

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OF

WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL

On Wednesday 6 July 2022

At 7:30 pm in Wicken Sports Club

50/22 To receive and accept any apologies.

Cllr Neil Gordon-Lee – apologies received
Cllr Alan Cartwright - Chair
Cllr Philip Ivens
Cllr Ian Howett – apologies received
Cllr Viv Kime
Cllr Petra Spencer-Jones
Cllr Verity Robinson
Hazel Dunphy – Temp Clerk
Four members of the public

51/22 Members' Interests

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Wicken PC Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

The only Cllr who is declaring an interest is Cllr Ivens who has an ongoing pecuniary interest in village maintenance, and the solar farm on his land.

52/22 To receive a report from the County Councillor

No County Councillor in attendance. No report.

53/22 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 04 May 2022 were approved for signature by the Chair and were signed at the end of the meeting.

54/22 Items of Standing Information

- Road condition and overhanging trees/bushes
- Solar Farm
- Streetlighting
- Flood risk and river clearance

Chairman's initials

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- Village Hall CIO
- Path Wardens
- Drainage improvement work at Wicken Park Road bridge
- Gigaclear
- Northants Asset Mapping

With regards to the streetlighting, the contract was completed, and the bill paid. The damaged lamppost has been righted and a new inspection door fitted but the light still does not work, EON will be fixing the lantern.

Regarding the insurance claim Royal Mail has responded to the Chairman, and he will follow up with the video evidence on his return.

Cllr Cartwright to chase Eon

55/22 Finance

Spreadsheets were supplied to the Cllrs before the meeting no Cllrs had any concerns or raised any comments

56/22 To discuss current planning issues

The planning application for the improvements to Harriet House raised no objections and as the 6 July was the final day to receive such objections, the matter was closed

57/22 Playground maintenance

The Cllrs involved in sorting out the maintenance agreement had discussions with the manufacturers but as equipment was bought from two different suppliers there was some reluctance to maintain those items not supplied by them. Further discussions are taking place trying to resolve the issue and acquire a workable maintenance contract.

Cllr Ivens offered to help with the removal of the sawn-off metal poles which were considered dangerous provided the offending items were marked with a spray paint.

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Cllr Robinson to identify area

Cllr Ivens to remove

58/22 Village Fete report

The Village Fete was a resounding success, and the Cllr Kime was complemented for her and her team's efforts. It was suggested that the profits from the event will be donated to local charities as recommended by the Committee and Parish Cllrs. Due to the success of the event the organiser offered to run a bigger and even better Fete in 2023 and floated the idea of an Open Gardens and Cream Teas event in Wicken in May next year. Everyone was very positive about this prospect

59/22 Progress on appointment of a new Clerk/RFO

The current Clerk will be stepping down from the Temporary Parish role for family reasons and was unanimously thanked for her work. It was agreed that we should organise a leaflet drop in the Parish to see if we can find someone who would be interested.

Chair to draft leaflet

60/22 Trees

Councillor Ivens reported that Mr Gurney has agreed to corrective action on tree.

61/22 Dog Fouling

It was noted that dog fouling has improved since the issue was brought up and addressed, but there was still need for improvement in stubborn cases.

- An external recommendation for a poop flag was rejected as impractical.
- One Cllr felt that challenging people was effective when the opportunity arose.
- And felt that a positive flyer should be sent to every household noting the reduction in fouling and thanking people for their efforts in addressing this problem but emphasising that more can be achieved!

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This was agreed by all as a good way forward.

-The idea was raised and agreed to put up more "do not foul" signs on the St John's Lane bridleway, Cllr Ivens will speak to Paul Ward to seek his approval.

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62/22 Resident Complaints

-Cllr Gordon-Lee is dealing with the dumping issue on the St John's Lane bridleway.

-The overgrown vegetation at the bridge near Spinney Farm was reported to FixMyStreet who have driven corrective action.

-As Cllr Howett was absent, so an update on car parking at Quarry Green Close will be available at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

63/22 Any other business

It was noted that the superfluous pole at the entrance to the sports club should be removed.

Cllr Cartwright to follow up with Eon

64/22 Notice of future meetings - 2022

July 6

Sept 7

Nov 2

Jan 4, 2023

March 2

65/22 Items for next meeting

None were offered, so the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:51 pm

Chairman's initials

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