

## Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 No. 07/11

Clerk to the Council, Mike Smith, 12 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford WR11 7RT

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Present J. Newbury, Chairman, T. Waller, V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Heeks, G. Curtis,  
P. Beaumont, J. Poulter, M. Smith, Clerk  
B. Parmenter, District Councillor and District & County Councillor L. Eyre

1. Apologies

PC Gail Greenhouse

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. The meeting was adjourned for Progress Reports and also the Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

4. District / County Councillor Reports.

The County Councillor made all aware of the increase charges for parking with the extra revenue being used for new technology for parking meters etc. Smart cards are one train of thought.

A Councillor asked why there was no charge for applying for and receiving a Blue Badge when this allows parking anywhere free of charge. County Councillor had no answer for this.

The SW Development Plan for housing is in consultation until November but County Councillor also said that new retailers were being lined up for Evesham.

A Councillor asked if the expansion of Vale Park will be towards Evesham / Wickhamford or Cheltenham, No answer could be given.

District Councillor will be explaining the Localism Bill, giving more power to the Parish Councils at future meetings.

There are changes in the Terms & Conditions of staff at WDC.

There was no further news on the Flood Scheme. At this point the Clerk that as instructed by the Parish Council he had emailed Charles Chandler a month ago without even an response.

County Councillor asked for this email to be forwarded to her for action.

The Japanese Knotweed problem is being resolved by spraying over a period of time.

A Councillor thanked the County Councillor regarding the meeting with Sports Club.

A copy of the planned change to the signage at the junction of the A44 / Pitchers Hill towards Manor Road as requested was shown to Councillors. An issue arose so the Parish

Council agreed for the Clerk have a site meeting with the County Councillor and report back to the next meeting.

The District Councillor commented on the refusal of planning permission for the plot at 48-50 Pitchers Hill. He also mentioned the planning application for the "Finnick" which, after a discussion, was asked by Councillors to take this to "committee" for a decision.

5. Police Officers Report.

None.

6. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> June were approved but with the proviso that in future Councillors' names would not be included. The Clerk said he would amend these minutes ready for approval and signature at the next meeting.

7. Open Space Report.

None.

8. Path/Pavement Report.

Councillor stated that at last we were getting new Kerbstones and Pathways but not at the locations we requested.

9. Grasscutting Report.

The grasscutting is still an issue but it was agreed to leave the contract as is for the moment. All agreed it was again time for hedge cutting at the cemetery with the cuttings being burnt on site. This would be arranged by the Chairman.

10. Burial Ground Report.

An issue arose with an overhanging branch in the cemetery which has now been dealt with.

11. Clerks Report.

The local Police Officer has given us the go ahead to place a note on the windscreen of vehicles parked illegally. A draft of this would be sent to Councillors for approval.

Spoke with Smart Cut on 11/7 regarding the non cutting of the verges for the third time in a row. They apologised and the following day the team had cut all the verges properly. I have also received a credit for the May/June invoices totalling £120. They again assured me that all would be ok in the future.

The Chairman and I met with a Highways Engineer to discuss the parking issue at 31-35 Pitchers Hill. He agreed this was not only illegal but dangerous. Our proposal of having bollards at each end of the path would be assessed by the Highways Team and we await the outcome.

## 12. New and Ongoing Items.

- a) Youth Club – Update. Councillor read out some correspondence re the Youth Club / Sports Club and District & County Councillor Liz Eyre. As this is ongoing, further updates will be forthcoming at following meetings.
- b) Parking Issues. Dealt with in the Clerks report.
- c) Sports Club – Proposed link working with the PC / MH / PH and the CH. Councillor will send a request to all organisations to meet, and will report back at the next meeting.
- d) Coombefield Plantation. Councillor will chase Mr. Prendergast for further information.
- e) Play Area – Update and decision making. Councillor stated that the Igloo has now been removed and disposed of. The Multi Play has been repainted and the footplate has been replaced. The Springer's have been repaired and new bolt covers are required. Councillor requested a copy of the Rospa report to forward to SMP reference the quote that had already been arranged. Councillor had also received a quote for benches.  
At this point the Clerk passed a document to each Councillor which expressed his disappointment at certain decisions being made, not intentionally, but almost certainly by a misunderstanding. We do however have to ensure we conform to the rules & regulations of the Council. After due discussion we all agreed that we do not want to deter anyone from carrying out work on behalf of the Council but this must be agreed at a Council meeting beforehand. The following was also agreed, "Councillors are allowed to carry out work in exceptional circumstances regarding Health & Safety issues, but must inform the Clerk beforehand. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor found bent railings which will be kept. It was also agreed for Councillor to carry on refurbishing the Play Area equipment.
- f) A.O.B. The Chairman stated that this is not an option as our Minutes state that "Items for the next Agenda must be received 7 days before the above date". Also decisions cannot be made outside of meetings.
- g) Newsletter. Councillor produced a rough draft of the new format Newsletter and would get together with the Clerk to finalise items to be included.
- h) Current Footpath Warden. Councillor contacted WCC only to be told that we already have a Footpath Warden. As we have no record of this Councillor will pursue this.
- i) Dog Fouling. Councillor stated that the footpath at Burnt Lane is littered with dog fouling. Clerk was asked to contact Pip Singleton for any advice / signage. Also the Clerk was asked to request a quote for Dog Bins.

13. Planning.

Plans for Review. (if applicable),

None

Planning Notifications.

W/11/00690/PP, Land between 48-50 Pitchers Hill, Refused.

14. Finance.

Balance sheets available for Councillors.

Cheques signed,

Smart Cut, Grasscutting May/ June

M. Parkinson, Speed Sign Changeover etc.

WDC, Play Area Rental

15. Date of the next meeting confirmed as 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Meeting Closed at 10.30

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

**Notes of the Public Question Time**

Two members of the Sports Club committee had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the upcoming Country & Western Event being held over the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August and to also discuss the issues reported from the last event. It was agreed to mark the line of the footpath behind the club so residents had access across the Playing Field. It was also agreed that there should be complete access to the Play Area at all times.

The event would be open to residents but there would be a charge.

The PC has to ensure the residents are not inconvenienced by this event but did add there were no reported noise infringements last year.

It was agreed that (if possible) an article would be included in the next Newsletter.