



WIX PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Cansdale
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th July 2015

- 16/118 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr Lusher
- 16/119 **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 Mitchell- cheque 16/123 (Expenses)
Cllr Nelson- cheque 16/123 (Expenses)
Cllr Murray- cheques 16/123 (Wix Youth Club, Wix Fayre)
- 16/120 **Minutes**
The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings dated 20th June 2016 and 11th July 2016 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the chair.
- 16/121 **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**
- Steve Wood asked to have the parish council push mower serviced. This was authorised as it had been previously agreed. The clerk recommended Guy Bertrum, on Clacton Road. The strimmer also requires a new head, which has been purchased using clerk's delegated approval, at a cost of £11.15.
 - A resident asked if the light column outside the village hall had another lamp to go on it. This was confirmed. The second lamp was found to be faulty during installation and has been returned.
 - A resident reported that horses are using the Public Right of Way (PRoW)- behind Clacton Road. The clerk will report this to Sarah Potter, ECC PRoW team.
 - A resident requested the vegetation overhanging the footway to left of Swedish Estate be cut back. The clerk will request this work. The clerk also reported that the TDC Rangers will be cutting and siding the footway along Harwich Rd.
 - A resident asked what John Mathews intentions were when he took over care of the pond. The resident would like the pond to be visible again. It was agreed to write to Mr Mathews and ask if he would like a 'Friends of Wix' volunteer group to help maintain the pond. The clerk will also check liability of the parish council.
 - A resident raised the status of the 'footpath' opposite Rose Cottage. The clerk confirmed that this is not a 'made' footway, however she would write to the property behind asking them to remove the overgrown vegetation.
 - A resident reported a drainage and ditch problem on Spinnells lane, to the left of the PMC gates. This has been reported to ECC, who are going to investigate.
 - John Taylor of Granary Barn thanked the Parish Council for their support of his planning application, which has been granted by TDC.
- 16/122 **Clerks Report**
The clerk gave a brief update on the month's actions.
- 16/123 **Finance** ** Cllrs Nelson, Mitchell and Murray declared a pecuniary interest as they has expenses claims on the list. They did not comment or vote

The list of cheques for payment were approved, totalling £2010.67

Proposed: Cllr Bowers
Seconded: Cllr Townley
Agreed

16/124 **Charles Arnold Baker book**
Following a discussion it was agreed to purchase the 10th edition of the Charles Arnold Baker book at a cost of £60.00 + postage
Proposed: Cllr Nelson
Seconded: Cllr Murray
Agreed by all

16/125 **New edition of the Good Councillor Guide**
Following a discussion it was agreed to purchase 6 copies the new edition of the GCG at approx. £3.00 each
Proposed: Cllr Pilling
Seconded: Cllr Bowers
Agree by all

16/126 **Planning:**
a) To receive and make recommendations on the following planning applications:

16/00871/DETAIL

Reserved matters application for approval of landscaping and appearance, for construction of 10 no houses with associated access and parking, including discharge of condition 7 (site levels), 15 (bicycle storage), 16 (onsite parking/loading) and 17 (wheel and underbody cleaning facilities) of planning permission 12/01135/OUT.
Land rear of White Hart Inn, Harwich Road, Wix, Manningtree, Essex, CO11 2SA

Following a discussion and explanation of the application above, it was agreed to submit a 'No Objection' comment to TDC, clearly stating that WPC do not have an objection to this specific application- the reserves matters and discharge of conditions, not necessarily the previously approved outline application for the development.

Proposed: Cllr Pilling
Seconded: Cllr Bowers
Agreed by all

Local Plan.

The clerk reported that she has just received notification that the Local Plan consultation had begun. It was agreed that all councillors would look on the TDC website at the plan, ahead of potentially holding an extraordinary meeting to discuss the plan and agree comments to feed to TDC. Residents were also asked to look at the plan, and make their comments via TDC.

b) Following a discussion it was agreed to ask the RCCE to a future Parish Council meeting to give a presentation of Neighbourhood Planning.

Proposed: Cllr Pilling
Seconded: Cllr Bowers
Agreed by all

Documents

16/127 **Councillor Portfolio's and responsibilities**
Following a discussion, councillors' portfolios and responsibilities were agreed. ** see separate document
Proposed: Cllr Nelson

Seconded: Cllr Murray
Agreed by all

Dynamic fireworks training- it was agreed to send Adam Mitchell and Cllr Murray on the firework training (subject to availability)

Village amenities

16/128 **Flooding and Drainage throughout the Village**

a) A discussion took place regarding the recent flooding in the village and the impact on residents, businesses, services, the school and pre-school. The clerk requested that anyone affected by the flooding fill in an individual impact form, available on the Wix parish council website, or from the clerk, and return to her. The clerk will feed the information to the TDC Emergency Planning Team.

b) A discussion took place on how encourage adequate maintenance of ditches throughout the village. It was agreed to ask if the ECC Flood and Water Management Team would attend a meeting. It was also agreed to place an article in the next parish magazine explaining riparian ownership and responsibilities.

16/129 **Field Drainage**

To receive an update on the field drainage

This item was deferred until September when Cllr Bowers will have completed some further exploratory work.

16/130 **Play area**

a) The clerk reported that WPC have received formal notification from TDC's Big Society fund, that they have been awarded the remaining £11,100 for the new play area. Work on the new play area is due to commence on 19th September (subject to weather conditions)

b) The clerk reported that the Play Area inspection report 2016 had been received. The Play Area portfolio holders are to investigate the findings further and make recommendations at the September meeting (unless urgent work is required and falls under clerks delegated power)

c) Play area cleaning. Following a discussion, it was agreed to look at the inspection report and carry out a site visit prior to arranging any cleaning.

16/131 **Mower/ grass cutting**

a) At the June meeting it was agreed to repair the mower and take the next decision at the July meeting.

Cllr Bowers reported the mower is now fully functioning as it should be. However, it has some issues that may be costly in the future. The main issue was a hydraulic problem, which has now been fixed by filling it with the hydraulic oil as it was well below the minimum limit. Cllr Bower's felt that now is the best time to put it up for sale, and that any problems that still exist are age related.

Following a discussion Cllr Bowers agreed he would be happy to list all known faults in a report and would be happy to advertise as functioning very well, if it was agreed to sell it.

- To return the mower to a fully functioning state and continue to use.
- To return the mower to a fully functioning state and sell. To leave the mower in its current state and sell.
- To 'exchange' the larger mower for a smaller one (ie 3 gang)
- If the decision is to maintain a parish owned mower, to seek additional volunteers to cut the grass.

Cllr Bowers proposed Wix PC sell the mower, and hire a contractor to carry out the grass cutting.

Proposed: Cllr Bowers
Seconded: Cllr Mitchell
5 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Nelson).
Carried

The clerk will speak to the chair and vice-chair about arrangements for the sale.

b) Following a discussion it was agreed that WPC are responsible for maintaining the strip of grass between the new play area and Mr Mallet's fence. Mr Mallet has particular concerns regarding the area immediately against his fence. This whole section will be included in the new grass cutting contract.

- 16/132 **Trees**
- a) The clerk reported that the poplars near the power lines have been reported to UKPN. Cllr Nelson reported he had spoken to Clive Dawson, TDC Tree and Landscape officer, who stated that if the poplars are of any threat to the powerlines, UKPN will deal with it.
 - b) Following a heated discussion regarding the removal of the horse chestnut near the beacon, it was agreed to remove it.
 - c) Cllr Nelson reported that Clive Dawson strongly recommends against the removal of a healthy tree such as this and felt it better to move the beacon. Concerns were raised by councillors as to how to move the beacon, and how costly it would be.
- Cllr Nelson suggested the beacon was relocated instead of the tree being felled, but this gathered no support.
- Cllr Murray proposed WPC take the tree down.
- Proposed: Cllr Murray**
Seconded: Cllr Pilling
4 voted in favour, 1 voted against, 1 abstained.
Carried.
- It was agreed to remove the tree in house.
- 16/133 **Phone Box/ Book Exchange**
- Cllr Nelson received a request from a resident to tidy the book exchange up, and proposed WPC paint the outside. Following a discussion, this was agreed, and was also agreed to hire a contractor to do the work and to also paint the container at the same time and to investigate replacing the 'Telephone Box' strip at the top, with 'Book Exchange'
- It was agreed to put the colour out to vote by the village via Survey Monkey. The colour options are:
- Red
 - Black
 - Royal Blue
 - BR Green
- Proposed: Cllr Nelson**
Seconded: Cllr Pilling
Agreed by all.
- The clerk to seek quotes, Cllr Mitchell to set up the online survey.
- 16/134 **October meeting**
- It was agreed to move the October meeting from 17th to 24th and to bring the next meeting forward to the 12th September
- 16/135 **Broadband**
- Following her attendance at the Essex Superfast Broadband Parish Event, Cllr Mitchell reported that phase 1 of the Essex Superfast Rollout had been completed and they were about to embark on phase 2 which will cover about 75% of Wix. Phase 3 will cover the remainder. Cllr Mitchell will place a full report on the Wix Parish Council website.
- 16/137 **Correspondence**
- None received.
- 16/138 **Playground:**
- Signing of playground log book
- 16/139 **Reports and updates**
- **Highways-** The Clerk reported that the footway resurfacing work has begun on Swedish estate and that the Colchester Road footway repairs would begin w/c 25th July, once the school have finished for the summer.
 - **Village Hall-** Cllr Bowers- nothing to report.

- **Playground Light-** Cllr Murray reported that one of the new lights were not working and had been returned to the supplier.
- **TDALC-** Cllr Mitchell reported the meeting is next week
- **Report on discussion with the clerk-** Cllr Lusher was not present to give her report.

16/140 **Items to be added to next Agenda**

LED lighting- type and size of lights.

16/141 **Items of interest and note.**

- The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 12th September 2016 at 7:30 pm
- Councillors Nelson, Lusher and the Clerk will be attending the Electoral Review briefing in July

16/0142 *The meeting is closed to the public in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission Act 1960*

Grass cutting quotes.

To receive quotes for grass cutting and agree to appoint a contractor for 2016/17

Only one quote has been received so far, so this will be deferred until September when three quotes have been sourced.

Tree work quotes.

- a) To receive quotes for the removal of the tall willow, and to appoint a contractor.

Cllr Nelson reported that Clive Dawson inspected the willow and advised it is probably lightning damage which has killed part of the tree just under the bark. This is why the bark is splitting off. He reported that it sounds healthy and advised drilling to see the condition of the wood inside. Cllr Nelson drilled and found sound wood for 7". It was agreed to pass it on to UKPN to see if they have any concerns as it is near the powerline. If WPC chose to remove the tree at a later date, estimates received so far are £1100 and £910.

- b) To receive quotes for work on the horse chestnut, and to appoint a contractor (subject to item 16/132 b))
It was agreed that Cllr Nelson and Bob Jemmett will fell the tree free for the Parish Council free of charge.

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 22nd July 2016

*Denotes attachment available from the Clerk