

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at Wrabness Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Mr Harry Adams, Mr Gary Bowers, Ms Alice Cole, Mr Richard Colley (Chairman), Mr Francis McGowan (Vice Chairman), Mr Rob Southall-Edwards, Mr Graham Watkins, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson and Juliet Attrill Parish Clerk.

Apologies: County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi.

3503. Declarations of Interest: None

Public Forum: There was 1 member of the public present. The public forum was opened.

- A member of the public requested more information on item 9 (3508) '**Network Rail/ ECC:** Closure of Wheatsheaf Pedestrian Level Crossing, Diversion of Footpath Route and related signage'. The sequence was outlined including the 2018 public inquiry held in Chelmsford at which ECC, Wrabness PC and some local residents objected to the footpath closure and diversion promoted by Network Rail. Following the public inquiry the Secretary of State for Transport granted consent for the footpath closure and diversion, subject to approval of details. The reserved details were recently approved with no local consultation of residents or the parish council and the changes to the footpath route have been actioned this month by Network Rail.

- Public Forum Closed -

3504. Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2025 were agreed as true record and signed.

3505. Matters arising and actions:

a. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3491a)

i: Review Speed Limits: There has been no progress on this matter.

ii: Review Parking issues: Some photographic evidence has been received from residents of anti-social parking. The images received are localised to the Rectory Road corner near the Community Shop. It was agreed WPC would forward the complaint photographs to the North Essex Parking Partnership with a request for review and appropriate action.

Action: Parish Clerk

b. Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council – (3491b): CC Guglielmi reports he will speak to the ECC highways portfolio holder to chase this outstanding repair.

c. A120/Primrose Lane Junction - Highways England review and safety improvements (3491c): Highways England proposed a 50 mph speed limit along this section of A120 and undertook to examine other local safety improvements.

3506. Highways (3492): CC Guglielmi has informed WPC that there are no outstanding LHP requests from WPC. This caused surprise as several WPC highway requests had not been actioned by ECC highways. In the circumstances it was agreed the parish council would compile an updated list of highway defects and improvements, we wish to promote to the highway authority for consideration as highway funding becomes available. The councillors put forward highway matters for inclusion on a new listing. It was agreed to further review the list of highway defects and recommended improvements at the next meeting.

3507. Manningtree Museum and Local History Group: Replacement of historic Harwich Turnpike Road Mile Stone & Post No 65 at Wrabness (3493) – update: The project is now complete. WPC are happy with the outcome. It was reported verbally that Museum Group would like WPC to adopt the marker. The parish council asked for this request to be put in writing.

Action: G Bowers

3508. Network Rail/ ECC: Closure of Wheatsheaf Pedestrian Level Crossing, Diversion of Footpath Route and related signage: WPC has received a complaint from a resident regarding the new permanent road signage installed relating to the footpath diversion. The resident considers the signs are unsightly in the AONB and are taller than usual. The resident has raised this issue directly with ECC highways but they are yet to receive a response. It was noted that signage clutter should be avoided although the signs do raise awareness of pedestrians along the route which is positive. WPC agreed that some of the new signs are on extra high poles compared with existing highway signage signs and will request these be lowered. WPC to contact highways.

Action: Parish Clerk

3509. Playing Field

a. Maintenance Agreement: Request received for annual fee from Wrabness Playing Field Association: WPC received the WPFA statement for 2024 including income generated from periodic Jumble Sales and expenses which includes cost of grass cutting and general maintenance of the field, equipment and

insurance. It was agreed the playing field is well maintained and WPC should pay the annual maintenance fee of £1,900.00 as budgeted to WPFA. **Action: R Colley**

b. Annual inspection: TDC will no longer be coordinating the annual playground inspections for parish councils. TDC has provided contact information of two specialist companies for inspections. WPC to seek quotes from both companies in due course. It was suggested to bring this to the next TDALC meeting to try to streamline the process for other local councils and hopefully reduce the cost. **Action: Parish Clerk**

3510. Grant Applications:

a. Wrabness Playing Field Management Committee - Request for £87.00, to cover the cost of hiring the village hall and advertisement for the fundraising Jumble Sale: It was agreed to award the full grant. **Action: R Colley**

b. Wrabness Youth Club – Request for £400.00 towards the cost of youth club equipment upgrades and special experiences: It was proposed to award £300.00 to accommodate the annual budget for grant applications. It was unanimously agreed to award a grant of £300.00. **Action: R Colley**

3511. New Planning Application – the Parish Council has been notified of the following new application received by Tendring District Council:

[25/00080/FULHH](#) - Porthwen Church Road Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TQ - Householder Planning Application - garage. **Status: Current Consultation.** - It was noted that the address on the application is incorrect. The application site location is Collar Meadow Cottage Church Road Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TQ which is next door to Porthwen. This was corrected by TDC shortly after the meeting. Wrabness Parish Council makes no objection to this application. **Action: Parish Clerk**

3512. Planning Application Update: The Parish Council has already commented on the following applications

[24/01270/FUL](#) - Site 15 East Foreshore Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2BB - Planning Application - Erection of beach chalet (replacement of previously fire damaged chalet). **Status: Awaiting Decision.**

[24/01719/FUL](#) - Broadfields Primrose Hill Wrabness Essex CO11 2TZ - Planning Application - Proposed dwelling (following demolition of forge building). **Status: Awaiting Decision**

3513. Reports:

VILLAGE GREEN: GW met with 3 contractors for Spring top dressing the grass and received varying quotes. The lowest quote was £190 per application (2 applications will be needed). GW to check this contractor has the correct licensing.	TREES: The tree on the green will be moved in early March by HA. Annual review of Oak Tree on the playfield to take place.
	WEBSITE: Discussion took place about a gov.uk web address with paid for email address. Decided to make no change to avoid increasing operating costs.
TRANSPORT: The ticket machine at the station is still out of service.	TDALC: The Citizens Advice Service funding has been extended for 6 months. The service is going through a tender process to be considered for a contract.
STATION MASTERS GARDEN: The dead tree in the garden to be felled next month.	

3514. 2024-5 Accounts and monies received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Hall Farm sponsorship for Spring edition Village Newsletter	£250.00	Grant: Wrabness Village Hall - Kitchen Upgrade	£300.00	1287
		Parish Clerk Salary for February 2024	£226.88	1288
		Village Hall Hire for February Meeting	£18.00	1289
		Parish Clerk Expenses (Aug 23 - Jan 25)	£35.59	1290

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Parish Clerk Telephone Sim Card (Annual)	£48.00	1291
		Grant: Wrabness Playing Field Management Committee - Advertisement and Hall hire.	£87.00	1292
		Grant: Wrabness Youth Club - equipment upgrade	£300.00	1293
		Wrabness Playing Field Association management fee 2025	£1900.00	1294

3515. Confirmation of Account Balances:

Current Account: Balance as at 13 February 2025 £5,487.31

Deposit Account: Balance as at 13 February 2025 £6,919.14

3516. Any Other Urgent Business:

- a. Thank you to John Acton of Wrabness Hall Farm for sponsoring the Spring Edition of the Wrabness Village Newsletter.
- b. Info: Noticeboards - GW has the disused noticeboard that was removed from Wheatsheaf Close. There are three WPC notice boards in active use including the notice board on Harwich Road/Station Road which may be on private land.
- c. Info: The first TDC precept payment is due to WPC on April 3rd.
- d. Invitation to attend the Tendring District Council Parish and Town Local Community Resilience Workshop: The workshop will be held at 6.00pm on Monday 24th March 2025 at Clacton Town Hall. RC offered to attend and report back re the proposed update of Village Emergency Plans.
- e. District Councillor Tanya Ferguson:
 - House Building Targets: Mandatory house building targets have been introduced to encourage 1.5million new homes across the country over the next five years. The Tendring house building target will increase from 550 homes per year in the current local plan to 1,034 homes per year. TDC will hold a public consultation on planning policy options to accommodate additional housing. Parish Clerk to request a presentation on this at a future meeting. **Action: Parish Clerk**
 - Devolution of Local Government and Local Government Review: TDC and ECC will cease to exist and the area will become part of "Greater Essex Combined Authority" led by an elected Mayor. This reorganisation does not include parish councils.

-The meeting closed at 21:23 -

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 in the Village Hall, immediately following the 7.00pm Annual Parish Assembly.

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

Contact Wrabness Parish Council: Email: wrabness.parishclerk@gmail.com Telephone 07535812543