

# WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at Wrabness Village Hall

**Present:** Mr Harry Adams, Mr Gary Bowers, Mr Richard Colley (Chairman), Mr Francis McGowan, Mr Graham Watkins and Parish Clerk Juliet Attrill.

**Apologies:** Ms Alice Cole, Dr Rob Southall-Edwards, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson, County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi.

Wrabness Parish Council offered their congratulations to Councillor Alice Cole on the birth of her son.

**3388. Declaration of Interest:** None

**Public Forum:** There were two members of the public present.

- Oak tree on the playing field: The two residents requested an update on the oak tree following the receipt of documents at the January meeting. WPC has had no update from Tree Officer Clive Dawson at TDC who is handling the correspondence as the lead party. The residents also stated that they have sent an email to WPC requesting information under Freedom of Information.

Public forum closed.

**3389. Approval of Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024 were agreed as true record and signed.

**3390. Matters arising and actions:**

- a. Flooding on Harwich Road adjacent to Stour Wood. - (3376a) RC attended a meeting on 15/01/2024 with County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson, Rick Vonk (RSPB), Essex highway officers and Jim McCauley. The meeting was productive, identifying a culvert pipe was blocked. ECC have since cleared the pipe. The culvert pipe is now flowing freely and the water on the road surface has drained away. Also Jim McCauley has undertaken seasonal maintenance of ditches on his land that borders Wrabness Road. Rick Vonk is contacting the Woodland Trust regarding enlarging the pond adjacent to the road and the possibility of creating smaller retention basins in the wood to slow down the surface water run off towards the road.
- b. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3376b)
  - i: *Review Speed Limits:* WPC has provided ECC with information on suggested amendments to the speed limit zones. County Councillor Guglielmi will be submitting a scheme to LHP.
  - ii: *Review Parking issues:* TDC are able to implement six schemes a year. WPC feels that parking restrictions of this kind in the village would hinder residents trying to park outside their homes, rather than reducing the nuisance parking caused by visitors to the village. It was suggested that the two bends on Rectory Road opposite the Community Shop and 150 yards to the south would benefit from double yellow lines.
  - iii: *Harwich Road footway repair:* CC Guglielmi has contacted LHP to provide an update on the delayed scheme.
- c. Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council – (3376c): CC Guglielmi reports to be continuing to chase these works.
- d. A120/Primrose Lane junction - Meeting with National Highways (3376d): WPC contacted the Head of Planning and Development at National Highways (East Region), Steve Thulborn, requesting a meeting. WPC was provided with a suggested date of 13th of March 2024. It was agreed to accept a meeting at 10.30am on 13th March 2024.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**

- e. W heatsheaf Lane traffic: (3376e) CC Guglielmi reports to have visited the site with a highways officer who reiterated their view that there is nothing that can be done to improve the road.

**3391. Village Green** – land transfer and proposed gates (3376f):

- Bennett Homes expect the land to shortly be transferred to WPC. Additional paperwork produced by Bennett Homes has caused some delay. Bennett Homes will give WPC the code for the combination lock for the removable bollard on green, and the keys to the litter bins, upon transfer.
- Details provided of the ECC highways soakaway under the village green. Also informed that a strip of grass behind the Station Road footpath is part of the highway. WPC requested the advertising material be removed before transfer. Bennett Homes have since requested to leave the signage up until their remaining new homes are sold. WPC agreed to leave the sign for the time being, subject to review.

**Action: R Colley**

- A meeting was held with the Village Hall Committee regarding the specification for a pair of boundary gates for access to the green direct from the village hall site. Specifications for access gates were discussed. There are to be two gates with three posts. The gates are to be tubular galvanised mild steel with 5 horizontal bars, with the ability to open through 180 degrees and to be padlocked. Removal of the section of hedge is to be the responsibility of the contractor. It was agreed to invite quotes from local contractors for the pair of gates one 3m x1.2m with one 1m x1.2m pedestrian gate and alternatively for one 2.4m x1.2m and one 1mx1.2m gate to compare the cost. Agreed to reach out to local businesses to invite quotations to be discussed at the March meeting.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

**3392. Grant Application:** Wrabness Playing Field Association - Jumble Sale: Request for £87 to cover the cost of hiring the village hall to hold the jumble sale and placing an advertisement in the Standard: It was agreed to award the full grant of £87.00.

**3393. New Planning Applications** – the parish council has been notified of the following new applications received by Tendring District Council:

- a. [24/00193/FULHH](#) - Wrabness House W heatsheaf Lane Wrabness Manningtree - Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of 3 bay garage.(resubmission of 23/01420/FULHH): No objections.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**
- b. [24/00156/FULHH](#) - Porthwen Church Road Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2TQ - Proposed single storey rear extension to form dining area, rear dormer to existing bedroom and replacement porch: No objections.  
**Action: Parish Clerk**

**3394. 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.

**3395. Planning Policy** – Tendring District Council Local Plan Review - Call for Sites 2024: The village green is already shown as public open space on the approved local plan. WPC has nothing to add.

**3396. Reports:**

HIGHWAYS: New potholes have formed on W heatsheaf Lane. GW will report.
WRABNESS PLAYING FIELD: WPC received the annual report from the Playing Field Association which includes a breakdown of costs. The PFA raises a high percentage of the monies required to maintain the playing field through their fundraising events. In the previous year, WPC provided £1600.00 to the PFA. For 2023/2024, WPC had budgeted £1800.00. Unanimous agreement to pay £1800.00 to the Playing Field Association for maintenance of the playing field.
VILLAGE HALL: The Village Hall Committee AGM will be held in March.
STATION GARDEN: Julia Prigg wishes to retire after maintaining the Station garden beautifully over the years. WPC will place advert in village newsletter seeking volunteers to continue this work and will contact the Wrabness Gardening Club.
PUBLIC HEALTH: The defibrillator is checked and fully operational; the defib pads expire next month. RC has ordered replacements and a spare set at the cost of £115.14.
TRANSPORT: The latest bus timetable has deleted a bus service on the Harwich – Wrabness – Bradfield route. The village still benefits from public transport provided by Greater Anglia trains and Harwich Connexions

community buses.
FORESHORE: There have been exceptionally high tides recently, no reports of tidal flooding.
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER: Kind thanks to Wrabness Hall Farm and Dedham Vale Tree Surgery for their shared sponsorship of the full colour edition of the Spring edition. This will be printed and distributed by volunteers shortly.
WEB SITE: Report received. Free web hosting service discontinued, service available at concessionary annual charge of £101.15 ex VAT a year for smaller parish councils. This is deemed to represent good value and less than some other parish councils in the area pay annually. It was agreed to take out an annual Bronze plan with HugoFox the current provider.

**3397. Future Allocation of Reports:** It was agreed to wait until the AGM in May to distribute the reports among the councillors.

**3398. Proposed Future Meeting Dates:** Proposed dates for the WPC meetings up until November 2024 were discussed. Request to change the date of the June meeting to the 26th if the hall is available. The meeting dates will be listed on the website. **Action: Parish Clerk**

**3399. Accounts and monies received:**

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Hall Farm – newsletter sponsorship	£125.00	Parish Clerk Salary for February 2023	£215.33	1243
		Village Hall Hire for February Meeting	£18.00	1244
		R Colley reimburse Defibrillator Pads	£115.14	1245
		Grant award: Playing Field Association Jumble Sale	£87.00	1247
		Play Field Association - Playing Field Maintenance Fee	£1,800.00	1248

**3400. Confirmation of Account Balances:**

Current Account: Balance as at 3 February £5,735.92  
Deposit Account: Balance as at 3 February £6,808.20

**3401. Any Other Urgent Business**

- The litter pick will take place on Saturday 9th March starting from at 10.30am from the village hall car park.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm following the Annual Assembly at 7pm on Wednesday 13th March 2024 in the Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 20:57pm

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

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