

**WIX PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Emma Cansdale Tel: 01255 871483

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Colchester Road

Wix, Manningtree

Essex CO11 2PD

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th February 2017

Clerk- Emmajane Cansdale

Cllr Guy Nelson (Chairman), Cllr Gary Bowers (vice-chair), Cllr Sue Lusher, Cllr Mark Townley, Cllr Kerry Mitchell.

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| 17/021 | **Apologies for Absence**  Cllr Ray Murray- personal |
| 17/022 | **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.  None |
| 17/023 | **Minutes**  The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings dated 16th January 2017 were agreed and duly signed by the chair, Cllr Guy Nelson. |
| 17/024 | **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.**  None |
| 17/025 | **Clerks Report**  The clerk reported that in addition to the general running of the council business, she has completed the following: Submitted the LHP requests, spoken to residents regarding loose litter, resumed work on the emergency plan. She has also attended a LCPAS training course, and a flooding and environmental forum. |
| 17/026 | **Parish Councillor vacancy and co-option.**  Two applications for the parish councillor vacancy were received, Mr Bob Jemmett and Mrs Wendy Brown. Mr Jemmett was in attendance, Mrs Brown was unable to attend. Cllr Nelson read the applications from the two applicants  Councillors discussed the two candidates, and what they could bring to the parish council. It was noted that Mr Jemmett regularly helps WPC and is a valued member of the fireworks committee. WPC were very pleased that two excellent candidates had come forward, and hoped whoever was not successful at this co-option, would still be happy to be involved with parish council activities.  After the discussion, Cllr Bowers proposed Mrs Wendy Brown be co-opted onto Wix Parish Council.  A majority vote (3 to 2) secured Mrs Brown the position.  It was resolved to co-opt Wendy Brown onto the council. She was not present, so the clerk will deliver and arrange for the formal documents to be completed. |
| 17/027 | **Finance** \*\*  The cheques for payment were received and agreed, to a total of £2455.20\*  **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all** |
| 17/028 | **Planning:**   1. The following planning application was received:   16/01817/FUL | Dropped kerb. | 3 Minters Cottages Harwich Road Wix Manningtree Essex CO11 2RY  Following a discussion, it was resolved to submit a ‘no objection’ recommendation.  **Proposed: Cllr Townley**  **Seconded: Cllr Nelson**  **Agreed by all.** |
| 17/029 | **Training and subscription to the Local Council Public Advisory Service (LCPAS)**   1. To resolve to join LCPAS for an annual subscription of £100   Following a discussion, it was resolved to join the LCPAS.  **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconded: Cllr Mitchell**  **Agreed by all**  The clerk will try and obtain a discount if Dedham PC also join.     1. To resolve to hold an in-house training course, led by LCPAS   Following a discussion, it was agreed to hold in-house training provided by LCPAS.  **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all.**  The clerk will arrange for the 2nd or 4th Monday of the month, in the next few months. |
|  | **Village amenities**  **Field** |
| 17/030 | **Proposed Orchard**  To revisit the idea of planting a community orchard on the playing field, followed renewed public interest. (last discussed June 2015), and resolve to formulate a plan going forward.  Following a discussion which covered potential areas for an orchard a\*, limitations of using the field, in particular using potential sport area, and demand from the village, the following actions were agreed:   * The mound and other areas are cleared first. * Real demand from the village needs to be established. * Volunteers to help plant and maintain the orchard need to be identified.   It was resolved to clear the mound areas on the field, with a budget of £250 for on-site removal; identify the need and willing volunteers, and if the above is achieved, to apply to TDC for grant funding in September (if still available), and to approach other granting bodies for funds. Quotes for off-site removal will be brought back to the March meeting.    a\* Areas: 50ft strip, mound area, VH overflow car park, allotments, VH area in front of play area.  .  **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconder: Cllr Bowers**  **Agreed by all.**  Cllr Bowers will approach Wix Village Hall Committee regarding using their piece of land to temporarily unload spoil, and regarding the planting sites. |
| 17/031 | **Play area inspection**  It was resolved to request TDC appoint The Play Inspection Company to carry out the annual play area inspection, on behalf of WPC, at a cost of £42.00  **Proposed: Cllr Lusher**  **Seconded: Cllr Townley**  **Agreed by all**. |
|  | The play area working group will review the previous report ahead of the next inspection, in April/May.  **Trees** |
| 17/032 | **Tree survey**   1. Following the tree report, Cllr Nelson has marked the trees with the appropriate action. None of the work was considered high priority in the report, and all can be done in house. 2. It was resolved to begin tree clearance where necessary   **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers**   1. It was resolved to replant the oaks.   **Proposed: Cllr Nelson**  **Seconded: Cllr Bowers** |
| 17/033 | **Grass cutting contract**  The existing terms for the grass cutting were agreed, and Cllrs Lusher and Townley were appointed as councillor representatives (The clerk will manage the contract on a day to day basis). The clerk and Cllr Lusher will meet with the contractor on 21st February. |
| 17/034 | **Training programme**  It was resolved to develop a training programme for Councillors**.** All councillors were given the EALC training programme and asked to consider what training they would like. |
| 17/035 | **First Aid course**  The revised date for the first aid course was confirmed as 1st April. Attendees are asked to confirm their place by 24th March 2017 |
| 17/036 | **Correspondence**.   * Superfast Broadband. Cllr Mitchell reported receipt of a letter (attached) from Essex Superfast Broadband programme concerning a consultation process for residents in some postcodes in Wix who were not included in the Essex rollout, but maybe eligible to County broadband. ECC are unsure about this and request these residents contact County Broadband to confirm this. It was agreed to draft a letter to the properties highlighted in the correspondence from Essex. * WPC were copied in to a letter of complaint regarding the Bradfield road closure. The clerk will follow up with ECC. Councillors also raised concerns about Bradfield Rd, Harwich Rd and Colchester Rd, Stones Green all being closed at the same time. * The Police and Crime Commissioner has issued a public consultation on potential changes in the way Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, which is available at [www.essex.pcc.police.uk/localcaseforchange](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/localcaseforchange) and closes on Wednesday 10th May * A resident complained about the ditch at the back of the field. The property owners have responsibility for these. The clerk will obtain details on riparian responsibilities.   . |
| 17/037 | **Reports and updates**   * **Highways-**  Cllr Bowers reported that BT have raised their covers on Colchester Road but have done so with loose fill**.** * **Village Hall-** Cllr Bowers reported that VHC voted to not allow the football team to use the village hall as a changing room next year. * Cllr Nelson commented that in July last year, the VHC were going to carry out flood remediation on the overflow car park, to prevent neighbouring properties from flooding**.** Cllr Bowers reported that this is still in hand. * **TDALC-** Cllr Mitchell reported that the Primary topic was planning and the difficulties facing Tendring; and Walk in centers consultation [www.neessexccg.nhs.uk](http://www.neessexccg.nhs.uk) |
| 17/038 | **Items to be added to next Agenda**  Power supply for the field (March agenda)  Retention/disposal of the PC Mower (March agenda**)**  Village Sign post at the Village Hall entrance leaning.  Flailing of the hedge between the- 50ft strip and Mr. Davidson’s land. This work has already been approved. |
| 17/039 | **Items of interest and note.**   * The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20th March 2017 at 7:30 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 24th February 2017 \*Denotes attachment available from the Clerk