

# WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Wrabness Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Mr. R Colley (Vice Chairman), Ms. R Thornton, Mrs. J Cole. Mrs. L Byrne.

**In Attendance :** Mrs. C Greenwood (Parish Clerk), 5 members of the public.

**2861: Apologies for absence:** Mr. M. Cole (Chairman), Mr. H Jones, Mr. F. McGowan.

**2862: Declaration of interests:** None

**2863: Public forum:** The Council invited members of the public to address the Council, raise or ask questions on matters relating to the parish. The Council reserved the right not to answer questions but will respond in writing as soon as it is practical after the meeting.

i. A member of the public raised concern about grazing land to the north west of Wheatsheaf Lane and Wall Lane. The issue is that the main surface water channel crossing the land is overgrown and needs dredging. The channel takes surface water from surrounding land which discharges through a tidal sluice to the River Stour. Anglian Water and latterly the Environment Agency undertook regular maintenance dredging of the drainage channel but this has been discontinued due to budget cuts. The channel now has reduced flow and capacity and after rainfall the grazing land becomes flooded over extended periods. The waterlogged fields are less suitable for grazing and the natural habitat is changing. Another member of public commented that she hasn't seen any kingfishers, frogs or a number of other species there recently.

A member of the public said a covenant exists requiring the various owners to grant access for maintenance dredging and not to impede the flow of water. Essex Wildlife Trust has created scrapes from the channel to retain water on their land which is affecting adjacent grazing land and this could be in breach of the covenant.

Parish Council response: The flooding of the land and lack of maintenance of the drainage channel is a matter of public concern and the Council can contact the Environmental Agency on the matter. It is desirable that the various land owners jointly manage the land to best effect for grazing and nature conservation and the Council could seek advice from Essex Wildlife Trust. The Parish Council has no powers relating the covenants attached to land title; these are private legal matters between the parties involved.

ii: A member of the public attended the meeting to offer to reinstate the rotten stile at the entrance to Essex Way next to Steeplefield, Ash Street.

Parish Council response: Thank you, the community and footpath users will benefit from this generous offer.

iii: A member of the public raised concerns about crime and drew attention to the recent burglaries of three homes, speeding vehicles, vandalism and the anxiety this creates particularly for the elderly living alone. Suggestions made included more security for the shop, village hall and church, white gates to the entrance of the parish might help to identify the locality as a community, signs to entrance of the village, for example 'we welcome careful drivers', as well as CCTV cameras along the foreshore and near the shop to deter crime.

Parish Council response: The Parish Council would like to see more Police patrols through the village to deter crime. The upgrading of security needs to be kept under review by all property owners. Speed limits, signage and gates are matters that can be raised by the Council with ECC the highway authority, providing it does not create clutter in the countryside. CCTV cameras are permissible on private property; there are strict controls about CCTV in the public realm due to privacy concerns.

IV: Another member of the public knew of another person not present who might repair the rotten stile, entrance to Essex Way.

**The Public forum was closed, and the meeting opened.**

**2864: Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed as a true record and signed.

## **2865: Matters Arising and Actions:**

i: Traffic Wheatsheaf Lane (2847) Update from Parish Clerk: Panther Travel Ltd no known reported incidents since last meeting. Parish Council to keep in touch.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

Update from Ms R Thornton: Essex Highways Liaison Officer suggested the Parish Council contacted the haulage companies. Late last year the Essex Highways Liaison Officer arranged a survey to be undertaken to measure the speed and volume of the HGV's. Ms Thornton did explain the speed wasn't the issue and was told by Essex Highways it's a procedure that needs to be undertaken before the main issue - the HGV's damaging the road and the safety to passing vehicles - could be taken further. When Ms Thornton asked this month what the next step would be, she was told there wouldn't be a next step. Following discussion it was decided that we request Essex Highways to a site meeting to witness the problem of large vehicles and inspect damage to the verges along Wheatsheaf Lane. Councillor Zoe Fairley to be copied in on the emails.

**Action: Ms R Thornton.**

ii: Wrabness Litter Pick reminder: (2849): This year's Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 7th March, commencing at 10.30am, meeting at the Village Hall. Soup and rolls/lunch will be provided afterwards. Volunteers are asked to contact Mr H Jones, 07813116813.

iii: Wrabness Environmental Award 2020 (2850): reminder to present award at next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**2866: Playing Field Oak Tree: Playing Field Oak Tree (2848)** Three crown reduction quotations had been obtained from tree surgeons. It was agreed by all to go with Cochrane Tree services £600.00. **Action: Mrs J Cole.**

**2867: Village Newsletter:** The Wrabness Editor has resigned and Mr R Colley organised and published the last Parish Newsletter at short notice. An advert placed in the newsletter, advertising for a new editor for future editions, produced three volunteers. It was decided to draw a name out of hat and the next editor for Wrabness Newsletter will be David Todd. The volunteers will be contacted and thanked. **Action: Mr R Colley.**

**2868: Web Site:** Mr R Colley gave an update. The Wrabness Parish Council website has been operating since November 2013. A total of 8,858 visits were made to the site last year. Essex County Council informed users they will discontinue their support for the free essexinfo.net platform as from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and advised all their users to make alternative arrangements. At the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the Parish Council considered the options and decided to establish a replacement website for parish council business and village news. The Parish Council looked at the various options on offer and selected the BT Community Web Kit as a free of charge service for the replacement website. Mr Richard Colley volunteered to get it up and running.

Since then BT has agreed to host our new web site at no cost to the Parish Council and we have a new web address [www.wrabness-parish-council.btck.co.uk](http://www.wrabness-parish-council.btck.co.uk) The new website is under construction will be ready to launch during March. Viewing will be mobile phone friendly. Village organisations and clubs will continue to benefit from the free publicity if they wish to supply information. Examples of the web pages were tabled at the meeting. All agreed: **Action Mr R Colley.**

**2669 Open space, land South of Station Road, Wrabness (2832)** At the last meeting the Parish Council agreed in principle it is still interested to owning and managing the new open space providing it is gifted free of charge after it has been laid out for use. Tendring District Council are reviewing the relevant Section 106 agreement which currently states, 'Land will be laid out and managed by a resident management company' with the proposed change to 'Land laid out and given to the Parish Council'. All agreed we want to proceed and we will also ask to hold a meeting with the developer Bennet Homes to clarify the details of the arrangements. **Action: Mr R Colley.**

#### **2870: NOTIFICATIONS:**

**a. Community Initiatives Emergency Fund 2019/2020:** Examples of urgency might be: damage to community assets/equipment that prevent community activities to occur or loss of service provision that has an immediate impact upon members of the community noted - At present the Parish Council do not meet the requirement to apply for emergency funding. All agreed. No further action.

**b. The EALC is to take part in NALC Lobby Day** – held in Parliament each year.

Any matters that are important and we wish to raise need to be emailed to EALC. It was agreed by all to email EALC Parish Councils concerns: Community Safety and the Environmental Agency not maintaining watercourses. All Agreed **Action: Parish Clerk**

**c. The Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)** This is an initiative to raise awareness of the birds that feed and breed on the Essex coast, so that people can enjoy the coast and its wildlife without disturbing the birds. It is a partnership of the 12 Essex Local Planning Authorities (LPAs): - All agreed the Parish Council participate. **Action: Parish Clerk.**

**d. Coffee with Police Community Support Officer:** Pat Smith Police Community Support Officer emailed asking if we would be interested in holding a Coffee with Cops event. All agreed this would be a useful initiative for the village to be arranged at the Community Cafe. **Action: Parish Clerk**

**e. Wonderful Villages Photo Competition:** Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> March: Details and rules are available from <https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition>. Display posters on Parish Council on notice boards and at village shop. All Agreed: **Action: Parish Clerk.**

**f. Suicide Prevention in Men in North East Essex: Grants:** An excellent initiative but is more suitable for larger Parishes. All agreed. **No further action.**

**g. Essex Fraud Alert System (EFAS):** Prevent & Protect Fraud Officer from Essex Police, regarding a new service that is aimed at preventing people from becoming involved in fraudulent activity and to protect individuals from becoming victims of fraud. The service is via email. Further information to follow from Tendring District Council.

**h. Contribution to a gift for Joy Darby:** to join us in celebrating 21 years of service with the EALC. The Parish Council would like to thank Joy for years of supporting the Parish Council and wishing her every happiness in her retirement. The Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk will make personal donations.

**2871: Wrabness Playing Field Annual Management Fee:** The Playing Field is maintained by W.P.F.A under terms of a Service Level Agreement. W.P.F.A submitted information about annual income and expenditure during 2019. The Parish Council had budgeted to increase the annual W.P.F.A management fee for 2020. All were agreed to pay an annual fee of £1472.00. The Parish Council would like to thank W.P.F.A volunteers in doing an excellent job in maintaining the playing field.

**Action: Parish Clerk.**

**2872 Wrabness Village Hall Grant Application:** W.P.F.A has requested a grant of £37.00 for the Village Hall hire to hold a fundraising jumble sale on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020. All proceeds raised from the jumble sale would go towards the upkeep of the Playing Field. All agreed.

**Action: Parish Clerk.**

**2873 Planning Application Updates:**

<b>19/01789/FUL</b> - Alta Vista Ash Street Wrabness CO11 2TG	Proposed detached garage.	Awaiting decision.
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**2874: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**i: 20/00036/FUL -Land Site of Former Broadfields Primrose Hill Wrabness** Essex CO11 2TZ - Variation of condition 2 of approval 18/1809/FUL to alter the semi-detached dwellings to two detached dwellings of a similar design. As notification had just been received an extra meeting will be held to discuss the plans. All Agreed

**ii: Please see above, item 2863, Public Forum item i** - Write to Environment Agency and Essex Wildlife Trust – All agreed. **Action: Mr R Colley.**

**ii: Please see above item 2863, Public Forum item ii** – The Parish Council would like to accept the kind offer from the member of the public to reinstate the rotten stile, entrance to Essex Way next to Steeplefield. All agreed. **Action: Mr R Colley.**

**2875: REPORTS**

<p><b>HIGHWAYS:</b> i: Verges in Church Road badly damaged by contractors and delivery lorries to the building work. Write to Essex County Council and ask them to inspect the damaged verges with the view to reinstate them. Parish Clerk gave an update: Contacted Essex Highways, waiting for a response. <b>Action: Parish Clerk.</b></p> <p>II: Email from a resident. Can the Parish Council request from Essex County Council, a load of Plainings/Scarifying for Wheatsheaf Close. All agreed <b>Action: Parish Clerk.</b></p>	<p><b>FOOTPATHS:</b>  See above, item 2874.</p>
<p><b>VILLAGE HALL:</b>  i: AGM 5<sup>th</sup> March,</p>	<p><b>W.P.F.C.</b> Nothing to report.</p>
<p><b>FORESHORE/LIASION:</b> Nothing to report</p>	<p><b>STATION GARDEN:</b> Nothing to report.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC HEALTH:</b> Nothing to report</p>	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b> – Please see item 2863, Public Forum item iii.  Write to Inspector at Clacton Station and ask for more police patrol through the village. <b>Action Mr H Jones</b></p>
<p><b>KIOSK:</b> Nothing to report.</p>	<p><b>TRANSPORT:</b> Nothing to report</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MICRO GRANTS;</b>  Applicants can apply for up to £500 per project.</p>	

**2876: ACCOUNTS AND MONIES RECEIVED:**

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	
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DISBUREMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ
Wrabness Village Hall Hire 19.2.20	£15.00	001122
Wrabness Village Newsletter Autoprint.	£69.00	001123
Harwich Connexions Transport Annual Membership	£25.00	001124
W.P.F.A Annual Management Fee.	£1472.00	001125
W.P.F.A.	£37.00	001126
W.P.F. A yearly rent	£1.00	001127

**2877: Confirmations of Account Balances:**

Current Account: Balance on -19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 £4892.48 – need to request statement from bank for January.

Deposit Account: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 £6,635.74

The meeting closed: 21.07

The next Wrabness Parish Council meeting and Wrabness Parish Annual Assembly will be on:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in Wrabness Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Carol Greenwood, Wrabness Parish Clerk, 2 Fredricks Close, Wix, Manningtree, CO11 2AY

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