



WIX PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st March at 7.30 pm

Attendance: Cllrs Guy Nelson (chairman), Gary Bowers (Vice-chairman), Sue Lusher, Mark Townley, Kerry Mitchell, Ray Murray, Steve Pilling.

16/030 **Apologies for Absence**

None

16/040 **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 Mark Townley declared a pecuniary interest in item 16/045, application number 15/0172/FUL, relating to his spouse's employment.

Cllr Lusher and Cllr Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 16/045, application number 16/00336/OUT, relating to the location of the site and their properties.

16/041 **Minutes**

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting dated 22nd February 2016 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the chair.

16/042 **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**

Residents raised the following issues:

- Dates of meetings are not always correct on the agenda.
- Hedge as Holly Lodge has still not been cut back. *ECC have said they will cut it back.*
- There is too much expenditure on the village field and not on the rest of the village, such as the pond. *The village field is an asset of the Parish Council, and the PC have limited powers to carry out other works on private or highway land. The pond is now in ownership of an individual (although still open for public enjoyment). The individual has requested that the Parish Council no longer maintain the pond and surrounding grass area. The clerk will write to the owner to establish when the fence will be repaired and the area maintained.*
- Vehicles are causing ruts in the 'war memorial triangle'. Clerk will write to ECC Highways and request some form of bollard.
- Street lights out. *In the LED rolling replacement programme.*
- Yellow tags hanging from power cables. *Not sure what these are. Some work has been carried out on the power lines.*
- Parking issues on Colchester Rd outside Anglian Timber and opposite Wheelwrights, and at the cross roads were raised again. *There is little that can be done about the parking on Colchester road (a number of which are residents), however the parking at the cross roads will be addresses through the parking restriction consultation. Additionally, the clerk will write to the owner of the Landover and ask them to park more considerately.*

16/043 Clerks Report- The clerk thanked the volunteers that attended the litter pick day, advised the council of her attendance at the TDC run Community Resilience Forum, and of the submission of her CiLCA portfolio.

16/044 **Finance** (appendix 1)**
a) The finance update was received and the cheques for payment approved.

**Proposed: Cllr Pilling
Seconded: Cllr Nelson
Agreed by all.**

16/045 **Planning:**
a) The following planning applications were received and the recommendations for submission to TDC are shown below

15/01721/FUL Mr Nigel Hargreaves AMENDED PLANS	Continued use of land and buildings for parcel courier business (Class B8) and agricultural use.	Green Farm Oakley Road Wix
16/00336/OUT Mr K Hall	3 x 2/3 bedroom detached dwellings.	Land adjacent Clay Cottage Harwich Road Wix

15/01721/FUL- It was resolved to submit a 'Comment', stating this application would bring employment to the village.

**Proposed: Cllr Nelson
Seconded: Cllr Pilling
5 in favour, 1 abstained (1 no vote due to interest)
Carried**

16/00336/OUT- The following comments were received from residents and councillors.

- A good idea- tidy the area up.
- Concerns around the drainage. There is a ditch running through the site, which feeds the village pond.
- Concerns regarding drainage. There is an existing surface water drainage issue at the site; the development could potentially make it worse.
- Concerns over the siting of the application notice; It was placed on the opposite side of the road.

Following a discussion, it was resolved to submit a 'Comment' stating Wix PC has no objection to the development, however, concerns regarding the drainage must be addressed. There is a ditch that runs through the site that feeds the village pond, there is an existing surface water issue, and it is the lowest point in the village.

**Proposed: Cllr Nelson
Seconded: Cllr Townley
4 in favour, 1 abstained (2 no vote due to interest.)
Carried**

b) Rural Planning Review briefing paper.

Following a discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council are not a body with the relevant insight or experience to feed into this review. However, it was highlighted that a number of rural businesses in the village fit the criteria. The clerk will forward the documents on to the relevant businesses. They can decide whether to complete the survey or not. The Parish Council will make no further comment.

- 16/046 **The Queens 90th Birthday celebrations**
a) It was resolved to hold a tea party on the field (or in the hall in inclement weather), with tea and cakes on 18th June.
Proposed: Cllr Mitchell
Seconded: Cllr Lusher
Agreed by all

- b) It was resolved to set a budget of £500 for the event.
Proposed: Cllr Nelson
Seconded: Cllr Bowers
Agreed by all

16/047 **Field**

- a) **Tree and Field survey-** Cllr Nelson gave a report on the 'walk around' he and Cllr Bowers undertook. The following items were agreed as the next tasks to be completed:
- Take out the willows
 - Flail hedge in the autumn or layer the hedge which will lower the height and thicken it up, instead of flailing.
 - Trees in SW corner need thinning- transplant to another area where they can thrive.
 - Trees blocking out light at Elizabeth Rankins- to be 'removed'
 - Clear ditch.
 - Mound- spread out the mound to reduce size.
 - Professional inspection on the big willow.

The Clerk will request quotes for the tree inspection. The churchyard trees also require an inspection, so quotes for both areas will be sought at the same time.

The working party will endeavour to complete the works detailed above, by October. Any work not complete by the deadline will be brought back to the Parish Council. Consideration will be made as to whether professional services should be employed to complete the remainder of the work.

- b) **Mower service-** It was resolved to ask Tuckwells to service the mower. Cllr Lusher will action, keeping the clerk informed.
Proposed: Cllr Murray
Seconded: Cllr Pilling
Agreed by all
- c) **MUGA lighting-** The clerk reported 2 quotes have been received for the work. To appoint an electrician and get the lighting fixed.
- d) **Field condition-** Cllr Bowers reported that he will be meeting a specialist later in the week. The clerk will continue to look for funding for the project.

16/048 **Street lighting**

a) **Street light adoption- Glebe Close**

Following a discussion, it was agreed to consult with the residents of Glebe Close and Daleview Avenue to establish whether or not they want the street lights back on after midnight. If there is a positive response WPC will look to potentially adopt the lights next financial year once budgetary provision has been made.

b) **LED shades.**

There are special shields available for these LED lights, that fit in the small cut outs where the LED panels sit. These cost £95.00 per light fitting.

It was resolved to fit the shades where appropriate (when directly requested by a resident who has a light immediately outside their property)

16/049 **New Play area update**

To note that unfortunately Wix PC did not receive the £11000 grant from Veolia Environmental Trust. It was agreed to look at the play area plan again to possibly reconsider certain aspects, to explore other options for funding the shortfall, and to bring it

back to the next meeting with a substantive item for full discussion and agreement on a way forward.

16/050 **Update on LHP applications (and CSW)**

- VAS signs
- Speed reduction
- Village signs
- Community Speed Watch training

The clerk reported that the VAS sign, speed reduction and village signs were going through the LHP process (District Cllr, County Cllr, ECC) and would report back when there as any news.

Unfortunately, as part of the current police 'restructure', the Community Speed Watch team has been temporarily disbanded. Once the restructure is complete new officers will be assigned the CSW portfolio and will be in touch to arrange training.

16/051 **Annual Meeting**

It was resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on the 11th April in the large hall, with a discussion topic of priorities for the future years for the village, and how residents would like to see the £28,000 community fund (from Green Farm Solar Farm) spent.

Proposed: Cllr Townley

Seconded: Cllr Pilling

Agreed by all.

16/052 **Parking restrictions**

It was resolved to explore requesting an extension to the waiting restrictions at Wix Cross Road and to undertake a consultation. Clerk to circulate details from ECC

Proposed: Cllr Pilling

Seconded: Cllr Mitchell

Agreed by all

16/054 **Training date**

It was agreed to request the 13th June as the date for the EALC New Councillor training short course

16/055 **Correspondence**

WPC has been asked for their thoughts on an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera (ANPR) which is proposed for a location to the West of Harwich, designed to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality at a local, force, regional and national level, including tackling travelling criminals, Organised Crime Groups and terrorists.

Wix PC gave this its full backing.

16/056 **Playground:**

Cllr Murray relinquished his responsibility of 'playground inspector'. The role will now be carried out between Cllr Nelson and the Clerk.

16/057 **Reports and updates**

- **Highways-** Nothing to report
- **Village Hall-** Nothing to report
- **Playground Light-** To request the work is carried out at the same time as the MUGA electrical repair work.
- **CALC-** Nothing to report
- **Dog Fouling-** The clerk is meeting with TDC Dog Wardens to agree sites for the new signs.
- **Harwich Rd Hedge-** To be carried out by ECC

16/058 **Items to be added to next Agenda**

- **Parking restriction**
- **New play area**
- **Field Drainage**

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18th April 2016 at 7:30 pm

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the large hall on Monday 11th April from 7.30. This is the public's opportunity to feed back their views to the Parish Council and suggest ideas for the village. Refreshments will be served.

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.