



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held **WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY 2021** by videoconference

Present: Cllrs T Thorogood (Chair), K Knights, T Rowe, R Palmer, M Appleby, J Keable. Clerk: H Roberts.

Also present: County Cllr Stringer (SCC).

Apologies received from: District Cllr Warboys

- 1 05/05/21: Election of Chair: Cllr Thorogood was **unanimously elected** as Chair.
- 2 05/05/21: Election of Officers: No one was elected as Vice Chair. It was **agreed** Huw Roberts would continue as RFO.
- 3 05/05/21: a). To receive members' Declarations of Interest on Agenda items. None received.
b). To consider requests for dispensations. None received.
- 4 05/05/21: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th March 2021 were **approved**. It was **agreed** the minutes would be signed by the Chair outside of the meeting.
- 5 05/05/21: Village Forum:

Cllr Knights reported a conversation with a resident about serious damage to the Green (at both ends) caused by dustcarts and HGVs (SCC waste disposal trucks). Cllr Stringer undertook to speak to the relevant team leader at SCC.

The length of the grass on the Green was discussed. Cllr Knights reported it had not been cut in some time, and is now too long to walk on.

There was some discussion of the legislation for remote council meetings and the pros and cons of remote meetings vs. face to face. The Clerk told the meeting that although remote participation in meetings was no longer allowed by the legislation, they could still be broadcast on video for residents to watch remotely. It was **agreed** that the next face to face council meeting would be publicized in the village newsletter to encourage residents to come along.

The Tree Warden asked about litter picking. After some discussion, it was **agreed** that a date for a litter pick would be set for 29th May, starting at 9.30am. Cllr Knights undertook to speak to N Merriam about getting volunteers. Cllr Stringer undertook to attend and bring the necessary equipment and arrange collection. The Clerk undertook to publicize on the council website.

- 6 05/05/21: To receive reports from County and District Councillors, Police, Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors:
 - 6.1 05/05/21: SCC: Cllr Stringer's report was received. A copy will be made available on the Council website. Cllr Palmer asked about electric charging points, and the possibility if a charging point at the Village Hall. Cllr Stringer recommended points that can take debit cards. Cllr Stringer mentioned that there may be a grant available. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would investigate this with guidance from Cllr Stringer. Cllr Stringer reported that he now has the equipment that could support an evening of music at a distance at the Grimmer if the Council wanted to put on such an event.
 - 6.2 05/05/21: MSDC: Cllr Warboys – no report received. Note: Cllr Warboys sent his apologies and his report after the meeting, A copy will be made available on the Council website.

Wickham Skeith Parish Council

Chair: Tim Thorogood 01449 766757

Parish Clerk: Huw Roberts 0777 180 8677

J Keable 01449 766771

M Appleby

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Kevin Knights

Tom Rowe

Richard Palmer

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6.3 05/05/21: Parish Clerk (including Police report). The Clerk presented his report. A copy will be made available on the Council website. Actions since the last meeting:

- The Council has signed up for the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement.
- SALC/Suffolk Police Speeding webinar attended. Documents and video to be shared with councillors.
- SALC Area Forum attended, notes available to councillors.
- Census 21 publicized.
- ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration): course completed and passed.
- SALC Webinar: Communication and Engagement in a Post Lockdown World: notes available to councillors.
- Speed Indicator Device: Confirmed agreement to move as requested by Suffolk Highways.
- Zoom: Upgraded to Zoom Pro for one month.

6.4 05/05/21: Parish Councillors, including:

- i. Community Speed Watch. It was **agreed** to progress the application for participation in the Automatic Number Plate Recognition scheme. It was **agreed** the Clerk would arrange with N Merriam to download the latest data from the SID.
- ii. General Data Protection Regulation. Cllr Palmer reported he was going to send his comments on the draft policies to the Clerk.
- iii. Community Emergency Plan, including Covid-19 emergency. Cllr Palmer suggested that the emergency be declared over in June, depending on developments, and then the council should review the plan. The Clerk undertook to share feedback with councillors and the volunteer group.
- iv. Defibrillator. The Mayor undertook to obtain the manuals from ex-Cllr Freeman.

7 05/05/21: Correspondence Received. A summary of the correspondence received is available in the Clerk's report, a copy of which will be made available on the Council website.

Correspondence included:

- Resident enquiry regarding the erection of fencing beside footpath. This has been responded to by the Clerk.
- MSDC scheme offering free hedgerow and trees for open spaces. The Tree Warden commented on the number of dying trees in the village, and said the problem is not the planting of trees but their maintenance. It was **agreed** the scheme would be publicized on the Council website.
- UK Govt. consultation on local council's experience of remote meetings. Circulated to councillors for feedback.
- The Village Hall Committee have enquired when will the Council will need to hire the hall. It was **agreed** the Village Hall would be booked for the next face to face meeting, (12th July 2021).
- Youth Survey. It was **agreed** this would be forwarded to the Village Hall Committee for comment.
- The Friends of St Andrew's are collecting tokens from Archant publications, under their Cash4Charities scheme. This has been publicized on the council website and the village newsletter.

8 05/05/21: Finance

8.1 05/05/21: The RFO's annual report was received. A copy will be made available on the Council website. It was **agreed** the Council will sign up for the Plusnet two-year broadband deal at a cost of £23/year plus VAT.

8.2 05/05/21: The Internal Accounts Audit & Control Review 2020/21 was noted (it was reviewed and approved in the previous meeting).

8.3 05/05/21: The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 was reviewed and **approved**.

8.4 05/05/21: The Statement of Accounts for the FY 2020/21 was reviewed and **approved**.

8.5 05/05/21: The Accounting Statements 2020/21 were reviewed and **approved**, with one correction – the precept income was £3,500 for FY 2020/21.

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- 8.6 05/05/21: The Statement of Account as of 30th April 2021 was reviewed and **approved**.
8.7 05/05/21: The following invoices were **approved**: SALC subscription: £190.55, Website hosting (Suffolk Cloud): £100, Zoom upgrade: £14.39.

It was **agreed** all the necessary signatures for the approved financial document above would be signed outside of the meeting.

- 9 05/05/21: Planning Matters: to consider planning applications and note planning decisions received.
- 9.1 05/05/21: DC/21/00377: Erection of two storey and single storey front extensions and erection of detached three bay cartlodge with home office above. Location: The Grange, Grange Road, Wickham Skeith, Eye Suffolk IP23 8NF. The council noted that permission has been granted.
- 9.2 05/05/21: DC/21/02098: Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Pollard 2no Ash to 50% existing height. Fell 1no Spruce. Reduce 1no Sycamore by 30%. Fell 1no Walnut. Pollard 1no Ash. Location: Mill House, The Green, Wickham Skeith, Suffolk IP23 8LX. The council **agreed** it would raise no objection, but add comments regarding nesting birds.
- 9.3 05/05/21: DC/21/02264: Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey extensions (following demolition of lean to building), internal and external alterations as detailed in the Schedule of Works and Design and Access Statement. Location: Willow House, The Street, Wickham Skeith, Suffolk IP23 8L. After some discussion, it was **agreed** the council would object to the application as follows: "The council's objection is based solely on the position of the cartlodge. In its proposed position it will have negative impact on the visual amenity of historical building of Willow House, and on the street scene and surrounding environment, including, within 30m and on the other side of the road, a grade 1 listed building."
- 10 05/05/21: Working Parties:
- 10.1 05/05/21: Village Green. The Tree Warden reported that she met with the annual inspector to review the trees on the Green. Serious concerns were raised about two pink horse chestnuts, and ash die back. It was **agreed** the Tree Warden would work with Cllr Knights to get a quote for a professional remedy.
- 10.2 05/05/21: Grimmer Fishing. The Chair commented that the council should continue to try to manage and monitor fishing, and see there are problems.

11. 05/05/21: Councillor vacancies.

It was **unanimously agreed** to co-opt Julie Keable and Melinda Appley as councillors. It was **agreed** that the new councillors' signatures for their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests would be collected by the Clerk outside the meeting.

12. 05/05/21: Matters for next agenda.

Planning application DC/21/02582. The Clerk reported that MidSuffolk Planning have confirmed that the deadline for comments for this application has been extended to July 13th 2021. This means the council can discuss the application at its next meeting on 12th July. Note, the Clerk has also since had it confirmed that the extension of the deadline applies to all comments, including comments from individual residents.

13. 05/05/21: Next Meeting: July 12th 2021, 8pm, to be held in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.20 pm

Signed: Date:
Chair

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