

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

On Wednesday 9th January 2019

at Wicken Sports Club, Wicken at 7.00 pm

1/19 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 recieved
County & District Cllr. Allen Walker - Apologies received
Sally Willis - Clerk
3 members representing Pegasus and Eclipse Power
13 members of the public

2/19 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

To allow representatives from Pegasus to give presentation and then leave it was proposed to move item 7 up the agenda

7/19 To consider Silver Spinney Planning application

Eclipse Power and Pegasus gave presentation on planned works for battery store, which needs to be close to current Western Power substation to keep costs down. Proposal is for site that would be approximately 30mx40m in containers similar to shipping containers which are approximately 8ft high. Additional screening will be planted to hide as much as possible, though on one side this can not be too high due to overhead cables. There will not need to be additional access as access will be through farmers land. The planning application is for 15 years. Plan currently is that this will go back to how it is currently after the 15 years. Security fencing will be similar to what is currently at the substation. Construction time will be 18-20 weeks. Councillors and Members of the public asked questions which were answered. Representatives were thanked for their time.

3 Representatives leave

The application is due to go to SNC soon. The council have some reservations about the colour of the boxes, fences and screening. It was proposed that if the planning application comes through as described this evening then a response would be sent stating that the boxes should be dark green, and that there is some sort of decommissioning insurance to make sure that this does not end up a brown field site at the end of the tenure.

3/19 Public Forum

Members of the public were present to discuss item 5 so it was agreed to allow them to speak at that time.

4/19 Approval of Minutes; To agree the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held at Wicken House, Cross Tree Road on *Monday 29th October* Minutes signed. **Resolved.**

5/19 To consider comments from residents regarding Wicken Woods and approve actions

Members of the public had contacted the council prior to the meeting asking for support in contacting the owner of Wicken Wood. There are paths that people have used for years which have now been blocked off. Whilst these are not official footpaths, they have been used as such for decades.

Chair gave a history of the land and links with the Forestry Commission. The official rights of way are bridleways on 3 sides. After a brief discussion with the owner, it was found that other paths have been blocked for safety issues as there is maintenance work ongoing.

Members of the public stated that there are notices on the new gates stating that this is private woodland, and there is no mention of safety. There is interest in the village, and in Deanshanger to keep the paths accessible to locals. It is well known that this is a habitat for rare butterflies and flowers and people like to go to see these at the appropriate times of year. Members of the public have a letter signed by over 40 people asking that these paths are reopened and wanted to ask the parish council to forward on their behalf to give more weight.

It was also thought that Deanshanger Parish Council were also to discuss the matter

Benefits of the wood being open and people's expectations were discussed.

It was proposed that the parish council would not send the public letter, but would contact the owner directly saying that they are aware of the public feeling and inviting him to meet to discuss the issues.

Resolved

8 members of the public leave

6/19 To consider gritting of village

It was brought to the attention of the parish council that there had been an accident on Deanshanger Road due to black ice. Previously this route was gritted by NCC, but has been removed from this years schedule. Cllr Cartwright had contacted NCC highways to ask if there was any chance of reinstating due to the accident. They have said that they will not reconsider, however a street doctor report can be submitted and it will be considered in September for next winter. Cllr Cartwright offered to do this.

Cllr Ivens said he would speak with the farmer nearby to see if he was happy to store some grit and spread this when needed.

7/19 To consider Silver Spinney Planning application

Discussed earlier, see above.

8/19 To consider publishing of minutes on the village website

Cllr Cartwright was concerned that minutes were not on the website. The Clerk advised that she had checked that morning and that they were. Clerk to advise councillors where to find minutes and to speak to developer to see if we can make them more obvious. Councillors wanted to have minutes of meetings published within a week of meeting. Clerk advised she would try for 10 days.

9/19 To consider ideas for using the rest of New Homes Bonus grant

New Homes Bonus grant, which has been ear marked for Wicken will soon be put into a general pot. Wicken still has £1200. This will still be available after March, and we could apply for more if needed but it is not guaranteed. We had enquired if the taxi service proving transport in lieu of bus to Stony Straford could be funded with this, but SNC are after more capital projects.

The War Memorial needs work, could it be used for this? Cllr Edmondson to check.

Also possibility of using towards new street lights, but would need quotes etc so may miss next round.

10/19 To consider response to planning application N/2018/2867/FUL – single Storey Rear extension, Kendor, Whittlebury Road

There were no objections to this application.

11/19 Finance

a) To receive and approve accounts

Payee	CN	Details	Amount	VAT
Eon	782	Street Lights Electricity	336.31	19.46
Eon	783	Street Lights Maintenance	72.34	12.06
DNH Contracts	784	Bin Emptying	43.20	7.20
Mr N Gordon-Lee	785	Website Domain	131.88	21.98
Deanshanger Primary School	786	Donation to New kitchen	1000.00	0.00
DNH Contracts	787	Bin Emptying	70.74	11.79
SNAST	788	Neighbourhood watch signs	56.00	0.00
J Robson	789	Taxi service	36.00	0.00
S Willis	790	Clerk December	162.02	0.00
S Willis	791	Clerk January	161.82	0.00
HMRC	792	Tax / NI Q3	14.00	0.00
		Total	2084.31	72.49

b) To receive and approve budget to end December

It was questioned if we should stop paying eon lighting maintenance as they are not currently doing any. Clerk to investigate

c) To consider and approve budget and precept for 2019/20

Current years budget was used as a starting point. Some items were increased and others decreased, though, bringing the budget to £7480. It was proposed that the precept is set to £7480.

12/19 To receive update on village hall

Arrears need to be checked as tenant thinks they have paid but we think they still owe 2 months. Cllrs Ivens and Forman met with the tenant. They are looking to honor the lease term but will be happy to jointly advertise when they are ready to move to new premises.

13/19 To receive updates on outstanding items and to consider items for the next meeting

Councillors to meet informally to discuss strategy for street lights and to come up with proposal to put to the village.

Cllr Rixon noted a blocked drain on Church Lane which he will put on Street Doctor.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm

Chairman's Signature

Date

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