

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 01/17

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

01386 830676 email [wickhamfordpc@sky.com](mailto:wickhamfordpc@sky.com)

website <http://worcestershires.gov.uk>

Present J. Newbury Chairman, T. Waller V. Chairman, Councillors, J. Poulter, D. Heeks,  
R. Gutteridge & K. Nash  
1 Member of the public

- 1. Apologies District Councillor, B Thomas & PCSO P. Schoenrock
- 2. Declarations of Interest  
None
- 1. 3. The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.
- 2. 4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were agreed
- 3. 5. Matters arising from the previous meeting
- 6. County Councillors Report

Councillor reported the Business Walk had now been completed, also the knotweed issue will be tackled in 1 months' time  
Rebecca Collins from the Environment Agency will be arranging a drop-in-session (TBA) at the Memorial Hall in April or May.

- District Councillors Report

### **Enforcement scrutiny & improvements**

An Overview & Scrutiny Team at Wychavon performed a detailed scrutiny of the performance of the Enforcement Service, presenting their findings in September of 2016. As a result of this several recommendations were made to improve the quality of the service going forwards.

As a result of the report the Executive Board have digested the content and formulated a response which was presented and agreed upon last Wednesday, 11th January.

The main outcomes of the investigation, and subsequent response from the Executive Board are that a new Enforcement Support Office has been recruited immediately and is in post. This is a role which will support the Enforcement Officers, particularly from an administrative point of view. The role will be responsible for ensuring communications targets are met, ensuring that communications into the department are responded to and generally alleviating some of the administrative burden faced by Enforcement Officers. This will better enable Officer time to be freed up and spent investigating cases rather than being slowed down by bureaucracy etc. Wychavon is also setting up an Enforcement Scrutiny Panel, which will be formalised at the next full council meeting in a few week's time. This panel will have a remit of scrutinising procedure followed in completed enforcement cases to identify best practice and any areas for improvement in future. It will comprise five members, three of whom will be from the Oversight & Scrutiny Committee and two of whom will be drawn from the Planning Committee. Crucially we have also set up a system whereby an individual ward councillor can ask for the Portfolio Holder for Planning in conjunction with the Head of Housing & Planning to make the final decision on the course of action to be followed relating to any live enforcement cases. This is expected to be

an exception rather than the norm. Collectively, these changes to the service are expected to deliver improvements to the quality of Enforcement Service for all stakeholders: the public, councillors and the council as a whole

- 7. Police Officers Report.  
Since the 9<sup>th</sup> of September West Mercia has received 16 calls from residents resulting in only 2 offences of common assault being recorded. In both instances all parties knew each other  
I would like to make a timely reminder regarding the darker evenings and at this time of year, we normally experience an increase in domestic burglaries, due to residents not having timer lights etc. If anyone would like a free unbiased crime prevention survey, they can contact me (Phil Schoenrock) PCSO on 101 Ext 67116
- 8. The V. Chairman suggested that all meetings be held in the Memorial Hall whenever possible
- 9. Church Mowing  
It was agreed by all to continue to subsidise the church mowing costs of £250. and to also award them a grant of £250.00 towards the church roof repairs
- 10. Defibrillator  
Deferred, awaiting further information
- 11. Playing Field /Sports Club  
It was pointed out that the Footpaths bordering the Playing Field are always available as these are public footpaths.  
The events requested by the Sports Club were agreed and will be notified
- 12. Community Benefit Fund  
The Parish Council suggested the Memorial Hall Committee discuss their request further as the Community Benefit Fund is to be used for projects beneficial to the community in general, and not for payment of maintenance.
- 13. Planning Sub-Committee  
Item tem discussed and closed
- 14. Newsletter  
It was agreed to carry on with the Newsletter after the spate of non-deliveries, but to also look at other delivery methods and costs
- 15. Smartwater  
TBD if a Public Meeting is required

#### Correspondence.

Contacted VSigns regarding a cost for the signage for the Playing Field, signs ordered  
Contacted WDC re the Smartwater Project

Email sent to WDC requesting a quotation for a new "Dog Waste Bin" and the charges for emptying.

Letter sent to J. Campion, the Police & Crime Prevention Officer on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, re speeding in the village.

Meeting arranged with S. Thompson from WDC, 10<sup>th</sup> January to progress the Smartwater Project (Item15)

Contacted WCC Highways for the third time re the drainage issue in Manor Road /Golden Lane

Met with WDC re the siting of the new Dog Waste Bin on the Playing Field as requested by a resident and the Sports Club.

Contacted Royal Mail again re the sealed post box on Pitchers Hill, also emailed L.Eyre.

Complaints received again from residents re non delivery of newsletters (Item 14)

Email sent to all Councillors re the above item

Letter received from Wickhamford PCC re mowing in the churchyard (Item 9)

Contacted WDC re the S106 monies allocated to the PC reference the Rooftop development at Sandy's Avenue

Complaints still being received from residents regarding neighbours with noisy / uncontrollable dogs

Two complaints received from residents in Washington Road regarding a "Camper Van" being parked there by a non- resident of the village ]

Precept documents received from WDC for 2017/2018 precept request

A report of an abandoned burnt motor vehicle in the bus layby near Murcot Turn

Received from a Councillor has been reported to the police.

Notification from the police that the vehicle had now been removed on the 5<sup>th</sup> December

Met with Sports Club 9<sup>th</sup> December as per their request (Item 11)

Telephone call received from a resident regarding a wreath being stolen from a grave in the cemetery and a report of others stolen.

Half yearly rent request sent to the Sports Club sent on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December due on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

- 16. Plans reviewed
  - Dogs Trust, W/16/02738
  - "No Objections logged on WDC planning portal
  
  - Dogs Trust, W/16/02758
  - Objections logged on WDC portal
- 17. Finance.
  - a) Balance sheets made available for Councillors.
  - b) Budget for 2017/2018 presented to Councillors
  - c) The Precept was proposed to be kept the same for 2017/0218) (at £10,000.00 by Councillor J. Newbury and seconded by Councillor R Gutteridge with a unanimous vote

Cheques signed,  
 Grant Thornton, External Audit £180.00  
 HMRC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Tax £163.80  
 V Signs, Playing Field Signs £295.00  
 WDC, Dog Bin + First Year Cleanse £614.19  
 Luke Slade, Cemetery Hedge Cutting £72.00  
 M. Smith, Ink/Pages + Paper £21.00

Receipts,  
 WCC. Lengthsperson (Sep/Oct) £90.00

- **Items for the next Agenda**
  - Big Lunch
  - Community Fund
  - Newsletter Delivery
- 18. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Items for the next Agenda must be received 7 days prior to the above date.

Mike Smith

Clerk to Wickhamford Parish Council

Meeting Closed at 8.45

Signed.....  
Date.....

Chairman

**Notes of the Public Question Time**

