

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, AT 7.30pm**

In the Chair: Cllr. D. Stokes  
Present Cllrs. Cllr. M. Cooper, Cllr. P. Snazell, Cllr. C. Groom  
Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob  
Cllr. Peter Schwier

Also, present two members of the public.

A minute's silence was held in respect of her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**22/097 Welcome and Apologies for Absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr. Ward (due to illness) and Cllr. Barlow (due to family commitments), and Cllr. W. Scattergood (due to work commitments).

**22/098 Declaration of Interests.**

None.

**22/099 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.**

A member of the public attended the meeting and suggested we used 'Tregators' for watering the new trees.

**22/100 Ward and County Councillors to address the members if present.**

County Cllr. Schwier gave an update on Funding of £2m to train in social care. Thurrock finance audit ECC to intervene to give best value. Highways road surface to incorporate a new product that can withstand change temperatures cold/heat so to aid movement. Ride London 23 will take place with 1 day rolling road closures. £3.2m household support fund available.

**22/101 Minutes.**

**Item 1.** To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**Item 2.** To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

They were all approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

**22/102 Planning Matters.**

**Ref:** 22/02187/FUL

**Description:** Retention of vehicular access serving paddock to rear of Dove Cottage.

**Location:** Dove Cottage, The Green, Wickham St. Paul Essex CO9 2PT

**Objection.**

The application states that it is serving a 'paddock' (definition: *a small field or enclosure where horses are kept or exercised*) and there are no horses in the field and the landowners have no history of having any horses.

The land is designated as agricultural and we understand it was sold for this purpose only. Our Parish Council raised concerns with BDC in July 2021 when the access was first made and whilst we understand your resources were stretched at the time, we believe your Enforcement Officer did visit the site.

There have been reports that the access road is being used by commercial vehicles.

The access point is near the junction of Old Road and is virtually opposite the Fruit Farm access. The farm has recognised that visibility onto Park Road is restrictive and therefore they have put in place signage to direct exiting traffic further south.

Finally, we view the access road as a development which is outside the village envelope.

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

**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.**

Signed (Chairman).....

29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

We believe the amendments to the planning application does not address our concerns and suggestions of the 20<sup>th</sup>. March 2022, which were:

We ask you to 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.

In addition, a representative from or Parish Council attended the exhibition in Sudbury on the 15<sup>th</sup>. September and discussed the effects of light pollution from the compound. They were advised that as the site is unmanned, there is no night-time lighting. We would like this confirmed as part of any revised proposal.

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

## **22/103 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.

**Item 1.** Previous minute 20/078 A131 Long Gardens – speeding – update. None.

**Item 2.** Previous minute Number 21/085 30mph zone extension Park Rd. – update. None.

**Item 3.** Previous minute Number 21/085 ‘Beware of Horses’ signs – update. None.

**Item 4.** Old Road – ‘Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles’ sign, submitted 25/08/21 –update. None.

**Item 5.** Footpaths- update and footpath 22.

We have spoken to Jason Botelho at Essex Highways and he has in turn spoken to the landowner and reminded him of his responsibility to maintain a clear footpath.

**Item 6.** Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust – update by Cllr. Stokes.

The next Trust meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. October.

**Item 7.** Previous minute number 21/035 Bramford to Twinstead Network Reinforcement - report by Cllr. Stokes.

We have been approached by Gestingthorpe Parish Council to attend a joint meeting with our neighbouring councils to discuss the National Grid proposal. Awaiting dates.

**Item 8.** Previous minute number 21/041 Shellards Barn. Use of Premises - update. None.

**Item 9.** Previous minute number 21/039 Verges. To discuss erosion to verges on Old Road – report by Cllr. Snazell.

**Item 10.** Previous minute number 21/097. The telephone box outside the village hall – update by Cllr. Stokes.

The kiosk is now up and running again. A request has been made to BT for the light to be reinstated and a date for the painting of the box. Matter closed.

**Item 11.** County Broadband Pole and Cables E-mail sent to County Broadband - update. None.

**Item 12.** Previous minute number 21/117 Manhole covers update about working group by Cllr Stokes.

The materials for capping the manhole will be delivered to the Village Hall, w.c. 3<sup>rd</sup>. October and a working party now needs to be organised.

**Item 13.** Previous minute number 22/093 Dredging the Village Pond – update.

The ponds on either side of the Village Hall and at the rear have been dredged of some 600 tons of silt. Our thanks to Cllr.

Catherine Groom and Paul Shipperly of ‘Wynches’ for taking the silt onto their land. Matter closed.

### **Item 14. Water Leak in road.**

Water leakage in the road near the Village Hall - Anglian Water have confirmed that this is a Highway issue and has been reported to Highways ref; 2784998 on 5 July 3033 at 16.35pm. Cllr. Schwier to set up a site meeting with a Highways Engineer.

A member of the public kindly offered to discuss the issue of the ground water leak with an expert and report back to the Parish Council.

### **Item 15. Christmas 2022 - Costume.**

Cllr. Snazell is to discuss with a seamstress he knows, to acquire a pattern and material to make the costume. A budget has previously been agreed.

## **22/104 Parish Paths Partnership – PROW - Public Rights of Way (Footpaths)**

**Item 1.** The Parish Council to set up a footpath working group. Advertise in the Look Out Magazine for volunteers.

**Item 2.** To consider if the Parish Council would like to join the ECC Parish Paths Partnership -PROW scheme.

Requirement is to walk our Public Rights of Way once a year, there is no other minimum commitment. The expectation is that by walking our routes we can identify those jobs we think ECC should do and those we may feel comfortable addressing.

Where materials such as wood and tools are required, ECC can provide these in addition to providing PPE, gloves, eye protection etc and even contribute to the cost of suitable boots.

Signed (Chairman).....

29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

The advantage of local volunteers dealing with issues is that we have a much better idea of what is a local priority. If we wait for ECC to do your bridges and posts, we will just have to wait in the queue alongside the other 300+ parishes and unparished areas across the county. ECC are not saying we should do things ourselves, but the more we can do, the quicker it will generally happen.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would like to join the scheme and an advertisement for volunteers would be put in the next issue of 'Look Out' as well as local posters and some flyers.

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

**22/105 Internal Auditor.**

It was agreed to appoint Jan Stobart as the internal auditor at a cost of £210.00 for financial year 2022/23.

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

**22/106 Parish Calendar 2023/2024**

The Parish Calendar for 2023/2024 was adopted.

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

**22/107 Additional Trees on the village green.**

It was agreed to plant up 10 additional trees, mainly fruit trees on the village green between Oak Lea / Morlins and to incorporate water gaiters Cost £400.00 incl. VAT.

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

**22/108 Financial Matters.**

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

	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
Fireworks (Proforma invoice)		TBC
Wickham St Pauls Village Hall Inv. No. 2283 & 2287	002421	16.00
JPB Landscapes Ltd Inv. No. 1412	002422	264.00
Derek Stokes (Reimbursement for receipts)	002423	72.14
D. Jacob (Expenses for August/September)	002424	66.69
D. Jacob (Salary for September)	SO	460.00
D. Jacob (Salary Difference for September)	002425	6.87
Lee Sear (Salary for September)	002426	117.57
HM Revenue & Customs (For September)	002427	95.00
D. Jacob (Salary for October)	SO	460.00
D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for October)	002428	6.87
Lee Sear (Salary for October)	002429	93.97
HM Revenue & Customs (For October)	002430	116.80
Travis Perkins Trading Co. Ltd	002431	171.26
Tutton Timber Ltd	002432	182.40
Richard Edwards Group Inv. No. 47614	002434	85.50

Fireworks invoice to be listed on the next agenda. It was agreed to also approve an invoice from Michael Bradshaw Building & Agriculture for £3,648.00 for dredging the ponds.

Proposed by Cllr. Groom, seconded by Cllr. Snazell, all in favour, resolution passed.

- 2) Monthly Budget Statement – Received and noted.

**22/109 Items for next agenda.**

Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item, LGA 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified therefore the council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

Quiet Roads. To consider to apply to Highways for this restriction on Old Road.

New agenda items to be sent to the Clerk so that they can appear on the next agenda.

**22/110 Date of Next Meetings.**

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (7.30pm).

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed (Chairman).....

29<sup>th</sup> November 2022