

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at Wrabness Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Councillor H Adams, District Cllr Tanya Ferguson.

New Councillor Welcome: WPC welcomed new parish councillor, Gary Bowers, to his first meeting.

3339. Declarations of Interest: None

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

- A resident informed WPC that they had been in contact with Clive Dawson (TDC Tree Officer) about the oak tree subject of a tree preservation order (TPO) at the Playing Field, and was provided with a statement. This statement had been shared with WPC prior to the meeting and was read aloud by the resident. *"...it is my view that simply in terms of the health and condition of the tree; at the present time it does not require crown reduction or any other works to keep it in good condition. However, considering the impact of the tree on adjacent properties and the concerns of you and your neighbour an application to reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 30% would be likely to be considered favourably. A reduction by this amount would not cause harm to the tree and would not compromise its long-term health or viability."* The owners of the adjacent properties request WPC support an amenity reduction of the tree. Another member of the public who was present offered to clear the gutters of the adjacent houses, which was met with thanks but rejected.
- The Village Hall Chairman highlighted village hall land next to the village green has yet to be tidied and restored following disruption from the housing development as promised by the construction site supervisor. It was requested WPC contact Bennett Homes to bring the issue to their attention.
- A member of the public had researched evidence of the Turnpike Road Milestone Marker (3313) on old OS maps . A sketch plan was provided based on early ordnance maps which show the location of the milestone marker on the north side of Harwich Road. The marker disappeared about 100 years ago and was last recorded on the 1913 ordnance map.

The Public Forum was closed.

3340. Casual vacancies: TDC announced, following the Notice of Election period for one vacancy on the parish council, that a sole candidate was nominated. Therefore, Gary Bowers was elected uncontested. Due to this, there will not be a polling day. It was agreed to progress the two remaining casual vacancies on the parish council to be filled by co-option and the parish clerk was authorised to publish public notice of the vacancies and invite expressions of interest as agreed at the August WPC meeting. ***Action: Parish Clerk***

3341. Approval of Minutes: of the meeting held on 16th August 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed.

3342. Matters arising and actions:

- a. Oak Tree (3327a): TDC Tree Officer Clive Dawson had informed a local resident that an application could be made to reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 30% and that *"Anyone can apply for consent to work on to a tree protected by a TPO and if consent were granted by the local planning authority (Tendring District Council) then the works cannot proceed without the consent of the owner of the land on which the tree is situated."* WPC considered the request made by the resident for an immediate crown reduction and noted the written advice provided by TDC and also by Councillor Adams. GB shared his concern about possible future insurance claims linked to possible subsidence. It was suggested by other councillors present that new growth is stimulated after oak trees are cut back. WPC has the tree on an advisory 5-7 year crown reduction schedule and no immediate work is required based on the health of the tree. It was

noted if an immediate resident wanted more frequent cutting back of the oak tree for their amenity that they could apply for TPO consent. It was suggested, if consent is granted, they should bear the cost of the amenity cut back as it doesn't benefit the tree or the wider community. WPC wishes to focus available funds on community projects that would be a more valuable investment for the village. The matter was deferred for discussion at the next meeting.

- b. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3327a)
 - i: Review Speed Limit: WPC is concerned about the lack of action by ECC highways about a speed limit review for Station Road near the new Bennett Homes housing estate. The assessment shouldn't require a large scale survey as it is obvious for public safety the 30 mph limit should be extended to be inclusive of the village green and new houses built along Station Road. **Action: Parish Clerk**
 - ii: Review Parking issues: Wall Lane, Church Road, Rectory Road: WPC continues to request photographic evidence from residents of repeated nuisance/dangerous parking. With evidence, WPC will be able to progress the issue. There has been no response yet to the formal request submitted to Cllr Carlo Guglielmi for a meeting with the North Essex Parking Partnership, as parking enforcement is no longer a police matter.
 - iii: Repair Footpaths on Harwich Road – The repair is scheduled to be completed in Quarter 4 2023.
- c. Highways issues reported to Essex County Council online – (3327b)
 - i: Demolished wall at crossroads: There has been no feedback yet from Cllr Carlo Guglielmi who offered to contact ECC highways about the WPC request about the need to rebuild the wall.
 - ii: Manhole cover near Red Barn corner: It was agreed to remove this item from future WPC agendas.
- d. Wheatsheaf Lane traffic: (3327d) After a quiet beginning to the year there has been a recent influx of lorries accessing Wrabness Storage Depot. It was reported that the lorry drivers are being respectful.
- e. Harwich Turnpike Road Milestone Marker (3327g): Following receipt of the ordinance map drawings, WPC noted that the original marker site is on the north side of Harwich Road, west of Butlers Lane, some distance from the site proposed by the Manningtree Museum Group. A hedge is growing out adjacent to the highway at this point and little space exists for the marker now. Since WPC has misgivings about the dangers of both the proposed new site and the original site. It was agreed to notify Manningtree Museum Group that WPC will withdraw from the scheme as the location is unsatisfactory and arrangements for installing the marker are deemed inappropriate. **Action R.Colley**
- f. Village Green (3327h): Work is progressing on site. It was agreed to contact Bennett Homes for an update and include the points raised about the adjacent Village Hall land which has yet to be tidied up following storage and construction works for the new housing development. We are awaiting the outcome of the WPC request to TDC for Section 106 funding, for the installation of a pair of access gates between the village hall site and the village green. **Action R.Colley**

3343. Tendring District Corporate Plan - TDC is currently developing its Corporate Plan for 2024-28. The plan will determine its focus and provision of services across the district. As part of the drafting process, Tendring District Council (TDC) is consulting with Tendring residents and businesses via a survey available on line at www.research.net/r/TendringResidentsConsultation2023 Closing date 25 September. It was agreed the WPC councillors will complete the survey individually as the correct version for the council to use has not been received. **Members of the public are being encouraged to complete the survey.**

3344. Reports:

<p>HIGHWAYS The majority of the potholes in the village have recently been filled. At County Cllr Carlo Guglielmi's request, Councillor Watkins identified 12 additional potholes which require repair. However, ECC funding was only available for two significant potholes to be brought forward under the Pothole Scheme. Additionally he is logging signage in the parish area needing repair/replacement which will be shared with the county councillor. Action G Watkins</p>
<p>WRABNESS PLAYING FIELD The Playing Field Inspection Report was sent to the Playing Field Association. This report will aid the association with maintaining play equipment.</p>
<p>STATION GARDEN Extra hands are needed to maintain the garden.</p>
<p>PUBLIC HEALTH The defibrillator outside the village hall is in working order. It has not been used since the last meeting.</p>

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER The September edition is out. There has been praise for Daniella Williams, the new editor, for the new style and colour. Thank you to Oakfield Wood for sponsoring this issue.
VILLAGE HALL The Village Hall Committee meeting is on Friday 8th September. A Nostalgia Event is organised for 16th September and a Quiz Evening on 20th October. The new Youth Club meets at the Village Hall fortnightly and is going well.
KIOSK The kiosk continues to be well maintained and the flowers look lovely.
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH There have been no recent reports of crime in the village.
FORESHORE Three of the replacement beach huts on the east shore are nearing completion.
WPC WEBSITE The website provides information on Wrabness and the events that happen here. It is a popular resource and invaluable for WPC, the village and visitors. So far this year there were 26,000 visits to the website between January and August 2023. The Wrabness website has been a free service since 2013. However, as of October 4th 2023 HugoFox, the service provider, is introducing charges. To continue to run the website at the same standard of provision (bronze level), the cost to WPC will be £9.99+ VAT per month. The company has agreed to postpone these charges to WPC until April 2024. They have also offered a 15% reduction for subscription payment, which is also more convenient for WPC.

3345. Any Other Urgent Business:

It was noted a new planning application had just been publicised for a green crematorium building at Oakfield Wood. Councillors were asked to view the application which will be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk was requested to check the timescale with TDC.

Action: Parish Clerk

3346. Accounts and monies received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Hall Farm sponsorship two editions of Village Newsletter	£500.00	Wrabness Village Hall Hire - September Meeting	£18.00	1226
		Autoprint – printing 200 copies Autumn edition of Village Newsletter	£249.00	1227
		Parish Clerk Salary for September	£197.95	1228

3347. Confirmation of Account Balances:

Current Account: Balance as at 30 August £5,679.50
Deposit Account: Balance as at 30 August £6,772.94

The meeting closed at 20:42.

The next scheduled meeting of Wrabness Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th October 2023.

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk
Contact Wrabness Parish Council: Email: wrabness.pariahclerk@gmail.com Telephone 07535812543