

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 5th August 2009 No. 08/09

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

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Present T. Waller Chairman, J. Poulter V. Chairman, Councillors A. Smith, R. Gilks, D. Heeks, J. Newbury and M. Smith Clerk.

1. Apologies

District & County Councillor L. Eyre.

2. Declarations of Interest

J. Poulter declared a personal interest in item 5f

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

The following progress report was sent by Liz Eyre,

County Hall

I have recently been appointed to the Fire Authority as a Member. Our local Regional Flood Defence Committee Member. Cllr John Smith of Evesham has been replaced by a Cllr. Roberts from Shrewsbury. The County is following the Government's requirements to set up a Children's Trust with Partners: schools, health, police etc. to deliver services for Children and Young People.

Potholes

Report of potholes by the pumping station – work has not yet begun.

Grant Money

A further £100 pounds has been given to the Youth Club from WDC.

Broadway to Evesham right turn into Pitchers Hill (towards the Sandys Arms)

Engineers have looked into the possibility of providing a right turn lane but the road is not wide enough to provide a facility that would meet the Department for Transport criteria, the item is therefore closed.

Bridleway

This issue is in the hands of the Countryside Services Team and is therefore ongoing.

Traffic Regulation Order

C2204 Badsey Lane & C0248 Badsey – Wickhamford Road Weight Restriction – Introduction of Exemption Clause for Vehicles over 13' 9".

The County has hit a stumbling block. Basically, at the time we received objections to the proposal, our Legal Services Department made statements to certain objectors that the proposals would be reconsidered and re-advertised. In order to ensure that the process is as transparent as possible, and to enable all interested persons the opportunity to comment, we need to re-advertise the order. The Traffic Order process will therefore now start.

Sign Clutter on the A44

A number of redundant highway signs/posts will be removed. A works order is being arranged.

Tree Issue

Large tree branches overhanging Golden Lane highway. The Highway Maintenance team, on the instruction of Roy Fullee WCC, will inspect and carry out remedial action where required.

Drains

Extensive work has already been carried out but the drain outside the Memorial Hall still overflows during long periods of rain. The pipework has again been jetted in 2009 but the problem may lie in the fact that the height of water in a gully mainly depends on the level of the outlet pipe. A copy of this problem has been passed to the Highway Maintenance Depot.

Also, sunken drains in the tarmac under investigation with David Lavender.

Flooding

Charles Chandler is now being eased back into work and another officer is supporting him. I now intend to catch up with him in a week's time when hopefully he will be able to update me.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July and the amended minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June were approved.

5. New and Ongoing Items.

- a) Play Area Report. Before any work is carried out by Councillors our insurance will need to be clarified for personal liability. A recommendation was put forward by the Chairman that as funding may be available we should pursue this with a view to replacing the Multi-Play, Agility Trail, Spring Dog, Spring Bike and the Roundabout. Also to have the grass beneath the Igloo replaced with a rubber surface. The new items would also have new rubber surfaces installed.

It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotations on Metal/Wooden structures ready for the next meeting and to also part prepare the Grant form.

- b) V.A.S. Update. Councillor J. Newbury said there was no further update as the group are awaiting Badsey PC's decision. The question to be clarified is that can these signs be used on "A" roads. When any decision is made the siting of the posts would need to be discussed with Dave Clee.

We would also need clarification that in the event one or more Parishes pull out of the Scheme once it is in operation what the implications might be. There should be more information at the next meeting.

- c) Bins/Sandbags. The Clerk & Chairman will clarify the sites for the bins and arrange the ordering/delivery of the slabs for the base, and the sandbags.
- d) Footpaths. We have recommended Manor Road as being the footpath most in need of maintenance to Liz Eyre as per the request from WDC.
- e) Golden Lane Issues. Clerk emailed WCC on the issue of the overhanging trees, also a hole that appeared in the grass verge, which has since been filled. The tree issue is with the Highway Maintenance team for action.

Our Lengthsman has been advised of the grass covering the kerbstones and growing on to the highway in Golden Lane. This will be actioned on his August visit. He will also be digging the full length of the ditch in Manor Road during his August/September visits with a view to make the ditch wider and deeper to accommodate more rainwater from the highway.

- f) Bridleway/Footpath. J. Poulter advised that he is still awaiting an answer from County. This is likely to be a long process so this will be removed from the agenda until any update is received.
- g) Delegation of Councillors. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to give Councillors a more active role other than attending the monthly meetings. We already have the following Councillors with more active roles,

D. Folkes, District Councillor.

J. Poulter, Cemetery and Grasscutting Officer.

J. Newbury, Pact Officer.

Suggested roles could be a Footpath Officer and an Open Spaces Officer.

After a short discussion Councillors were asked to think about these and other possible roles and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

6. Planning.

None, however Councillors did discuss the lack of the daily building time restrictions placed on "some" planning approvals. The Clerk stated that these restrictions need to be added to the planning comments submitted to WDC by anyone that may be affected, before planning approval is given. It was decided to discuss this when we receive future applications for comments.

7. Finance.

Councillors already in possession of the balance sheet.

Cheques to be signed,

P. Skeys, Lengthsman.

T. Waller, Flowers for Outgoing Chairperson.

GBD, Grasscutting.

Clerk confirmed that all paperwork had been completed and sent to Abbey re the change of signatories etc.

8. Date of the next meeting confirmed as 9th September 2009

Meeting Closed 8.35

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Notes of the Public Question Time

Rainwater issue affecting 11 Pitchers Hill