

# WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

**of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at Wrabness Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R Colley (Chairman), Mr F McGowan (Vice Chairman), Mr G Watkins, Mr G Bowers, Mr H Adams and Parish Clerk Juliet Attrill.

**3348. Declarations of Interest:** None

**Public Forum:** Five members of the public were present. The public forum was opened and comments invited.

A member of the public stated they consider the oak tree at the entrance to the playing field should be safeguarded. They are aware of issues raised by the neighbours about the tree, but hold the viewpoint that the tree should be left alone.

### **Public Forum Closed**

**3349. Casual vacancies:** Public notice has been given that two casual vacancies exist for parish councillors which will be filled by co-option. Expressions of interest are invited in writing, telling us why you wish to be a councillor and about your relevant qualities and experience. Closing date for applications 14 October 2023. Applications received will be processed in accordance with the procedure agreed at our August meeting and will be formally considered at the November meeting (22/11/23). **Action: Parish Clerk**

**3350. Minutes:** of the meeting held on 6th September 2023. GB requested draft minute 3342a be amended as follows:

- His initials GB be added to the point he made in minute 3342a.
- the wording of minute 3342a be changed from "It is considered if ...." to "A suggestion was made that ...".

The draft minutes were approved and signed subject to these two amendments.

### **3351. Matters arising and actions:**

- a. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3342b)**
  - i: Review Speed Limits: A review has been agreed by the LHP; we are in a queue waiting for review to be carried out by ECC .
  - ii: Review Parking issues: Wall Lane, Church Road, Rectory Road: A picture of nuisance parking was received to add to the portfolio. WPC requests that more photographic evidence is gathered by the public which will be used when discussing parking issues with ECC and NEPP. A suggestion was made to add a notification in the village newsletter to encourage people to park responsibly.
  - iii: Repair Footpaths on Harwich Road – uplifting pavement: work programmed to be completed in Q4.
- b. Highways issues reported to Essex County Council online – (3342c)** Demolished wall at crossroads: We have requested an update, no response yet from ECC.
- c. Wheatsheaf Lane traffic: (3342d):** WPC and the public continue to monitor the traffic issues that arise in this area.
- d. Village Green (3342f):**
  - i. At the previous meeting, the Village Hall Committee chairman reported issues caused by Bennett Homes contractors to the front and side boundary of village hall land. WPC has contacted Bennett Homes who responded requesting photos of the damages, which have been supplied, and assuring they would rectify issues.
  - ii. Gates: The WPC request for Section 106 funding has been approved by TDC. WPC can proceed with work within a budget of £3,489.75 and will be reimbursed. Quotes for the pair of gates will be sought once the land has been transferred to WPC.

- e. Playing Field Oak Tree (3342a): There was further discussion whether a crown reduction is currently required to the oak tree subject of a tree preservation order. GB has a concern that the tree is at the playing field entrance, and could pose a safety risk should debris fall on those accessing the playing field. The TDC Tree Officer has informed the parish council that the tree is healthy, does not require any work at present and, given its situation, a crown reduction every 5 to 7 years would be an appropriate management cycle. The tree had a crown reduction some three years ago. Since the September WPC meeting, a neighbour to the tree has submitted a formal application (ref 23/01241/WTPO) to TDC to reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 30%. GB reported the neighbours are willing to contribute 1/3 of the cost of a crown reduction, up to £200 each.

In respect of the formal application by the neighbour for consent to carry out work to a tree subject of a TPO, the parish council has been consulted by TDC and understand that TDCs position is that, whilst work was not necessary at this time, "an application to reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 30% would be likely considered favourably". Following discussion the parish council resolved, in respect of the consultation, to inform TDC they have no objection to the application ref. 23/01241/WTPO.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

The parish council, as tenant of the land, then considered the neighbours request and decided:

1. The proposed 30% crown reduction may be carried out, providing the work is done by a qualified tree surgeon.
2. The parish council is not willing to pay towards the cost of crown reduction at this time outside the recommended 5 -7 year management cycle.
3. The requested crown reduction should be funded by the applicant.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

- f. Harwich Turnpike Road Milestone Marker (3342e): WPC contacted the Manningtree Museum Group to withdraw from the scheme as agreed in the previous meeting. A response was received from Phillip Cunningham, Secretary of MMG, that the marker has moved over the centuries and agrees the last known position is now unsuitable for a replacement, suggesting the best position for the marker is at 'Cooks Corner'. Mr Cunningham suggested he could attend a WPC meeting or arrange a site visit with himself, WPC and a ECC highways officer to investigate land suitability, as to miss out marker number 65 from the project would be a shame. Following discussion whether a replacement marker would benefit the parish GB offered to attend a site meeting with MMG and highways. This was agreed to gain more information on the subject.

**Action: R Colley/ G Bowers**

**3352. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** WPC had previously adopted Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, but it was suggested that they be reviewed and adopted. It was proposed to form a committee to review the model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and report back. GW, GB and RC volunteered meet to discuss Standing Orders. The Financial Regulations will be visited in the coming months.

**Action: G Watkins/ G Bowers/ R Colley**

**3353. Grant Application:**

Wrabness Playing Field Association applied for a grant of £87 towards the costs of advertising and hiring the Village Hall for a fundraising jumble sale towards costs of maintaining Wrabness Playing Field. Traditionally the Playing Field Association holds two jumble sales a year. It was agreed to award the full grant of £87.

**Action: R Colley**

**3354. New Planning Applications** –the parish council has been notified of the following new applications received by Tendring District Council:

- 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. WPC has no objection to this application.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**
- b. 23/01241/WTPO - Playing Field Rectory Road Wrabness CO11 2TX - Oak (T1). Cutback to reduce crown of the tree approximately 30%. As decided at Minute 3351e WPC has no objection to the proposed crown reduction of approximately 30%.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**
- c. 23/01275/LUEX - Land to The South of Wall Lane Wrabness Essex CO11 2BB - Proposed application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate for static caravan used for occasional overnight stays in excess of 28 days permitted development - WPC is aware TDC has previously issued an enforcement notice relating to an unauthorised residential caravan on this site and recommends account is taken of this in the determination of the lawful use application.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**

**3355. Reports:**

<b>HIGHWAYS:</b> Some of the potholes in the village have been filled but more work needs to be completed.
<b>FOOTPATHS</b> The footpath along the south side of the railway line between Stour Wood and the Estuary will be closed for a temporary 2 week period from Monday 23rd October to allow Network Rail to carry out operational fencing work. Signage will be displayed by RSPB and Network Rail.
<b>VILLAGE HALL</b> GW discussed stab wound kits with the VH Committee. There is currently nothing like this in the first aid kit, VHC are looking into getting a kit.
<b>STATION GARDEN</b> Julia Prigg is appealing for help to maintain the garden. HA has volunteered some time recently.
<b>FLOWER KIOSK</b> The display is still well maintained by the goodhearted people in the village. A Christmas display is anticipated.
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b> The public defibrillator outside the village hall is regularly inspected and is fully operational.
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.</b> No report from Harry Jones. WPC has not been notified of any crime in the village recently.
<b>TRANSPORT</b> Further reductions are expected to the 103 scheduled bus service. Harwich Connexions community buses serve Wrabness, journeys can be pre-booked by residents and are free if you have a bus pass.
<b>FORESHORE</b> The summer season is coming to an end. It has been quieter on the shore this year, people from the village are frequently swimming from the beach. Work is continuing on the replacement of beach huts, but is not yet completed.

**3356. Any Other Urgent Business:**

**A120/Primrose Lane Junction:** There has been a second fatality at the junction. GB suggested WPC contact Sir Bernard Jenkin MP for support. WPC asked Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (ECC) following the August meeting to take up the matter through the highways department; we are awaiting feedback. It was agreed WPC should contact Cllr Guglielmi again and also write to Sir Benard Jenkin. The junction provides an important road link for Wrabness, but its layout is substandard and requires improvement.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

**3357. Budget Committee:** WPC agreed to form a budget committee to review the financial position of the council and prepare a draft budget for the next financial year. This information and a precept formula provided by TDC will enable the council tax precept to be set to fund the work of the parish council in 2024-25. RC, GB and HA volunteered to meet to prepare the draft budget in time for the WPC November meeting.

**Action: R Colley/ G Bowers/ H Adams**

**3358. Accounts and monies received:**

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Parish Precept - 2nd instalment	£3,064.00	Wrabness Village Hall Hire - October Meeting	£18.00	1230
		Parish Clerk Salary for October	£197.95	1231
		Wrabness Playing Field Association – grant award	£87.00	1232

**3359. Confirmation of Account Balances:**

Current Account: Balance as at 3 October £4,648.61

Deposit Account: Balance as at 3 October £6,778.96

**The meeting closed at 20.42.**

**The next Wrabness Parish Council will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023.**

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

Contact Wrabness Parish Council: Email: [wrabness.pariahclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wrabness.pariahclerk@gmail.com) Telephone 07535812543