish Councillors could not be held to have Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in planning discussions. For this reason, Cllr Sayers declared an Other Pecuniary Interest in item 17/007 Telecoms Mast Consultation due to the BHSA holding a service contract with his business.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Sayers to forward the Monitoring Officer's email to the Clerk for circulation to ensure all Councillors understand how to comply with the requirements.</p>
17/003	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16th December 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p>
17/004	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>A member of the public requested that Speedwatch be undertaken in Great Totham Road and highlighted the dangers being caused by excessive parking near The Mitre. Cllr Wardrop advised the meeting that two additional Speedwatch locations had been requested and one of those was in Great Totham Road, the other being at the Beech Green / Tiptree Road junction. The Chairman highlighted the District Councillor's progress in resolving the on-going parking problems caused by the Car Sales business.</p> <p>Two members of the public and representatives of the BHSA spoke in favour of the telecoms mast proposal and presented diagrams, maps and photographs illustrating the current and expected coverage, benefits to the community, design and impact on local residents.</p>

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17/005	<p>Chairman's Report There were no items of interest for the Chairman to report.</p>
17/006	<p>Clerk's Report The Clerk drew attention to the updated Issues List which had been circulated that day and was pleased to report that the pothole at OneStop had been mended.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Facebook posts were reaching 200 to 400 people each time and she was beginning to receive messages through Facebook, proving that parishioners are taking to the Parish Council's new communication channel. 96 parishioners have now also opted to receive the Planning email.</p> <p>The purchase of two Shared Ownership properties at Mackmurdo Place is progressing; all applicants had been verified to RCCE as having suitable, strong, local connections.</p> <p>Finally, the Pensions Regulator had written to the Clerk requesting the pension scheme now be progressed and this will be addressed by an item on the next meeting's agenda, as required by Essex Pensions, the LGPS administrators.</p>
17/007	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions Cllr Sayers 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>Applications:</u> HOUSE/MAL/16/01365 - 16 Blacksmiths Lane Wickham Bishops One letter of objection had been received. Councillors reported that the wall as built varied in height from 1.4m to 1.7m and had external lighting, and noted that the application was at odds with these elements. Councillors observed that the area in general has open plan gardens and the height and material of the proposed boundary treatment were contrary to the guidelines within the Village Design Statement. The Parish Council concluded the proposal would result in an incongruous development and was therefore to the detriment of the street-scene, contrary to Submission LDP Policy D1 – <i>Design Quality and Built Environment</i> and the Wickham Bishops Village Design Statement. Resolved: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL. Proposed Cllr Sayers, seconded Cllr Mundell.</p> <p>LDP/MAL16/01450 - 8 Church Green Wickham Bishops In line with the Planning Committee Terms of Reference, the application will be responded to by the Clerk using her delegated powers.</p> <p>The decisions made by Maldon District Council and the Planning Inspectorate were noted.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Bass and Cllr Wardrop had attended a meeting with representatives from Maldon District Council, the Planning Inspectorate and the office of Witham MP the Rt Hon Ms P Patel. MDC would be circulating notes in due course. It was reported that the Planning Inspector at the meeting had stated that there was no legal requirement for Inspectors to be consistent in their decision making, although he was expected to look into two appeal decisions on proposals sited opposite each other.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Sayers to circulate the notes from MDC and Cllr Bass to circulate the comments expected from the Witham MP's office.</p> <p>Cllr Sayers left the room.</p>

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	<p>Telecoms Mast Consultation</p> <p>Councillors noted that the consultation period, granted by Pegasus Group to nearby residents, encompassed the Christmas break; running from the receipt of notifying letters on 14th December to 26th December. The Parish Council felt that this twelve-day consultation period, which included five weekend and public holiday days at a time when the postal system was already overburdened, did not offer sufficient time for residents' proper involvement.</p> <p>Councillors also noted that the planning application TELPN/MAL/16/01486 was submitted to the Planning Authority on 21st December and concluded that, with only 3 working days' notice, the application could not have taken any postal consultation responses into account and few, if any, emailed responses. The Parish Council therefore had grave concerns relating to residents' ability to take part in the consultation exercise.</p> <p>Councillors commented that an improvement in mobile communications access was necessary and would be of benefit to Wickham Bishops and the surrounding areas. Councillors observed that no protection appeared to be given to sports field users in case of collision with the mast structure and that adding other telecom networks to the mast would require an extension of the structure, contrary to the previous expressed desire of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council felt unable to either support or oppose the proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Sayers re-joined the meeting.</p>
17/008	<p>Monthly Councillor Surgeries</p> <p>Attendees for the Surgery on 21st January will be Cllrs Mickelsen and Wardrop. The following Surgery will be held on 18th February.</p>
17/009	<p>District Council Report</p> <p>The District Councillor advised that the Examination-in-Public of the Local Development Plan would begin on 12th January 2017. A recent redefinition of Gypsies and Travellers by the Government has reduced the overall site requirement for Maldon District; the total has now been met with the approval on appeal of a site in Captains Wood Road, Great Totham.</p> <p>The District Councillor concluded by reporting that all enforcement issues on the Issues List are underway.</p> <p><i>Action: The Clerk to contact the Passenger Transport Group to enquire about the unexpected addition of an electronic timetable to the Parish Council—owned bus shelter and to explore the possibility of transferring ownership and maintenance.</i></p>
17/010	<p>Finance</p> <p>Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Resolved: The revisions to the Asset Register were agreed and the Register signed. Proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr MacGregor.</p> <p>The Precept for 2017-2018 was noted as £12,000 which is a Band D Precept of £12.46</p>
17/011	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The email sent to MOAT Housing Association following parishioner complaints over a vehicle offered for sale and parked on Church Green, was noted.</p>
17/012	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – No Decisions Required</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop reported that the SIDs installation locations were due to be marked out in the week commencing 16th January, with installation the following week. Some discussion will be required to establish the process for rotating the SIDs around the sites.</p>

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	<p>A Witham Road traffic and speed count had been undertaken by ECC Highways prior to Christmas, as part of the request to implement a 40mph limit.</p> <p>A parishioner, in highlighting to Cllr Wardrop the dangers to pedestrians crossing The Street, has queried the data gathered by the County Council when a pedestrian crossing was refused previously. Cllr Wardrop has requested the data and updated the parishioner on the road narrowing scheme feasibility study.</p>
17/013	<p>General Village News</p> <p>Cllr Nicholas has received complaints to a dog being walked off the leash along Wellands and apparently out of control, causing a nuisance to residents.</p> <p>Action: <i>Cllr Nicholas to advise the complainants how to provide suitable data so that the Dog Warden can resolve the problem.</i></p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to post a Facebook message reminding residents to keep dogs under control when on public footways.</i></p> <p>The sale of The Mitre is reportedly under negotiation.</p>
17/014	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>Friday 20th January 2017 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i></p> <p>Tuesday 31st January 2017 Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm</p>
17/015	<p>Close of Meeting 9.30pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas (additional items to Chairman and Clerk by Friday 20th January):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Government Pension Scheme approval - Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (Public Contracts Regulations 2015) - Website refresh and Local Council Award Scheme - Maldon District Council's Community Protection Team presentation