

Wrabness Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2017 in Wrabness Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr H. Jones (Chairman), Mr T Harvey, Mr M Cole, Ms R Thornton, Mr F McGowan, and Mrs J. Cole.

In attendance: Mrs C Greenwood (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

2453: Apologies for absence: Mr R Colley (Vice Chairman) and Councillor Zoe Fairley

2454: Declarations of interest: - None

2455: Public Forum: The meeting was opened and Mr H Jones invited comments from those present.

i. A representative from the Community Art Cooperative gave an overview of the proposed sculpture for Station Masters Garden. The sculpture is metal in shape of a train with pods for wildlife. The idea of the sculpture is to encourage a variety of wildlife. Drawings were shown to the Parish Councillors.

Community Art Cooperative has applied to Tesco Bags of Help and Arts Council for funding for the sculpture along with 3 other projects in the area.

They are working with a structural engineer to make the sculpture safe. The sculpture will stand 1.74metres high and be secured into the path. They will take a portable pottery studio into Wix and Wrabness School for the children to make the tubes to attached to the metal train shape sculpture. The school children will then be invited to Wrabness Station Masters garden to help assemble the tubes onto the sculpture.

District Council have advised Planning Permission is required, however, the Parish Council enjoys permitted development rights, which may be applicable in this case.

They have consent from Network Rail who own Station Master's Garden and now can apply for the funding if Wrabness Parish agrees and send a letter of support. All agreed. Action: Parish Clerk.

ii. A member of the public would like to draw the attention to an abandoned car on the verge by Wrabness Hall, which has been there for several months. Mr M. Cole will contact TDC and ask if they can remove it. Action: Mr M. Cole.

The public forum was closed and the meeting opened.

2456: Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2017: The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.

2457: Matters Arising and Actions:

2442: Blackboy Inn Telephone Kiosk – Parish Clerk gave an update: BT has confirmed they have received the contract, signed and will be returning a copy of the agreement. A Completion Notice will follow. **Action: Parish Clerk**

2442: Wrabness Playing Field Fencing –

Tendring District Council has agreed to release the available Wrabness Section 106 monies for the Playing Field fencing project. The maximum amount currently available is £2,837.07p, which can be claimed by the Parish Council on completion of the project.

The Parish Council can now proceed with the project, funded by the S106 money, the £2,000 contribution on offer from the Playing Field Association and the balance of £1,721 paid by the Parish Council.

2445: Network Rail and Works Act, Closure of Wrabness Level Crossing:

Network Rail are proposing to close the pedestrian level crossing near Brakey Grove and replacing it by extending the footpath along the corner of Wheatsheaf Lane, adjacent to the railway, along Church Road and adjacent to the Old School House. The new proposed route does not link up to the Essex Way.

Network Rail gave public notice of their proposals, displayed notices in the area and informed the Parish Council that they will be submitting a Transport and Works Act Order to the Secretary of State for Transport in order to seek permission to close or change the use of 130 level crossings around East Anglia. Wrabness Parish Council took the opportunity to make further representations to the Department of Transport before the 12th May:

Wrabness Parish Council requested the following representations are taken into account by the Department for Transport in considering the Network Rail application subject of the consultation:-

Wrabness is a small rural community in north-east Essex. The loss of the railway crossing E48 at Wrabness will mean the closure of a popular footpath which links the two ends of the village; the footpath is a popular and scenic recreational walking route and a short cut for local residents to visit friends and local businesses (such as those which supply fresh farm produce) which has been in use since the railway was built over 150 years ago. It will diminish the recreational potential of our locality and leave us with a lengthy cul-de-sac footpath which does not connect to anywhere. We anticipate that closure will mean less walking and higher car use, as well as the loss of an important community asset.

The E48 Wheatsheaf crossing was recently upgraded to meet modern safety requirements; it enjoys good visibility due to the alignment of the railway, the branch railway line at Wrabness is not a busy route and there is no record of a safety incident or loss of life at this crossing. We urge you not to close the E48 crossing.

The Network Rail proposal to create an alternative footpath route in an east -west direction to the north of the railway line will not compensate for the loss of the north - south through footpath route across the railway in terms of utility for local residents. As a recreational walking route it would parallel the existing Essex Way long distance footpath and scenic Church Road coastal routes instead of providing a through north -south feeder link and will diminish the benefit of the footpath network.

2443: Electoral Review of Tendring: Included in the draft recommendations for Tendring District Council is a proposal to reduce District Councillor numbers from 60 to 48, and the recommendations also propose new electoral ward boundaries across the district. Wrabness will change to Stour Valley, which will include Bradfield and Ramsey.

The ward boundaries drawn up must adhere to the following: 1: To deliver electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district. 2: The pattern of wards should as far as possible reflect the interest and identities of the Local communities. 3: Electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

The Parish Council does not support the proposed ward. Wrabness has the most links with Wix , due to the connections with the Church, Nursery School and Primary School. No further update.

2458: Station Master Garden, Metal Sculpture for Wildlife: Please ref to above item 2455 under public forum. **Action: Parish Clerk.**

2459: Planning Application: 17/00488/FUL- 41 Station Road, Wrabness, CO11 2TH – proposed first- floor extension to form additional bedroom. After discussion, it was decided – No objections.

2460: ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

i: Planning Workshop at EALC: Mr Fran McGowan and Mr T Harvey attended a planning workshop with EALC. They found it very informative but as quite a lot to cover would have preferred a whole day instead of half a day. The National Planning Policy Framework was recommended for Parish Councils to refer to. Parish Clerk to check price and carry forward to next meeting: Action Parish Clerk.

ii: Zurich Insurance Policy: The five -year agreement expires May 2018, review next March.

2461: Reports.

Highways:

i. Member of the public reported the pavement on the main road opposite Butler's lane overgrown stating that they have to walk single file almost on the edge of the pavement. Was cut back last year. Suggested to contact Councillor Zoe Fairley. Action: Mark Cole.

ii. Member of the public reported the right turn into Butlers Lane from the main road coming from Bradfield is now a blind bend due to the hedges growth over the summer.

Neighbourhood Watch: - Hut 22 on Foreshore was broken into, just drink stolen. Caravans on the Nature Reserve also broken into but nothing was taken.

Footpaths: The plank across the ditch at Strandlands is slightly wobbly.

Parish Plan: A village questionnaire will take place in the autumn.

Village Hall: As reported in the January minutes the Village Hall incurred damaged after a 16th birthday party. 3 quotes have been given to the Village Hall and the lowest sent to the organizer of the party. They have yet to respond. The Village Hall will go ahead with the lowest quote and once the repairs have been completed contact the organizer again in the hope they decide to pay for the damages incurred by the party.

Station Garden: See 2458 & 2455.

TALC/EACL: Nothing to report.

Public Health: The First Aid course on the 19th May was well attended. The Parish Council would like to thank Frinton First Aid. Action: Parish Clerk.

Foreshore Liaison: Mr R Colley and Mr H Jones invited to Belhaven AGM in June.

Public Transport: nothing to report.

W.P.F.A: See 2442. i: The Football Tournament is on **17th June** at the Playing Fields. ii: AGM, **25th May** at Wrabness Church 7:45pm iii: Children climbing on top of the container. Will add a warning sign and possibly anti-vandal paint around the top.

Kiosk: Also see item 2457. Mr F McGowan researched the prices of doors, rusted doors £300 plus and ready painted and treated £1000 plus. Recommended leaving the door but possibly paint it.

2462: Accounts and money received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT
Parish Precept 1 st instalment	£2805.00

DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Village Hall Rental 24 th may 2017	£15.00	997
Frinton Training Services (first Aid Course 19 th May)	£588.00	996
Parish Clerk wages (1/3/17 – 17/5/17)	£333.60	998
CQ VOID	N/A	999
Zurich yearly Parish Council Insurance	£633.76	1000

2463: Confirmation of Account Balances:

The Parish Clerk reported balances as follows:

Current Account: 6th April 2017: £4,838.87

Deposit Account: 10th April 2017: £8550.73

The meeting closed at: 9.04 pm

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12th 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Carol Greenwood: Wrabness Parish Clerk

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