

**DRAFT - MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 31st May 2022, AT 7.17pm**

In the Chair: Cllr. D. Stokes
Present Cllrs. Cllr. J. Barlow, Cllr. M. Cooper
Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob

Also, present two members of the public.

22/057 Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr. P. Snazell (due to family commitments), Cllr. I. Ward (due to work commitments), County Cllr. Schwier and District Cllr. Scattergood (due to work commitments).

22/058 Declaration of Interests.

None.

22/059 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

Two members of the public attended the meeting to see how proceedings take place, one considering to possibly be co-opted onto the Parish Council in July.

22/060 Ward and County Councillors to address the members if present.

None present.

22/061 Minutes.

Item 1. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29th March 2022.

Item 2. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19th May 2022.

Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/062 Planning Matters.

Ref: 22/01147/FUL

Location: Land Adjacent Butlers Wood And Waldergrave Wood West Of A131 (In The Parishes Of Bulmer And Twinstead) Sudbury Road Bulmer Essex

Description: A new 400/132 kilovolt (kV) Grid Supply Point (GSP) substation including two supergrid transformers, associated buildings, equipment and switchgear, a single circuit cable sealing end compound, a new permanent vehicular access to the public highway, associated landscaping (including boundary fencing, an area for Biodiversity Net Gain, and landscape mounding) and drainage.

Objection:

Whilst we object to this planning application, we recognise that it may still be granted and will make the following comments to BDC Planning.

- Consider siting the compound some 50 metres further away from the A131. This would give sufficient space for additional tree planting to screen the compound from the main road.
- Plant additional screening to the west of the compound, facing Wickham St. Pauls.
- As the ground falls away to the west, we feel that if the compound was recessed by some 5m, it would have less impact on the view from the A131 and from the direction of Wickham St. Pauls.
- We would like you to consider running a public footpath alongside / around the compound area as the existing area is picturesque and popular with walkers.
- We are concerned about light pollution and that all necessary measure are taken to minimise this.

Proposed by Cllr. Stokes, Seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/063 Matters Arising – Updates

There were a number of long-term items beyond our control and decisions that have not progressed and these are only being discussed at the meeting where there is a development.

1. Previous Minute Number 18/161 Item 1. Church Road additional parking (Highways Grasscrete /Harden verge) update. Scheme is feasible however they would only be able to provide two additional parking spaces and two vehicles already park on the verge.

Signed (Chairman).....

26th July 2022

- Item 2. Previous minute 20/078 A131 Long Gardens – speeding – update.
- Item 3. Previous Minute Number 18/161 Item 2. Speed Indicator Device – update. Speed surveys are required in order to progress the validation but are on hold due to covid restrictions.
- Item 4. Previous minute Number 21/085 30mph zone extension Park Road.
- Item 5. Previous minute Number 21/085 ‘Beware of Horses’ signs – update.
- Item 6. Old Road – ‘Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles’ sign, submitted 25 Aug. 2021.
- Item 7. Footpaths- update and footpath 22.
- Item 8. Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust – update by Cllr. Stokes.
- Item 9. Previous minute number 21/035 Bramford to Twinstead Network Reinforcement - report by Cllr. Stokes.
- Item 10. Previous minute number 21/041 Shellards Barn. Use of Premises – no update by Cllr. Snazell.
- Item 11. Previous minute number 21/039 Verges. To discuss erosion to verges on Old Road – no report by Cllr. Snazell.
- Item 12. Previous minute number 21/096 Beacon – Cllr. Cooper confirmed that the beacon is due to be delivered this week, the company providing it Aardvark FX Ltd have kindly donated it to the village for future use, Clerk to send letter of thanks.
- Item 13. Previous minute number 21/097 Telephone box outside the village hall – Still not working the internal lights has been removed and a new handle fitted to the door – ongoing.
- Item 14. County Broadband Pole and Cables E-mail sent to County Broadband no update by Cllr Snazell.
- Item 15. Previous minute number 21/117 Manhole covers no update about working group by Cllr Snazell.

22/064 Accounts 2021/2022.

- Item 1** - Internal Auditors Report.
 - Item 2** – Clerk confirmed reclaim for VAT 2021/2022 has been received.
 - Item 3** – Approval of Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022 prior to submission to the Audit Commission. Chairman and Clerk to sign.
 - Item 4** - Approval of Accounting Statements for 2021/2022 prior to submission to the Audit Commission. Chairman and Clerk to sign.
 - Item 5** – Certificate of Exemption - To confirm that Wickham St Pauls Parish Council have certified themselves as exempt as the gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year ended 31 March 2022.
 - Item 6** –Year End Bank Reconciliation for 2021/2022 prior to submission to the Audit Commission. Chairman and Clerk to sign
 - Item 7** - To sign off the accounts for 2021/2022, Chairman and Clerk to sign.
 - Item 8** – To confirm the notice of public rights and publications of annual governance and accountability return will be displayed on 10th June commence date will be 13th June until 22nd July 2022.
- Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/065 Salt Bag Partnership 2022/2023.

The Parish Council would like to stay in the scheme, but do not require any salt this year.
Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/066 Gigaclear.

Request to install Fibre optic Broadband, but to deliver this type of infrastructure they will need to lay fibre optic cable in ducts underground. Permission granted; Clerk confirmed £375.00 had been received from Gigaclear.
Proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Cooper all in favour, resolution passed.

22/067 Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Stokes proposed that the Parish Council make a donation to the village in the form of prizes for the races / competitions, approx. £70.00.
Proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/068 Financial Matters.

- 1) Financial Statement (Items to be approved for payment and signed as per payment schedule).

	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
Clerks & Councils Direct-Communicorp (commemorative mugs minute number. 22/033)	002384	1092.40
EALC (Subscriptions for EALC & NALC) Inv. 15539	002385	104.92
JPB Landscapes Ltd Inv. No. 1343 & 1356	002386	396.00
Aardvark FX Ltd Inv.No.1213(minute No. 22/007 Item 11).	002387	162.00
Mrs J Stobart (Internal Auditor)	002388	195.00
The Colne-Stour Countryside Association	002389	10.00
Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC)	002390	40.00
BHIB Insurance	002391	525.77
Maestro Tree Services	002392	260.00

Signed (Chairman).....

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D. Jacob (Expenses for April/May)	002393	72.26
D. Jacob (Salary for May)	SO	430.00
D. Jacob (Salary Difference for May)	002394	37.07
Lee Sear (Salary for May)	002395	86.68
HM Revenue & Customs (For May)	002396	116.40
Derek Stokes (Reimbursement for receipts)	002397	232.09
D. Jacob (Salary for June)	SO	430.00
D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for June)	002398	36.87
Lee Sear (Salary for June)	002399	93.77
HM Revenue & Customs (For June)	002400	118.80
Wickham St Pauls Cricket Club (Grass cutting)	002401	1,100.00
W.I. Refreshments for Annual Parish Assembly	002402	80.00

It was agreed to also approve invoices from Braintree District Council for £168.08 (Green Bin Collection) and Lyster & Assoc. £7.50 (printing labels) which were received after publication of the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Cooper, all in favour, resolution passed.

- 2) Monthly Budget Statement – Received and noted.
- 3) To consider changing Standing Order for Mrs D. Jacob from £430.00 to £460.00 (To sign letter to inform the bank as from July).

Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

22/069

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.