

# WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

**of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at Wrabness Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr Richard Colley (Chairman), Mr Fran McGowan (Vice Chairman), Mr Graham Watkins, Mr Gary Bowers, Mr Harry Adams, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson and Parish Clerk Juliet Attrill.

**Apologies:** County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi

**3360. Declarations of Interest:** Councillor H Adams: item 3364b

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

One member of the public noted that recently a delivery tanker was not able to reach its destination due to inconsiderate parking close to the corner on Rectory Road. Those present reported this specific problem was caused by commuters cars who were avoiding paying for the station car park.

-Two neighbours to the oak tree (23/01241/WTPO) at the Rectory Road Playing Field are unimpressed by the WPC decision at the last meeting. They wish for the tree to be reduced more frequently than every 5-7 years and will hold WPC responsible should the tree cause damage to their properties.

-A resident stated the 'Miss Margharita' pizza van service at the village hall car park is an asset to the village, but issues have arisen around safety, of a trailing power cable to the van, since the Youth Club meet in the village hall on the same night. The resident suggested an external power box be installed to overcome this problem. This could also serve the new village green and be upgraded to provide a public EV charging point. Councillor Watkins, our rep on the VHC, will raise this at the next village hall meeting.

-Several members of the public complained about the flooding on Harwich Road adjacent to Stour Wood. District Councillor Ferguson and the parish council had reported flooding to the ECC highways emergency line. County Councillor Guglielmi had been informed by ECC highways that the problem should be fixed by the end of the week. If not, he will escalate the issue. From local knowledge, it is known that the problem is caused by a blocked surface water culvert under the road.

-District Councillor Ferguson reported meeting John Acton with CC Guglielmi regarding the green crematorium planning application (23/01215/FUL) to gain more information on the aquamation process. The concept is new to the UK and the planning application is likely to be brought to the TDC planning committee.

*The Public Forum was closed.*

**3361. Notice of Intention Casual Vacancies** – Public notice had been given of the intention to fill the two casual vacancies on the parish council by co-option. Letters of interest had been received from residents Ms Alice Cole and Dr Robert Southall-Edwards within the 28 day notice period. Following due process, both candidates are eligible to join the parish council. Councillor Bowers proposed and Councillor McGowan seconded both candidates be co-opted onto the parish council. A vote was taken of the parish councillors present.

**It was unanimously resolved Ms Alice Cole and Dr Robert Southall-Edwards be co-opted onto the parish council.**

*Action: Parish Clerk*

**3362. Approval of Minutes** – meeting held on 11th October 2023 were agreed to be true record and signed.

**3363. Matters arising and actions:**

a. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel - (3351a)

i: Review Speed Limits: Wrabness is still awaiting review. Safety is a priority around the village green which is currently half in the 30 mph and half in 60 mph zones. WPC has requested CC Guglielmi press for early action.

ii: Review Parking issues: WPC awaits a meeting with CC Guglielmi and NEPP. Parking on Station Road / Rectory Road continues to be an issue. WPC is still requesting residents photographic evidence of nuisance parking. It was agreed a WPC request be included in the next issue of the village newsletter, encouraging people to park considerately. Advisory windscreen notices have been used previously. Councillor McGowan offered to locate and refresh the original windscreen parking notices for future use.

b. Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council - (3351b): An email reminder has been sent to CC Guglielmi - awaiting response.

c. A120/Primrose Lane junction - request to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP - (3356): WPC received an acknowledgement from Communications Officer Leah Stanford assuring that “*Sir Bernard will raise this with National Highways for investigation and comment*” and that she will update WPC when a response is received. DC Tanya Ferguson reported she is working with CC Daniel Land to encourage review of the junction.

d. Wheatsheaf Lane traffic - (3351c): No new traffic issues reported.

e. Village Green - (3351d): Planned work by Bennett Homes on the land is mostly complete. When the land is ready, it must be inspected by an independent landscape architect prior to being handed over to WPC. Wrabness resident, Alasdair Ritchie, has asked to have the opportunity to quote to manufacture and install the pair of gates. WPC will discuss the spec and invite quotes in due course.

**3364. New Planning Applications** – the parish council has been notified of the following new applications received by Tendring District Council:

a. [23/01420/FULHH](#) - Wrabness House Wheatsheaf Lane Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TB - Proposed demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of 3 bay garage. WPC has no objections to this proposal.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

b. [23/01607/FULHH](#) - Woodlands Black Boy Lane Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TP - Proposed single storey side extension. WPC has no objections to this proposal.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

**3365. 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. [23/01241/WTPO](#) - Playing Field Rectory Road Wrabness CO11 2TX - Oak (T1). Cutback to reduce the crown of the tree approximately 30%. Status: Approved on 24 Oct 2023.

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. Status: Awaiting Decision

**3366. Discussion on Environment Award 2024:** The 2023 winner of the Wrabness Environment Award was Alice Cole. The 2024 winner will be decided at the January meeting, and they will be presented with the award at the March Annual Assembly. The councillors and members of the public present were encouraged to nominate hardworking, Wrabness volunteers for the award. One nomination has already been received.

**3367. Reports:**

HIGHWAYS: The directional sign at the Wheatsheaf Lane/ Harwich Road junction has been down for a while. GW has brought this to CC Carlo Guglielmi's attention.
FOOTPATHS: Concerns were raised over which part of the Harwich Road footpath repair is to be completed first. WPC will seek LHP project clarification.
VILLAGE HALL: The VHC have spoken to a local GP about stab kits. The GP advised that they may cause more damage than good. VHC has decided to not purchase a stab kit.
STATION GARDEN: The remaining staff member of the Community Rail Partnership continues to be active through the winter months, supporting the upkeep of the garden.
KIOSK: The flower display in the kiosk continues to be well maintained and the Christmas display will be installed soon.
PUBLIC HEALTH: The defibrillator outside the village hall is operational and is regularly inspected.
TRANSPORT: The ticket machine at the station has been replaced. The reduced bus schedule remains an issue. Community transport services are available to Wrabness residents.
FORESHORE: The area is now out of season and quiet.
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER: The next issue of the newsletter is currently being printed and will be distributed shortly.
WEB SITE: The website continues to be well used by people seeking information about the Wrabness area.

**3368. NALC 2023 Local Government Services Pay Award:** The NJC have announced the 2023 national pay award for local authority staff is a flat rate increase of £1 an hour, back dated to 1 April 2023. This represents an increase of 8.7% for our parish clerk. It was agreed to implement the backdated award.

**3369. Draft Budget for 2024-25:** A report was circulated following the committee meeting between Councillors Bowers and Colley, attended by the parish clerk. The committee reviewed each item of expenditure and prepared a draft budget for the next council year. The report was noted and it was agreed the budget will be finalised after TDC supply updated information relating to the parish precept.

**Action: Richard Colley**

**3370. Review of Standing Orders:** The committee consisting Councillors Bowers, Colley and Watkins had met to customise the model Standing Orders document and propose a light touch to change at this time. It was agreed that the draft customised document will be received for the January meeting.

**3371. Accounts and monies received:**

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		TDC recharge for uncontested election expenses	£268.58	1233
		Wrabness Village Hall Hire - November Meeting	£18.00	1234
		Parish Clerk – National pay settlement backdated to April 2023	£121.17	1235
		Parish Clerk Salary for November	£215.33	1236

**3372. Confirmation of Account Balances:**

Current Account: Balance as at 14 November £7,409.66

Deposit Account: Balance as at 14 November £6,791.28

**3373. Any Other Urgent Business:**

- Information: TENOP/4962/23 - Temporary Event Notice -Wrabness Village Hall - Christmas Shopping Event 26/11/23.
- A grant application in regard to the Churchyard was received on 22/11/2023. Due to the lack of notice and time for consideration, the application will be considered at the January meeting.

**The meeting closed at 20:37**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 2024 in the Village Hall**

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

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