

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2019 in Wrabness Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mr. R Colley (Vice Chairman), Ms. R Thornton, Mr. F McGowan, Mrs. J Cole, Mrs. L Byrne

In Attendance : Mrs. C Greenwood (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

2826: Apologies for absence: Mr. M. Cole (Chairman), Mr. H Jones.

2827: Declaration of interests: None.

2828: Public forum: The Council invited members of the public to address the Council, raise or ask questions on matters relating to the parish. The Council reserved the right not to answer questions but will respond in writing as soon as it is practical after the meeting. A member of the public stated they were in attendance to listen to the discussion about the oak tree at the Playing Field.

The Public forum was closed, and the meeting opened.

2829 Minutes of the meeting held: on Wednesday 16th October 2019. The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.

2830: Matters Arising and Actions: i: Traffic Wheatsheaf Lane. Update from Parish Clerk: Wrabness Parish Council received the completed speed and volume survey information for Wheatsheaf Lane, Wrabness from Essex Assistant Highway Liaison Officer (Please refer to October Minutes for full survey report)

At the last meeting, it was agreed that Parish Clerk would contact the school bus company before the next step with Essex Highways.

Panther Travel Ltd had put a formal complaint through to the haulage depot in October this year regarding the safety issues with meeting lorries along Wheatsheaf Lane, unable to pass and having to reverse onto a main road. The haulage depot agreed it would ask lorries drivers to avoid using the lane during the school pick up and drop off times. The bus company isn't aware of any incidents since but will ask all bus drivers to log any problems along Wheatsheaf Lane when meeting lorries and keep the Parish Council informed.

As there are other safety issues with the lorries, such as other vehicles trying to pass, danger to pedestrians and damage to verges and property it was agreed to contact Essex Highways Liaison Officer for further advice/action. All Agreed.

Action: Essex Highways Liaison Officer: Ms R Thornton

Action: Panther Travel Ltd: Parish Clerk.

2831: Playing Field Oak Tree: At the last meeting It was resolved to seek further advice from Tree and Landscape Officer from TDC on a maintenance plan for the oak tree and discuss the outcome at the next Parish Council meeting. Mrs. J Cole read out the report received from Tree and Landscape officer at Tendring District Council:

In terms of the health and viability of the tree it is clear that the tree is in good health with a dense canopy, It shows no sign of pest or disease attack or infestation. From a visual inspection from the ground it has no obvious structural defects. In this regard no works are required in terms of it is health or condition.

I understand that a local resident (or local residents) would like the tree reduced in size to limit the amount of leaves, acorns and other detritus from falling, from the tree, into their garden. The decision whether or not to do this rests with the PC.

If the tree were to be reduced by approximately 25-30% it would be very unlikely to cause harm to the tree and may address the concerns of local residents.

There is no 'hard and fast' rule as to how often a tree should be cut back. An assessment of any given tree and its surroundings would need to be taken into account and each case judged on its merits.

In this case I would not consider it essential to produce a specific management plan for the tree however routine inspections should be carried out to ensure that it does not pose a threat of damage to persons or property.

All agreed the Parish Council should reduce the size of the oak tree by 25-30% and seek quotations from three suitably qualified tree contractors to ensure good value.

Action: Mrs. J Cole. - seek three quotations for the tree work

2832: Open Space Land South of Station Road,

The Development Surveyor from Bennett Homes contacted the Parish Council earlier this month regarding the proposed open space adjacent to the village hall and the infiltration basin. The Parish Council had previously expressed the wish to own and manage the open space for the benefit of the village. Bennett Homes are now happy to instruct solicitors to progress this.

The Parish Council did have reservation about an infiltration basin being located within the open space, however the scheme has now been designed by engineers without the need for an infiltration basin and the drainage system will be entirely underground therefore the open space will be relatively flat.

The Parish Clerk to reply to Bennett Homes that the Parish Council are still interested in principle to owning and managing the open space but would like to arrange a further meeting with Bennet Homes before instructing solicitors.

All Agreed: Action: Parish Clerk.

2833: 2020/2021: Budget Committee Report: Mr. R Colley explained the outcome of the Budget Committee meeting and presented the proposed budget for 2020/2021. The actual spend for next year is proposed to be £8250.00, which will be offset with some reserves.

The Budget was proposed as a stand still budget. The precept for 2020/2021 will be subject to the necessary adjustments for council tax benefit recipients in the Parish still be received from Tendring District Council.

It was proposed that the Parish Council accept the 2020/2021 budgets. Mrs. L Byrne proposed, and Ms. R Thornton seconded it. All Agreed.

2834: Wrabness Council Budget for 2020/2021 and precept requirement: It was agreed to carry this over until next meeting when Tendring District Council Tax formula should be available.

2835: Wrabness Parish Council Website: Existing Site

The Parish Council Website at www.essexinfo.net/wrabness-parish-council was launched in November 2013 and has been operating for six years.

The web site is based on free technology sponsored by Essex County Council for community organisations from Cambridge Open Systems. The web site is provided by a Parish Councillor no cost to the community.

The site provides public information about the Parish Council, local community facilities and services. It currently comprises 23 pages of information, plus links to background documents, hot links to external web sites and Facebook pages (such as Shop and Gardening Club) of specific relevance to Wrabness.

During 2019 up to 15 November a total of 7,636 visits were made to the web site, a 10% increase compared with the previous year.

Village facilities continue to benefit from the free publicity of the Parish Council website. There is scope to add information relevant to Wrabness as it becomes available. If any of our community groups wish to have more exposure on the website – they just have to ask and provide the information; contact Richard Colley – 01255 880868 or by email at wrabness.parishweb@gmail.com

Whilst the reach of this web site service is growing, we also continue our traditional methods of keeping in touch, such as the parish notice boards and the village newsletters, since not all our households or summer visitors access the internet.

Change Ahead

Essex County Council have announced that they intend to discontinue their support for the free essexinfo link platform as from 31 March 2020 and have advised users to make alternative arrangements. EALC has issued advice in the form of potential providers of web sites suitable for parish councils.

The Parish Council asked the Budget Committee to look at the options. It is clear that parish councils fall into three categories:

- those with no web site
- those with web sites solely publishing parish council business
- those with web sites publishing parish council business and village news

The Parish Council decided to maintain a web site publishing parish council business and useful village news

The offer from the web providers provide a variety of solutions. Most charge for their services with up front and ongoing charges based on the level of service and support required. This contrasts with our current arrangement which provides a web site at no cost to the village. It could well be that going the professional route by having a paid service level agreement with a web site provider/manager would create a better-looking product but the utility of the web site will be no better than the information provided by the parish council for publication including ongoing updates.

One provider offers a free service to community groups: BT Community Web Kit is a free service for charity or non-profit community groups and a number of Parish Councils have web sites using the BT Web Kit. Contact Details: Website: <http://www.btck.co.uk/>

The Budget Committee having discussed these options recommended the no cost route on the basis our current web site manager is willing to progress this option and create a new website for the Parish Council. Following discussion it was resolved to progress the BT Community Web Kit free service as a basis for the replacement website. Proposed Mrs. J Cole, seconded Mrs. L. Byrne. **Action: Mr R Colley.**

2836: Grant Application: Wrabness All Saints Church requested a churchyard grant of £400.00; this goes towards the maintenance of the churchyard. It was proposed to grant of the full £400.00. Ms. R Thornton Mr. F McGowan All Agreed. **Action: Parish Clerk.**

2837: Wrabness Environmental Award: Councillors were asked for Award nominations at the next meeting.

2838: Planning Application Updates:

19/01040/FUL	Alta Vista Ash Street Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TG	Proposed alterations to rear dormer, replacement conservatory, porch and new rear dormer.	FULL APPROVAL 7.11.19
19/01374/FUL	Steeplefield Ash Street Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TG	Variation of condition 2 of application 19/00518/FUL to amend approved elevational drawings. -.	FULL APPROVAL 6.11.19

2839: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

i: **Elections.** Notice has been received of the Parliamentary Election on Thursday 12 December 2019 between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. For further details please refer to Village Notice Board outside the Village Hall or visit: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/uk-parliamentary-general-election>.

ii: The Parish Clerk received an email regarding District Councillor attendance at Parish Council meetings for Stour Valley Ward asking how many times has the Councillor attended Wrabness Parish Council meetings since the Elections in May: **Action: Parish Clerk.**

2840: REPORTS

HIGHWAYS: Nothing to report	FOOTPATHS: Nothing to report.
VILLAGE HALL: Nothing to report	W.P.F.C. Nothing to report.
FORESHORE/LIASION: Nothing to report.	STATION GARDEN: Wix & Wrabness School children singing Christmas Carol's 16 th December at 5.00pm, there will be tea and coffee in the Village Café afterwards. Mrs. J Cole will put some posters up: Action: Mrs. J Cole.
PUBLIC HEALTH: On the advice of the emergency service the defibrillator was made available for a resident on Tuesday night. In the end didn't have to be used as the ambulance arrived. The defibrillator was put back and has been checked by Mr. Colley. It is ready for use in case of another emergency.	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Nothing to report.
KIOSK: Mrs. J Cole will arrange for a Christmas tree in the Kiosk. Action: Mrs. J Cole.	TRANSPORT: Harwich Connexions have transported over 27,000 people this during the past year. They have nearly raised enough money for an additional bus.
MONTHLY MICRO GRANTS; Applicants can apply for up to £500 per project.	

2841; ACCOUNTS AND MONIES RECEIVED:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	
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DISBUREMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ
Wrabness Village Hall Hire 20.11.19	£15.00	001117
Parish Clerk wages 10.7.19 – 12.11.19	£391.98	001118
All Saints Church (church yard grant)	£400.00	001119

2842: Confirmations of Account Balances:

Current Account: 10th October 2019 - £6850.89

Deposit Account: 19th September 2019 - £6,613.68

The meeting closed: 20.32

The next Wrabness Parish Council Meeting:

Wednesday 8th January 2020 in Wrabness Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Carol Greenwood, Wrabness Parish Clerk, 2 Fredricks Close, Wix, Manningtree, CO11 2AY

Email: Wrabness.pariahclerk@gmail.com