

WICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2013
AT WICK CLUB

Present: Councillors Mr. D. Scott – Chairman
Mr. P. Edmunds
Mr. R. Hill
Mrs L. Raymer
Miss S. Young

3 Electors

1619 Apologies. None.

1620 Declaration of members' interests. None.

1621 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th December 2012. were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1622 Matters arising.

- a) Village Cross. Councillor Raymer reported that they are waiting for the weather to improve before work continues.
- b) Waylands – Cycle Route. The clerk advised that after having spoken with Worcestershire County Council an additional directional sign has been erected.
- c) Parish Council/Village Website. Councillor Raymer reported that she has used the County Council website to set up the village web site.
- d) Village clear up. Councillor Raymer has received requests from residents requesting that the village be 'tidied up'. The proposal is that this is carried out on Saturday 27th April to coincide with the tidy up of the church grounds on the same day. Councillor Raymer and Councillor Edmunds will finalise details.
- e) Community Assistance for vulnerable residents. A resident had expressed the thought that assistance could be made available for vulnerable residents in the village. Councillor Scott will investigate the possibilities of this being carried out.

1623 District Councillor's Report. Councillor McDonald reported that Waste, recycling, trade and garden collections had been disrupted due to recent adverse weather conditions but are now back to normal.

Academy for Future Engineers. A state of the art engineering academy will be built in Evesham and provide up to 80 apprenticeships in its first four years. The academy, which will be run by Rotec Engineering, will take on young people and give them training on the job. It is expected that one full-time and two part time jobs will be filled by the students every year. Plans for the academy were unanimously approved by W.D.C. planning committee. But more as an Executive Board we are recommended at the February council meeting to investment in the venture on the basis of a commercial loan with risk safeguards.

Local Government Finance Statement. In late December the government announced the provisional local government finance statement. Local government continues to bear the brunt of public spending cuts and the autumn statement indicates that cuts

would continue to at least 2018. To put that in perspective the cumulative reduction to Wychavon will be 25% (2012/2013) increasing to 31% (2013/14) and 41% (2014/2015). Key issues are a need to consider our response to government on what looks like a massive further blow to shire counties, there is little opportunity to find significant savings in next year's budget which means we will have to make a significant call on our revenue balances in the short term. We will also need to consult/make further key policy and service decisions to help balance the budget in 2012/15.

In essence we have had a reduced government grant of close to £2 million which was to be over four (in reality it became two) years we covered that. This financial year we will not balance the budget but cover with a use of reserves. Between 13/14 and 14/15 we will have to address a further reduction of nearly a further £2 million.

We have a financial situation (but not a problem) to address like all local authorities but are better placed than many and we will avoid quick knee jerk cost cutting measure affecting services but make informed decisions.

1624 County Councillor's Report. Councillor Hardman did not attend.

Flood Alleviation Committee Report. The attached report was given by Andy Smart and Mark Richardson.

1625 Grants. Councillor Raymer advised that she had been unsuccessful in obtaining the grants applied for.

1626 Playground Report. Councillor Young reported that a clean up has been carried out. Mr. & Mrs Suckling will continue to clear brambles from the bank when time permits.

Current funds now stand at £7834.26.

1627 Finance. The clerk presented the current statement. Lengthsman re-imburement of £352.00 and £20.00 from the sale of Jubilee mugs had been received. The following has been paid Lengthsman costs £132.00, G. Power re-imburement of cost of unsold Jubilee mugs £152.00, Pershore Hire Centre (Protective Clothing) £360.00, Henson Plant Hire (Mini Digger) £184.35, Petty Cash £20.00, Wick P.C. Playground Account (V.A.T. refund) £106.68, Wick Club (Room Hire) £5.00. The following is to be paid Clerks salary, Lengthsman costs, Room hire.

1628 Planning Report. The following planning approval has been received to which the Parish Council had no objections. W/12/02638/PP 2 Yock Lane, Wick WR10 3NS – Single storey side extension. AB/12/02682/AB Hill Farm, Evesham Road, Wick, WR10 3JS – General purpose storage building.

1629 Footpath Officer Report. Councillor Hill advised that the paths he had walked are all very muddy particularly The Waylands. Councillor Hill asked whether there had been a response from Councillor Hardman who at the last Parish Council meeting offered to walk the overgrown footpath on the B4084 to ascertain the level of the problem. The Parish Council has not received any communication from Councillor Hardman regarding this.

1630 Any other business. Councillor Young advised that she has now taken over responsibility for the Parish Games, and requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Colin Martin for his efforts over a number of years.

1631 Date of next meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 22nd April at 7.15pm with the following meeting on Monday 20th May 2013.

1632 Questions.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm and thanked everybody for attending.