

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

On Wednesday 1st November 2017

at The Sports Club, Wicken at 7.00 pm

Cllr Ivens opened the meeting at 7pm

72/17 Attendance and apologies; To receive and accept any apologies.

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

73/17 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.

None to declare

74/17 Public Forum

There were no members of the public present

75/17 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Sports Club on *Wednesday 6th September 2017* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

76/17 Finance.

a) To receive and approve accounts to end of November

Payee	CN	Details	Amount	VAT
Mrs S Willis	715	Clerk October	160.16	0.00
Eon	716	Lighting Maintenance	72.34	12.06
EON	717	Lighting Power	359.57	17.12
Aon	718	Insurance addition	28.00	0.00
Eon	719	Lighting maintenance	408.00	68.00
		Bin Emptying		
AH Contracts	720	September	43.20	7.20
AH Contracts	721	Bin Emptying October	43.20	7.20
Northamptonshire County Council	722	Posts For VAS	1145.27	190.88
Mrs S Willis	723	Clerk November	160.16	0.00
Northamptonshire County Council	724	S50 Licence	260.00	0.00
			2679.90	302.46
Receipts				
Precept			3,630.00	

RESOLVED: Accounts approved and signed

b) To receive payments and receipts to end October

Accounts forwarded including solar farm accounts. Approved.

Chairman's initials

10

01/11/2017

77/17 To receive External Audit Report and approve actions

Clerk advised council that external audit report had been returned with no issues. Clerk was thanked.
Resolved.

78/17 To consider and approve response to Planning applications:

- a) **S/2017/2503/FUL & S/2017/2504/LBC - Remove fireplace to reveal original fireplace, install chimney liner and re-instate chimney pot. Remove internal arch and studwork in hallway/porch. - The Old School 12 Cross Tree Road**

No objections

- b) **S/2017/2495/LDE - Certificate of Lawfulness for existing development comprising of the conversion and extension of an outbuilding to form an ancillary dwelling and an existing garage/workshop and home office. - Keepers Cottage Wicken Road**

No objections

- c) **S/2017/2623/FUL - Proposed 2 Storey, 3 Bedroom House - Land North Of 1 Quarry Green Close**

Council objected to this application. It was felt that this was out of character and would spoil the street scene at the entrance to the village. Other houses here are lower and not so visible as this one would be. There were also safety concerns for those wishing to turn onto Deanshanger Road from Quarry Green Close as it was thought the house could be an obstruction to view.

79/17 To consider and approve response to Northamptonshire County Council 2018/19 budget: Phase 1

Northampton County Council are proposing many changes to their services to save money. Parish Council felt the ones they would like to comment on as they would be missed were:

- 1- The potential loss of the no.90 bus service to Wicken.
- 2- Parish Enhancement Gang
- 3- Road Marking Reduction.

Clerk to respond to Consultation accordingly. **Resolved.**

80/17 To consider and approve recommendations from Solar Farm Committee

1 – last meeting £400 was approved for Wicken News. It was proposed to increase this to £600 for this year and next year. There was a discussion about content vs. advertising. Proposal approved.

2 – A new village website is needed. It was proposed that up to £2000 be used for set up and approximately £100 - £500 per year hosting. Proposal approved

3 – Proposal for updating of street lights. This needs investigation and it was proposed that £12000 be put aside for the project to employ a contractor for advice and for the work to be completed. It was approved that the funds would be reserved but full information is needed before funds are released.

4 – There are plans for new play equipment, the majority of which will be funded by New Homes Bonus fund, but there may be a need for this to be topped up from the Solar Farm fund. Cllr Edmonson to report back with full costings at a later meeting.

5 – Church had requested funds for churchyard maintenance but the committee would prefer capital projects so the church are requesting match funding for new heating at the church. This would be approximately £10k - £12k. This had not been put past the Committee but the Parish Council were keen to approve.

There were other projects that were noted that need more information before any approvals.

81/17 To receive update on Solar Farm screening issue

Resident had commented that planting to screen solar farm from the village is not being maintained and there is concern that as such this will die. Clerk has contacted the owners, but no response. South Northants Council have also been contacted and an enforcement Officer has been allocated to look at this.

82/17 To receive update on Western Power remedial work and discuss any concerns

Councillors commented on good workmanship of contractors, however concern was raised that extra soil has not been taken away (due to the pipes being added) and that the verges are higher, also that grips to the ditch are no longer there, and the ditch is part filled. The concern is that this means that there will be a lot of surface water if heavy rain. Cllr Ivens to take a look and follow up with Western Power if needed.

83/17 To receive update on SNC Local Plan Part 2 and Loan Programme status

Response to Consultation was circulated and agreed. Clerk to respond.

84/17 To receive update on Speed Monitor installation

Speed monitor has been delivered. Posts on order and Licence under way. Cllr Howett to contact Highways regarding installation on existing post.

85/17 To receive Village Hall Finances

Finances received.

86/17 To receive updates on outstanding items and to consider items for next meeting

There have been notices attached to Birch Tree on triangle at Larks Lane / Leckhampsted Road. There is concern this will harm the tree and it was suggested noticeboard could be installed. Council were not keen on the idea. There was also a suggestion of a bench here. This to be considered.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

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