

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
OF
WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL**

On Wednesday 5th July 2017

at The Sports Club, Wicken at 7.00 pm

Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

43/17 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr. Philip Ivens – Chairman
Cllr. Celina Francklin,
Cllr. Richard Forman,
Cllr. Alan Cartwright,
Cllr Andrew Edmondson
Cllr Marcus Rixon
Cllr Ian Howett
District Cllr. Dennis Loveland – apologies received
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker,
Sally Willis - Clerk
3 members of public

44/17 Members Interests; Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Wicken Parish Council Code of Conduct to Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

45/17 Public Forum

Member of the public complained that light on Pound Close is still out. Clerk advised this is chased when she gets notes that it is still not working and will chase again.

As County Councillor Allen Walker thanked those who voted for him and he won with a majority of just over 2000. He is now the longest serving Conservative county councillor. However, he has fallen out with group leader and is no longer chief whip or on any committees. He was asked about improvements to A5 roundabout at Old Stratford. This is in progress and plans are being worked on.

As District Councillor he advised that the Local Plan part 2a will be considered by Council next week so any concerns should be passed to him to bring up.

Cllr Ivens thanked Cllr Walker for his help with regards to a near crisis with the village hall when a tax bill had been sent to the wrong place and a red letter had been received.

46/17 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on *Wednesday 3rd May 2017* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

47/17 To receive Internal Audit report and to approve appropriate actions

Overall it is a good report but there were 3 areas that needed looking into.

1 – Asset Register needs to be updated with dates. Clerk to work with Cllr Ivens to complete

2 – Reserves Policy is good, but with increasing funds from the Solar Farm, which means reserves would be greater than precept, then projects needs to be thought of and funds earmarked correctly. Ideas needed from the solar farm group and councillors to tighten this and mark funds for projects, especially larger capital and longer term projects

3 – Parish Council controlled website is needed to comply with transparency code. Conservation Society are looking to have a new village website with different web masters for different areas and the parish Council can have a section of this. Clerk to work with conservation society to get the parish council area to our specification

26/17 Finance.

a) To receive and accounts to end of July

| Payee | CN | Details | Amount | VAT |
|--------------|-----|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| ACRE | 696 | Membership | 35.00 | 0.00 |
| EON | 679 | Street lighting power | 979.08 | 46.61 |
| AH Contracts | 698 | Bin emptying May | 43.20 | 7.20 |
| AH Contracts | 699 | Bin emptying June | 43.20 | 7.20 |
| Eon | 700 | Street light maintenance | 72.34 | 12.06 |
| Mrs S Willis | 701 | Clerk June | 160.16 | 0.00 |
| Mrs S Willis | 702 | Clerk July | 159.96 | 0.00 |
| HMRC | 703 | Tax Q1 | 11.40 | 0.00 |
| Total | | | 1504.34 | 73.07 |

It was agreed to hold the street lighting maintenance cheque until outstanding repairs are completed

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

b) To receive payments and receipts to end May

Accounts forwarded including solar farm accounts. Approved.

49/17 To consider and approve purchase of speed monitor device and ongoing use

There are 3 volunteers to work to make sure the battery is charged and to move around the village as needed. The device, poles and installation will cost approximately £3500. It was agreed that we wanted a sign that shows speed but no sad / smiley face. These will be set high so as to prevent vandalism, and they are fairly robust. It was proposed that Cllr Cartwright and the clerk work with Highways to place order up to £3500. **Resolved.**

50/17 To consider and approve actions following communication from Phoenix Rising about noise.

Councillors had received information about noise and unsocial behavior from neighbor to village hall. With vulnerable people attending the village hall this is not acceptable. Clerk to contact Phoenix Rising for evidence with dates and times and contact South Northants Homes. Cllr Walker offered to help if needed.

51/17 To consider and approve actions for verge by Church yard boundary fence

This area had been planted for wild flowers but this hasn't worked and the area is now just full of weeds. It was proposed that we ask SNC to cut this area again

52/17 To receive an update on Wicken Park Road / Western Power

There have been various meeting with Cllrs Ivens, Cartwright and Edmonson with Highways. It has been agreed that some rough rubble to stabilise the holes to make a passing place near the school and will do a budgetary analysis for a professional passing place.

Western Power will repair the broken culvert and will investigate if the other is their fault and will repair if deemed so.

It was noted there was fly-tipping on Whittlebury Road, councillors were unsure if this had been removed or rolled out.

53/17 To consider communication between village organisations and committees

It was felt that this will be resolved once the new website being discussed is up and running.

54/17 To receive an update on Japanese Knotweed

The Japanese Knotweed is now dead.

55/17 To discuss Wicken Wood

Wicken Wood is being sold by the Merchant Venturers that own it. Contact has been made to various trusts to see if they are interested, but they are not or haven't responded. Change of ownership shouldn't affect access. Also it will be protected so will not be eligible for change of use.

56/17 To consider Tree Surgery at the millennium seat

This has been done, but is likely that it will need regular work.

57/17 To receive update on Local Plan

Information has been sent in but some information on maps is needed and we are struggling with digital format of

map. Cllr Howett offered to help. Clerk also to contact SNC for original file.

58/17 To receive vullage Hall Finainces

Reserves are up after exceptional spend has tailed off. Cooker has been replaced however under lease this should have been their responsibility.

59/17 To receive updates on outstanding items and to consider items for next meeting

Cllr Forman had looked at map of footpaths from NCC and made comments, Cllr Cartwright to check. It was noted that all footpaths are well kept and it was agreed to send letters to farmers thanking them.

Church have received permission to remove hedge and fence.

Solar farm committee are to recommend only and should report to council for final decision.

Play equipment information has now been passed to Cllr Edmondsdon, who will work with Cllr Cartwright to apply for funds from New Homes Bonus.

Hedge at village hall will be cut back for £100

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

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