



WIX PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom on Monday 24th August 2020 at 7.30 pm

Attendance: Cllr Guy Nelson (Chair), Cllr Gary Bowers (Vice-chair), Cllr Kerry Mitchell, Cllr Ray Murray, Cllr Barry Moir
Members of the public: Robin Rowley and Ann Button

20/085 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Bob Jemmett, Cllr Bob Stephens,

20/086 **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 Nelson – expenses for the VJ Day commemorative wreath

20/087 **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 27th July 2020 were accepted as a correct record.

20/088 **Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest**

None

20/089 **Clerks Report**

Gym Equipment- It was agreed to ask Playquip to start mid-November. On behalf of the VHMC, Cllr Murray reported that the solicitors have quoted £800 to draw up a legal agreement between PC and VHMC for use of the land. It was agreed to seek an alternative quote. **Action: Clerk**
MUGA signage (play area report) The 400x400mm aluminium sign will be ordered and erected next week.

Finance

20/090 **Payments**

- a) To receive monthly finance update and approve payments **(appx 1)
Expenses: Guy Nelson- £36.00
Proposed: Cllr Bowers
Seconded: Cllr Moir
Agreed by all except Cllr Nelson (not allowed to vote)

20/091 **Planning:**

- a) To receive and make recommendations on the following planning applications:
20/00970/FUL Retention of bio-mass boiler.
Recommendation: No comment

Present: Robin Rowley, Ann Button

To discuss the response from Wix PCC regarding the future of St Mary's Churchyard and in particular to consider:

- a) Wix PC's view on the proposed way forward and how the area might evolve.
- b) Wix PC's thoughts on what would happen if the church were to close. Further discussion required.
- c) To consider if and how Wix PC might wish support the proposed 3 month consultation for re-use of the churchyard.

- a) A full discussion was held on the situation going forward, with the PCC's preferred option being to re-use an area of the churchyard, which does not have any monuments, though is likely to have burials, but they will be well over 100 years old. The PCC intend to approach the Diocese with this suggestion.

Wix PC support this proposal

- b) The feeling from Wix PC is it would be very disappointed if the Church were to completely close and be sold off privately. Whilst this isn't likely to happen in the very immediate future, it is something to consider going forward, with a diminishing congregation. If the diocese do not receive the contribution from the parish (the Parish Share), they can close the church. One option would be to retain the Church as a Chapel of Ease. A suggestion from the Cllr Nelson would be to deconsecrate the Church, and take it on as a community asset. This could still be used as a 'church', could be licenced for weddings, and used for other community functions. These functions would finance the maintenance. The feeling from the PCC is that this would be preferable to losing the Church from the community and this was the kind of thing they would ideally like to see happen if and when the church closes..

It was agreed that this needs further investigation and work over the next couple of years.

- c) It was agreed that Wix PC would assist with the consultation, but potentially having the item as a key topic at the next Annual Parish Meeting, and would promote the consultation through the PC's various media outlets.

Other ways to support this village amenity (with legal power) would be to look at promoting the Church, making sure people know about it, and its plight; to look at encouraging a monthly volunteer group to help maintain the churchyard; to add the link/a page for St Mary's Church to the Wix Parish Council website; to draw up some local history walks through the village that include the path through the Churchyard; to include a piece from the Parish Council for each Coast to Coast.

It is also worth noting that in 2023, the Church will be celebrating 900 years of a place of worship on that site.

Facilities

20/093 **Play area**

- a) To resolve to install a light cage on the MUGA lights. It was proposed to appoint Derek Taylor to supply and fit the cage at £82.00

Proposed: Cllr Murray

Seconded: Cllr Nelson

Agreed by all Action: Clerk

- b) To resolve to purchase 3 new benches, and agree model and supplier. Approximate cost of £500 per bench. It was agreed to defer this item until after COVID, but to replace the worst of the rails in the interim.

Action: Cllr's Nelson and Bowers

General

20/094 **Crime Report**

Report from PCSO Pat Smith (appx 3**) No report

20/095 **Correspondence.**

None

20/096 **Reports and updates**

- **Highways- Clerk. Cllrs were reminded of the pot-hole initiative**
- **TDALC- Cllr Mitchell. TDALC have not met since before the Covid pandemic**

- **Chicken Farm.** Signs to be erected around the Pond, but not the war memorial triangle. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Stephens**
- **Pond.** Willows are coming back already. The PC/volunteers are unlikely to get anything else done on the pond this year, while Cllr Jemmett is out of action. The remaining scrub on site needs burning.

20/097 **Items to be added to next Agenda.**

Light on Oakley Road. **Action: Clerk**

MUGA light maintenance- quotes for the electrical work required on the lights. Action: **Clerk/Cllr Murray**
MUGA surfacing.

Items of Continuing Reference.

Play area gates.

St Mary's Church and Churchyard

20/098 **Items of interest and note.**

Next meeting Monday 21st September

Closed Session in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission Act

20/098 **MUGA cleaning**

To receive a quote and appoint a contractor to clean the MUGA of moss and algae.

Following a discussion it was agreed to clean the MUGA in house, and apply an algaecide.

Clerk to look at cost to resurface the court, plus quote for a new MUGA and new MUGA but with existing fencing.

Action: Clerk/ Cllr Murray

Meeting closed 21.10