

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at Wrabness Village Hall

Present: Mr Harry Adams, Ms Alice Cole, Mr Richard Colley (Chairman), Mr Francis McGowan, Dr Rob Southall-Edwards, Mr Graham Watkins and Parish Clerk Juliet Attrill.

Apologies: Mr Gary Bowers, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson, County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi.

Wrabness Parish Council welcomed the new Parish Councillors Alice Cole and Rob Southall-Edwards to their first meeting.

3374. Declarations of Interest: None

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

3375. Approval of Minutes: of the meeting held on 22nd November 2023 were agreed as true record and signed.

3376. Matters arising and actions:

- a. Flooding on Harwich Road adjacent to Stour Wood - (3360) Councillors Ferguson and Guglielmi reported to WPC that a meeting will take place on Monday 15th January between themselves, Rick Vonk (RSPB), Terry Knights, Essex Highways and possibly Jim Macaulay. WPC are invited to join. The aim of the meeting is to determine ownership and responsibilities, with the goal of unblocking the culvert and putting in place future flooding prevention measures, such as expanding the size of the ponds and installing a grille to stop debris blocking the culvert. Mr Colley will attend. **ACTION: R Colley**
- b. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3363a)
 - i: Review Speed Limits: CC Guglielmi requested WPC provide him with a proposed plan for updating the speed signs in front of Nightingale Road and the village green. Images were re-sent, showing the 30mph zone to be moved past Church Road (also known as Ash Street) to include the new estate and village green.
 - ii: Review Parking issues: WPC is still gathering evidence to show recurring nuisance parking.
- c. Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council – (3363b) CC Guglielmi has contacted Essex Highways and will update WPC when he receives a response.
- d. A120/Primrose Lane junction - request to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP (3363c): CC Guglielmi reports to have met with Sir Bernard Jenkin, CC Daniel Land and two residents who live close to the junction prior to Christmas. They report having discussed a speed limit reduction and the introduction of cameras. Further meetings are to be arranged with CC Tom Cunningham. WPC received a letter addressed to Sir Bernard Jenkin from Martin Fellows, Regional Director at National Highways. The letter, dated 28 November 2023, stated that Mr Fellows had requested Steve Thulborn (Head of Planning and Development for the East region) contact WPC. Parish Clerk had not yet been contacted and this will be followed up. **ACTION: Parish Clerk**
- e. Wheatsheaf Lane traffic (3363d): There are concerns that concrete blocks have been placed adjacent to the road which are a hazard for vehicles moving out of the way of lorries.
- f. **Village Green** (3342e):
 - i. The works to lay out the new Village Green are finished and have been signed off in accordance with the terms of the Section 106 agreement by a Chartered Landscape Architect. Ellisons solicitors have informed the Council that Bennett Homes is ready to transfer the land. A suggested date for transfer is 18th January 2024 although this could vary. Following transfer, WPC will be the freehold owner of the Village Green. Documentation of this will be received. WPC have asked Ellisons to request that Bennett Homes remove

their advertising signs from the site and provide keys for boundary posts and bins. It was agreed to proceed with the transfer. **ACTION: R Colley**

ii. WPC contacted their insurance policy holder, Ansvar, to ensure that the insurance policy covers the village green. The village green will be added to the Asset Register. The insurance covers volunteers carrying out maintenance.

iii. A meeting will be arranged with the Village Hall Committee to discuss and report back on the specification for the gates between the VH and VG, before seeking quotes for the supply and installation of the gates. We are fortunate to have a volunteer for grass cutting. Information on registering the open space as a village green to be gathered.

3377. Wrabness Environment Award 2024: The 2023 winner of the Wrabness Environment Award was Alice Cole. Two names were put forward for the award and a vote was taken. Freddie Eves will receive the award at the Annual Assembly in March. **ACTION: R Colley**

3378. Grant Application: All Saints PCC applied for a grant of £800 towards maintaining the churchyard. Previously, WPC has awarded All Saints PCC grants of £400. WPC has awarded several grants this year and the request exceeds the remaining grant budget for 2023/24. Mr Adams proposed an award of £440 which is a 10% increase to previous grants. Mr Colley seconded. 3 votes for and 1 vote against, carried. £440 grant awarded.

3379. Oak Tree Wrabness Playing Field: WPC acknowledged receipt of a letter and inspection report from Trinity Claims regarding the oak tree (23/00023/TPO) and a neighbouring property. TDC controls the tree due to the TPO. WPC are continuing to liaise with TDC re future management of the tree. WPC will inform the Playing Field Association of the situation as they maintain the land. **ACTION: R Colley**

3380. Planning Application Update – the parish council has previously commented to Tendring District Council on the following applications:

- a. [23/01215/FUL](#) - Oakfield Wood Burial Ground Ash Street Wrabness Essex CO11 2TG - Proposed detached green crematorium building with staff office, kitchen, bathroom and storage above. Status: Awaiting Decision.
- b. [23/01275/LUEX](#) - Land to The South of Wall Lane Wrabness Essex CO11 2BB - application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate for static caravan used for occasional overnight stays in excess of 28 days permitted development. Status: Refused on 15/11/2023 for the following reasons:

The application site is rural in nature with the static caravan subject of this application sited to the north, adjacent to Wall Lane. Insufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate an established existing use whereby the static caravan has been used as overnight accommodation more than 28 days in any calendar year. Having regard to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), a planning application would be required for a material change of use of the land for residential use if it were to be used as overnight accommodation for more than 28 days in any calendar year, and the Certificate of Lawfulness application is refused on this basis.

- c. [23/01420/FULHH](#) - Wrabness House Wheatsheaf Lane Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TB - Proposed demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of 3 bay garage. Status: Approved on 01/12/2023
- d. [23/01607/FULHH](#) - Woodlands Black Boy Lane Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TP - Proposed single storey side extension. Status: Approved on 21/12/2023

3381. Reports:

FOOTPATHS: The footpath repair due in Q4 has still not been completed. LHP is looking into why this work is still outstanding.
STATION MASTERS GARDEN: The Community Carol event held in the Station Garden was well supported.
KIOSK: The Christmas display was lovely and well maintained.
PUBLIC HEALTH: The defibrillator outside the village hall continues to be operational.
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Harry Jones reports that there has been no recent crime in the village.
TRANSPORT: There is no bus service serving the village. Harwich Connexions community transport is available to

help anyone in the village with travel problems.
FORESHORE: The Environment Agency has been checking the sluice at the sea wall. They no longer do any planned maintenance to the adjacent main ditches.
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER: Editor, Danielle Williams, is sourcing funding for the next colour edition of the newsletter. The next edition is due in March.
WEB SITE: A report will be brought to the next meeting.

3382. Future Allocation of Reports: agreed to delay until all councillors are present.

3383. Review of Standing Orders: WPC received the customised Standing Orders document from the committee. It was agreed to adopt the updated version which can be reviewed again in future. Dr Southall-Edwards highlighted the importance of data protection, suggesting to look into TDCs Data Protection Policy to use as a model.

3384. Budget for 2024-25: The draft budget report was received from the Budget Committee with an update from TDC on parish precept arrangements. The Budget Committee proposed a 2.7% increase in the budget in response to cost pressures on service expenditure. It is proposed that the Council Tax Precept be set at £6,561 for 2024-25. Unanimous agreement to the proposed budget. **ACTION: Parish Clerk**

3385. Accounts and monies received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Parish Clerk Salary for December 2023	£215.33	1237
		Autoprint invoice for printing Winter edition of Village newsletter	£239.00	1238
		Parish Clerk Salary for January 2024	£215.33	1239
		Parish Clerk Telephone SIM Card (Annual)	£48.00	1240
		Village Hall Hire for January Meeting	£18.00	1241
		All Saints PCC - grant award	£440.00	1242

3386. Confirmation of Account Balances:

Current Account: Balance as at 1 January £6,786.58
Deposit Account: Balance as at 1 January £6,799.60

3387. Any Other Urgent Business

- i. The Annual Spring Litter Pick is to be arranged for the morning of Saturday 9th March 2024.
- ii. A talk by Kevin Marsden on the Wrabness Nature Reserve is being arranged for the evening of 20th March 2024.

Closed at 21:18

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th February 2024 in the Village Hall

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk
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