

**WIX PARISH COUNCIL**

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Colchester Road

Wix, Manningtree

Essex CO11 2PD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at the Village Hall on Monday 16th January 2017

Attendance: Cllr Guy Nelson (chair), Cllr Gary Bowers (vice-chair), Cllr Mark Townley, Cllr Sue Lusher, Cllr Kerry Mitchell, Cllr Ray Murray.

Mrs Emma Cansdale (clerk)

**AGENDA**

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| 17/001 | **Apologies for Absence**  None |
| 17/002 | **To receive members’ declaration of interests in items on the Agenda**  Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests, and non-pecuniary interests not already declared.  Cllr Murray- non-pecuniary interest item 17/006. Village Hall donation. |
| 17/003 | **Minutes**  The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 21st November 2016 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the chair. |
| 17/004 | **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**  **Tidy day.** This will be held in April, and again in autumn**.**  **Report of a large tank dumped in the ditch on Spinnels lane.** This has been reported to TDC  **Report that the Harwich Rd footway is in poor condition.** This has been raised with ECC and the area is being evaluated for surface dressing.  **Report that there are left over markings on the footway from the resurfacing work.** The clerk will report it to ECC.  **Could the large stones in the play area be relocated to the war memorial triangle?** They are going to be moved this Spring |
| 17/005 | **Clerks Report**  The clerk reported on behalf of Gary Donoghue, Wix Runners. The Wix Runners have kindly donated £300 to Wix PC following the 12th Wix race in October. The 13th race is provisionally planned for 15th October 2017, with a start time of 10.30. There will be a road closure between 10.15-10.35 to ensure a safe start for the runners.    **Road works:** Work on the A120, Wix Bypass is planned for the week 16th-20th January and 23rd-26th January to carry out drain repairs. There will be temporary traffic lights and speed restriction, with the work carried out over-night, 10pm-5am.  Harwich Rd, Wix will be closed for 4 days commencing on 13th February, while National Grid undertakes a new gas connection. Full details can be found on <https://roadworks.org?tm=99100> |
| 17/006 | **Finance** \*\*  *Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in the donation for Wix Village Hall, as a trustee.*  The cheques were approved for payment, including the annual donation to the Village Hall, for £600, and the donation to Wix Parochial Church Council for the church yard maintenance at St Mary’s of £500.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all (excluding Cllr Murray, who did not partake due to an interest.)** |
| 17/007 | **Budget and Precept (appendix 2)\*\***   1. Following a discussion, it was resolved to accept the budget proposals set at the finance meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2017   **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all**   1. Following a discussion, it was resolved to set the 2017/18 precept at £19,817.00   **Proposed: Cllr Townley**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all** |
| 17/008 | **Planning:**   1. The following planning application was received, and recommendation resolved. :   16/01826/FUL | Erection of two bay garage/cart house. | White Hart House Harwich Road Wix Manningtree Essex CO11 2SA  *Recommendation: ‘no objection’*  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Mitchell**  **Agreed by all** |
| 17/009 | **Parish Councillor vacancy**   1. To formally report the resignation of Steve Pilling from Wix Parish Council, and to note that the notice of a casual vacancy has been posted. The clerk reported that the notice will expire on 26th January. 2. Following a discussion, it was resolved to advertise the vacancy on the notice board, the PC website and social media, (once the notice period has expired, subject to an election not being required) with a closing date of 13th February 2017 and assuming there is interest, to co-opt a new councillor at the PC meeting on the 20th February 2017.   **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all** |
|  | **Village amenities**  **Field** |
| 17/010 | **Extending the pathway in the play area to the MUGA**   1. Following a discussion, it was agreed to extend the pathway from the existing one in the playground to the MUGA, using the stones on the village hall overflow car park, 2. with a budget of £200.00   It was agreed to leave the path from the play area entrance to the field gate until the path around the whole field is carried out**.**  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Mitchell**  **Agreed by all** |
| 17/011 | **Removal of large stones in the play area.**  It was resolved to hire the digger and dumper at a cost of £150 p/day inc fuel, to remove the large stones from the play area, and place them on the war memorial triangle.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all** |
|  | **Trees** |
| 17/012 | **Tree Survey**  To note the receipt of the tree survey on the playing field and to discuss key outcomes and actions to be taken.  Following a discussion it was agreed to:   * Carry out the felling and coppicing in house (Cllr Nelson), where possible. * Hire a contractor to do the removal of the higher branches and any other identified work that cannot be completed in house. * Cllr Bowers will begin by removing some of the trees behind the container. * Write to the village hall committee and to advise them of the issue with their ash tree in the NE corner of the village Hall car park behind Wykes House.   **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all**  It was noted that nothing in the report was marked as urgent, and that Cllr Nelson has removed the ivy from the ash tree in the village hall carpark as recommended by the tree survey. |
| 17/013 | **Street lighting**  There was a detailed discussion on how to progress with the street light replacement programme. Cllr Bowers highlighted potential issues with LED lighting, such as the unproven link to blue light syndrome. However, on balance, it was agreed it was more important to get the lights currently not working replaced, with the agreed LEDs.  Before June, a working group should look at documented effects of LED lighting, best practice, local authority recommendations, and potential alternatives such as warm light LEDs, and high pressure sodium bulbs.  It was resolved to replace 5 street lights with LEDs, and to form a working group to investigate further options for the future.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all.** |
| 17/014 | **LHP Requests:**  It was resolved to:   1. Request the repainting of the Dragons Teeth on Harwich Rd 2. Request a traffic calming investigation between the war memorial on Harwich Rd and the primary school on Colchester Road 3. Restoration of the village signs (reapplication)   In addition it was agreed to request   * VAS, Harwich Rd   New speed limit signs on the village gateways  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all**. |
| 17/015 | **First Aid course**  It was agreed to hold the first aid training on Saturday 11th Feb (subject to hall booking and trainer). With a second one in April.  Attendees: Guy Nelson, Jackie Nelson, Sue Lusher, Mark Townley (Cheryl), Emma Cansdale, 2 x PTA, 2x youth club, Steve Pilling (possibly), Steve Pilling’s daughter. |
| 17/016 | **Correspondence**  WPC received a letter asking them to consider employing a litter picker. Following a discussion, it was agreed not to employ a litter picker, but a second litter picking day will be planned this year (spring and autumn)  5 councillors voted not to employ a litter picker, 1 voted to look into employing one.  WPC received a complaint about rubbish blowing all over Harwich Road from Wykes House front garden. The clerk will write to them asking that they ensure their rubbish is secure. |
| 17/017 | **Reports and updates**   * **Highways-** No further reports * **Village Hall-** Cllr Bowers reported that the AGM will be held at the end of January. * **TDALC-** Cllr Mitchell reported that the lack of policing throughout Tendring was the key topic at the last meeting**.** * **Field-** Cllr Nelson reported that the hedge behind the MUGA has been cut back. |
| 17/018 | **Items to be added to next Agenda**  **Power supply for the field (March agenda)**  **Retention of the PC Mower (March agenda)**  . |
| 17/019 | **Items of interest and note.**   * The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20th February 2017 at 7:30 pm   *The following items will be held in a closed session. The public are excluded in accordance with the public bodies admission act 1960, due to information being discussed which is of a commercially sensitive nature.* |
| 17/020 | **Grass cutting**  Following concerns raised after the last meeting’s appointment, WPC resolved to receive quotes from grass cutting contractors, and to appoint a contractor.  Following a detailed discussion it was resolved to appoint D Marvan as the grass cutting and framework contractor.  **Proposed: Cllr Mitchell**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all**  Meeting closed at 8.59 pm |
|  | Members of the public please be advised that, in order for the council to give an effective response, matters they wish to raise must be brought to the notice of the Parish Council at least seven working days before the date of the meeting in writing or by email to the clerk- Thank you. |

Emma Cansdale 11th January 2017 \*Denotes attachment available from the Clerk