

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023, AT 7.15pm**

In the Chair: Cllr. M. Cooper
Present Cllrs. Cllr. J. Barlow, Cllr. C. Groom, Cllr. P. Snazell
Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob

Also, present one member of the public

23/112 Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from County Cllr. Schwier and District Cllr. Holland (due to work commitments).

23/113 Declaration of Interests.

None.

23/114 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

It was confirmed that the large marquee situated in the car park at Cox's is for a skating rink, skating on plastic to try and boost takings and encourage visitors to come into the village, it will be open over Christmas during shop opening times. The Christmas switch on light event will be on Sunday 3rd December at 5pm everyone invited and welcome to attend.

23/115 District and County Councillors to address the members if present.

Not present, regular updates and reports received. However, it was noted that Parish Cllrs are concerned about them not attending and particularly concerned about the potential bus service withdrawal.

23/116 Minutes.

To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th September 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

23/117 Vacancy on Wickham St Pauls Parish Council.

Item 1. Mr Paul Shipperley was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Item 2. Mr Paul Shipperley signed acceptance of office and consent form to receive the Council Summons and agenda electronically.

Item 3. Declaration of Interest form to be sent direct to Braintree District Council, and also the Clerk to receive a copy. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow, all in favour, resolution passed.

Parish Councillors welcomed the new Councillor and he joined the meeting.

23/118 Planning Matters.

Item 1. Updates - Appeals

Site Address: Dove Cottage The Green Wickham St Paul Essex CO9 2PT

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

Planning Application Ref: 22/03449/FUL

All representations must be received by 19 December 2023 and sent directly to the following:

Development Management

Causeway House Braintree, Essex CM7 9HB

Tel: 01376 552525

Email: appeals@braintree.gov.uk

Planning Inspectorate. Any representations submitted after the deadline will not usually be considered and will be returned. The Planning Inspectorate does not acknowledge representations. **All representations must quote the appeal reference, APP/Z1510/W/23/3327446.**

Item 2. New applications

No new applications received.

Signed (Chairman).....

30th January 2024

23/119 Braintree District Council: Potential Open Space Improvements plan. To notify BDC of the following:

All existing items to be remain.

Amend to read: replacement and upgrade of Play equipment.

New item: Works to improve the integrity of the village green.

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

23/120 New electricity supply for 1 Oak Cottages Shellards Lane.

To discuss and consider e-mail received from a resident enquiring about a new electricity supply to their property.

It was confirmed that Wickham St Pauls Parish Council do not own the land, therefor resident to contact Braintree District Council direct to obtain permission the Parish Council would support the application.

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

23/121 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

Essex residents are being urged to have their say on how much they would be prepared to spend and which areas of policing and crime they would like to see further investment in.

Cllr Groom to attended a public meeting on 22nd November and updated the Parish Council. They are proposing to come and visit and to speak to residents if requested about how they operate – to invite them to attend the Annual Parish Assembly.

23/122 Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust.

As they are not quorate at present no meetings can take place.

23/123 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 Number 21/085 30mph zone extension Park Road – no further action by Highways. However, Parish Council to continue to pursue this item, next update by Cllr Snazell.

Item 2. Previous minute Number 21/085 ‘Beware of Horses’ signs – no further action by Highways. However, Parish Council to continue to pursue this item, next update by Cllr Snazell.

Item 3. Old Road – ‘Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles’ sign, submitted 25 Aug. 2021 – no further action by Highways, see item 23/085 above. However, Parish Council to continue to pursue this item, next update by Cllr Snazell.

Item 4. Previous minute number 21/039 Verges. To discuss erosion to verges on Old Road – no further action by Highways, see item 23/085 above. However, Parish Council to continue to pursue this item, next update by Cllr Snazell.

Item 5. Previous minute number 21/117 Manhole covers – ongoing.

Item 6. Previous minute number 22/079 The circular bench under the oak tree on the village green – to consider moving it near the large pond next to the village hall. Ongoing.

Item 7. Previous minute number 22/083 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. Snazell has spoken to the Environmental Agency, Norfolk & Suffolk Water and agricultural team – Letter received from Highways that they are going to inspect the area, but no on-site meetings will take place – Cllr Snazell to contact Cllr Schwier for help and advice on all Highway issues – ongoing.

Item 8. Previous Minute number 22/085 Extend the concrete post and iron rail where the fallen oak tree was.

To protect the corner of the pond and stop erosion by traffic to install oak posts, only at this stage. Budget cost £100.00 ongoing.

Item 9. Previous minute number 21/117 Manhole covers update ongoing.

Item 10. Previous minute number 23/017 Circular Bench – update work to be carried out, ongoing.

23/124 Update by Cllr Snazell.

1. Local Highways Panel Meeting update. Cllr Snazell confirmed attendance at the LHP meeting, Essex Conty Council puts proposals to the LHP (Local Highway Panel) and decisions made, no public participation.
2. Power interruptions, particularly Fox Yard area. Awaiting an explanation from E-On
3. Ditch and Hedgerow concerns. To send a letter to the land owner regarding the protruding hedges over and right hand side of the Bus Shelter along Church Road.
4. Unresolved water issue opposite Small Corner, The Green. Ongoing Clerk trying to arrange a site meeting with Highways.
5. Water pressure issues affecting properties either side of Oak Farm. Residents to report this direct to Anglian Water.
6. Damage to Village Green opposite entrance to new housing development. Chairman to discuss this with the landowner.
7. Planned Traffic Diversion that will cause further damage to the quiet lane Old Road. It is not suitable for a 2-way traffic diversion – to monitor the situation.
8. Reckless driving by motorists on the road between Bulmer Tye and Castle Hedingham. To report this to Essex Police as only recently a serious accident has taken place.

Signed (Chairman).....

30th January 2024

23/125 Budget/Precept for 2024/2025.

As required by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary Interest. To participate in the setting of a precept for the Council, the councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose, Wickham St Pauls Parish Council resolves to delegate to the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering and setting the budget/precept. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Groom, all in favour, resolution passed.

23/126 Budget/Precept Budget 2024/2025.

Item 1. The Budget for 2024/2025 was set at £20,974.00

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

Item 2. To consider to set the Precept in January for 2024/2025 as awaiting figures from Braintree District Council Item to be on the next agenda.

23/127 Financial Matters.

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

	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
Braintree District Council (Inv. No. 7184104 election costs)	002519	70.05
JPB Landscapes Ltd Inv. 293and 309 (Grass cutting for September & October)	002520	264.00
Wickhams St Pauls Village Hall (inv. No 2354)	002521	10.00
D. Jacob (Salary for November)	SO	490.00
D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for November)	002522	162.15
Lee Sear (Salary for November)	002523	173.86
HM Revenue & Customs (For November)	002524	170.89
D. Jacob (Expenses for October/November as per receipts, including green bin collection for 2024)	002525	111.20
D. Jacob (Salary for December)	SO	490.00
D. Jacob (Salary adjustment for December)	002526	47.98
Lee Sear (Salary for December)	002527	113.19
HM Revenue & Customs (For December)	002528	134.60
P. Snazell (Reimbursement as per receipt)	002529	10.80

It was confirmed that employees back pay has been awarded and that the new NALC scale point has been implemented. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Barlow all in favour, resolution passed.

- 2) Monthly Budget Statement – Received and noted.
- 3) It was confirmed that the 2nd half of the precept has been received.

23/128 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. Any new items that Cllrs want to raise to be sent to the Clerk.

23/129 Date of next Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 30th January 2024 (7.15pm)

Meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Signed (Chairman).....

30th January 2024