

**WIX PARISH COUNCIL**

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Wix, Manningtree

Essex CO11 2PD

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 24th October at 7.30 pm

Emmajane Cansdale

Clerk to Wix Parish Council

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| 16/168 | **Apologies for Absence**  **Cllr Townley** |
| 16/169 | **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 16/172 pecuniary interest. Expenses claim  Cllr Lusher 16/172 pecuniary interest. Expenses claim |
| 16/170 | **Minutes**  The minutes of the Parish Council meetings dated 19th September 2016 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the chair, Cllr Nelson. |
| 16/171 | **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**   * **A resdident commented that they prefer the original street lights, rather then the LED’s.** * **The clerk was requested to send the relevant piece of legislation in the Pubic Bodies Admission Act that allows aclosed meeting, to Mr Williams.** * **A resident who had asked the RBL for the use of their car park on bonfire night to sell hot food, expressed that he had inteded to give Wix and Wrabness Primary School a £100.00 donation. However, the car park cannot be used as the RBL is in use.** |
| 16/172 | **Clerks Report**  The clerk reported that she had been working on the Get Ready for Winter event, the new play area, fireworks preparations, obtaining quotes, liasing with the police regarding Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch, in addition to the general day to day of the council business, correspondence and finance. |
| 16/172 | **Finance** \*\*  The list of payments were received and approved.  Total payments:  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/173 | **Parish Council precept capping**. DCLG  The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published the [Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation) which includes proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils.  The term referendum principles refers to the requirement to hold a local referendum if the proposed council tax increase exceeds a set threshold; the consultation is considering setting the threshold at which the referendum principles would take effect for a rise in precept of 2% or £5 per year, whichever is higher, as currently applied to principal councils.  There are two important parts of the consultation affecting local councils:   * firstly, the government is minded to extend referendum principles to a number of larger, higher spending local councils; * secondly the paper states the government is aware that increases in precepts continue to concern local tax payers and is therefore prepared to consider extending referendums to ALL parishes.   At the Annual General Meeting of the EALC the meeting **unanimously voted against** the principle of capping the precept of Parish Sector Councils.  Following a discussion, there was consensus that capping smaller parish council precepts to a 2%/ £5.00 rise would make capital projects, increasing revenue costs and increased service provision (services taken on from District/Borough and County Council) incredibly difficult. The cost of a referendum would be prohibitive. However, there was also some general agreement that there should be some form of regulations on precepting, particularly year on year increases. It was also highlighted that if parish councils are capped to 2% or £5.00, most would likely increase by 2% every year.  It was proposed to support the EALC’s object to extending capping to all parish councils at all levels. Whilst there is no objection to capping larger councils, smaller councils would struggle to operate effectively. It was agreed to respond to this effect directly to the consultation.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Murray**  **5 in favour, 1 abstention**  **Carried** |
| 16/174 | **Planning:**  No applications received.  To note the clerk received notification that the TDC planning committee would be attending site on Tuesday 1st November 2016, to look the Land at the rear of the White Hart. The Planning Committee meeting will be held in the evening in the Council Chamber. |
| 16/175 | **Grant fund application**  Wix PC have received a request from Wix and Wrabness Preschool, for grant funding towards an interactive whiteboard.  The complete application has not yet been received, so this item will be deferred until the November meeting. |
|  | **Village amenities**  **Field** |
| 16/176 | **Mounds of earth and spoil.**  Following a discussion is was agreed to remove as much of the excess soil as possible. Concerns were raised over the weight restrictions on the car park, which would mean a large grab lorry would not be able to access the field to remove the mounds. It was proposed that the WPC hire a digger and dumper and moves the soil to the area in front of the village hall where the play area spoil is. A grab lorry can then remove it from there. The area will also need to be turfed or reseeded afterwards.  Proposal to hire a digger and dumper and grab lorry to remove contaminated soil and play area spoil.  **Proposed: Cllr Mitchell**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/177 | **Pitch Drainage.**  Cllrs Bowers reported that following meeting with the contractors, they confirmed that top layer compaction prevents the water from draining away effectively. There are three options for drainage improvement:   * Full drainage- £3,000-£15,000. * Secondary drainage- £5000-7000 * Deep spike the land, sand it, and vibrate. £2000.00 + sand cost.   Bradfield PC recently had their field spiked. The clerk will contact them and ask for their opinion on the results following the spiking.  It was proposed to defer to November and the clerk will reinvestigate grant funding.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/178 | **50ft strip hedge**.  To agree to have the 50ft strip hedge cut back.  Following a discussion, it was agreed to ask Tim Munson to flail the hedge and the mound behind Field House. Councillor Nelson commented that the hedge is an invaluable habitat for wildlife and for that reason it should not be reduced to the suggested 4 foot.  It was also agreed to ask Alan Davidson if he has a preference regarding the hedge height, otherwise it will be flailed at 8-10 feet.  Cllr Nelson agreed to cut behind the MUGA by hand.  **Proposed: Cllr Murray**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all** |
|  | **Trees** |
| 16/179 | **Tree survey**. To discuss options for a full tree survey on the trees within the playing field/area  a) A **Hazard Tree Survey** which will involve all trees being visually inspected from ground level and a report and plan produced detailing only those trees requiring remedial works. £380 + VAT  b) A **Tree Inventory** which will also involve all trees being visually inspected from ground level but will provide detail, management recommendations and plot on a plan all trees within your ownership. There is also an option to have the trees marked with a unique reference number (tag) to aid cross reference with the report/plan and identification on site. £560 + VAT (with the option to tag trees an extra £60).  Following a discussion it was agreed to request Hallwood Associates to carry out the Tree Inventory (option 2), and tag the trees.  **Proposal: Cllr Pilling**  **Seconder: Cllr Mitchell**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/180 | **Horse Chestnut**  To note the horse chestnut next to the beacon has been felled. |
| 16/181 | **Storage shed**   1. To fully discuss the options forthe shed with protected electrical distribution box for field users including:  * Building type, brick, metal, container, wood. * Building uses * Proposed dimensions * Location  1. To agree the next steps   It was agreed to defer this item until November. |
| 16/182 | **Allotments**  To receive an update on the allotments  It was agreed to defer this item until November |
| 16/183 | **Fireworks**   1. To discuss, note, agree and assign councillors/volunteers to the following actions: 2. Moving the fireworks to the storage location: **Completed** 3. Preparing the fireworks for the night – waterproofing and fixing to stands. **Cllr Nelson and Cllr Lusher to action.** 4. First aider- **TBC** 5. Car parking- **Joe will carry out the car parking** 6. The gate –.**Cllr Lusher, Sue Pilling, and a friend of Cllr Pilling. To borrow a gazebo from Wix Fayre.** 7. Clearing up afterwards – we need a vehicle with a tow bar and trailer – after the event that evening. **Tony will do this provided he can change a prior arrangement. Alternatively volunteers will be needed.** 8. Merchandise. **Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Pilling** 9. PA- **The clerk has arranged use of the school PA system. Cllr Murray to act as compere**. 10. Marshalls- **Emma Cansdale** 11. Inform insurers, police and fire brigade etc. **Completed.** 12. Setting up on the day – building the bonfire, the pay desk / tent, lighting and setting out the fireworks; **volunteers needed for all activities**. 13. The expenditure of £39.95 for banners was approved.   **Agreed under item 16/172**  **The clerk used delegated power to approved a £100 budget for banner frames.**  **The clerk will write to the VHC to request permission to place the banner on the grass.** |
| 16/184 | **First Aid Course**   1. Proposal: Wix PC host a first aid course for Wix residents. This could be open to anyone living or if numbers allow also working in Wix. Applicable for PC, Fayre, fireworks, preschool, golden years, wood yard, village hall, bowls club etc.   Following a discussion, it was agreed to host a first aid course for the village. Three providers and costs will be discussed in the closed session, and a provider appointed.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Murray**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/185 | **War Memorial**  The expenditure of £53.54 for the war memorial display was approved  **Agreed under item 16/172** |
| 16/186 | **Village sign/ new Play Area**  Following a discussion, it was agreed to hold a joint opening ceremony for the village sign and new play area. Representatives from the various funding sources would be invited, along with the preschool. A budget of £50 was approved for refreshments for the event.  **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all** |
| 16/187 | **Correspondence**   1. To note a letter of complaint regarding the removal of the horse chestnut and to agree a response.   Following a discussion, it was agreed to respond with the following points:   * Those members of the public in attendance preferred the removal of the tree. * The council did not want to remove the tree, however the council decided the cost and logistics of moving the beacon outweighed the removal of the tree. * It was not a unanimous decision, however, there was a majority.  1. The council have received the £500 from Wix Fayre 2015 for the playground. 2. There are several road closures around the district (although none in Wix). Further details will be posted on the website**.** |
| 16/188 | **Playground:**  Signing of playground log book.  It was agreed that Cllr Sue Lusher would attend the Play Ground Inspection course, run by the EALC.  The large stones in the play area will be moved when we have use off the digger and dumper.  Cllr Lusher will repaint the toddler swing red. |
| 16/189 | **Reports and updates**   * **Highways- The clerk reported that the remaining section of Colcheter Rd footway is due to be slurry sealed. The clerk will also investigate the possibility of Harwich Rd footway being slurry sealed or otherwise repaired.** * **Village Hall- Cllr Bowers reported that the VHMC would like to know when the stones will be removed.** * **Playground Light- Cllr Murray. Cambridge lighting have agreed to replace the light at their cost.** * **TDALC- Cllr Mitchell. Item of note- changes in local recycling centres. Details available on the website** * **Get Ready for Winter Event** |
| 16/190 | **Items to be added to next Agenda**  **MUGA security**  **Trees**  **New pathways on the field and play area using stones.**  **New playground fence- continued up to the MUGA on the village hall side.**  **Trees in the bottom corner, by MUGA**  **Tree survey**  **Signs on the field gate.**  **Village sign paint – reimbursement of expenses**  **Adult gym equipment - grants**  . |
| 16/191 | **Items of interest and note.**   * The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 21st November 2016 at 7:30 pm * Get Ready for Winter Event is on Thursday 27th October, 10am-4pm at Wix Village Hall.   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. |
| 16/192 | **Grass cutting**  To receive a quotes from grass cutting contractors, and to appoint a contractor  Three quotes were received, but the item was deferred as other parties also wanted to quote. |
| 16/193 | **Painting**  To receive quotes from painters for the work on the telephone box and container, and to appoint a contractor.  BobJemmett and Cllr Nelson will paint the container. Awaiting quotations for painting the phone box. |
| 16/194 | **Earth Removal**  Subject to item 16/176, to receive quotes for the removal of the various earth mounds and spoil from the village field, and to appoint a contractor. Cllr Bowers will obtain grab lorry quotes. Digger and Dumper hire is £50 each for the day. |
| 16/195 | **First aid.**  Subject to item 16/184, to receive quotes from providers, and to agree training.  Following the receipt of quotations from The British Red Cross, St John’s Ambulance, Frinton School of First Aid and Richard Gowers, it was agreed to appoint Richard Gowers as the provider, at a cost of £150 for 12 delegates, plus hall hire. Attendance on the course and passing of the exam will qualify attendees in Emergency First Aid at Work Training, which is valid for 3 years.  It was agreed to open the training to voluntary organisations within the village initially, and provide more than 1 session if there is enough interest.  **Proposed: Cllr Murray**  **Seconded: Cllr Lusher**  **Agreed by all** |
|  | 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 1st November 2016 \*Denotes attachment available from the Clerk