

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.30 pm

Present:	Mike Gamble	(MG)	Chair
	John Seville	(JS)	Vice Chair
	Nick Kemp	(NK)	
	Richard Goodings	(RG)	
	Alan Goodings	(AG)	
In attendance:	Helen Frayer	(HF)	Parish Clerk
	Michael Edney	(ME)	District Council

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Andrew Goodings, John Hipperson, Margaret Dewsbury, Julia Brooks (Headteacher), Gerald Neeve (Poors Firing Charity)

2 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018**

Resolved: to agree and sign the minutes as correct. Proposed AG, Seconded JS, all agreed

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 3 This is my last chairman's report as I am not standing for re-election in May. As many of you know my wife and I moved to Hingham 18 months ago, and I think it is important that your chairman should live in the village.
- 4 As I reported last year our clerk Anne Panella gave notice of her position, and I and the other councillors are indebted to Anne for all her hard work.
- 5 Following the advertisement of the vacancy the council appointed Helen Frayer in May as their new clerk. Helen took over seamlessly from Anne and has continued to once more raise the level of governance of the council. I would like to thank Helen on behalf of myself and my fellow councillors for all the dedicated hard work she has put in during the year.
- 6 At the annual Council meeting held in May, John Seville was once again elected Vice Chairman and the following Councillors were re-elected to their positions of responsibility:- John Hipperson – Financial Officer, and Alan Goodings – Highways.

- 7** During the year we have had two resignations from the council, Richard Maguire and Sarah Wayne. We then had three applications to join the council and the two selected were Richard Goodings and Nick Kemp. Nick has taken on the responsibility of playing field officer.
- 8** The Council has continued through the year to try and maintain the village Hall to a high standard, as it continues to be popular with groups and individuals from the village and adjoining parishes.
- 9** The letting income from the Village Hall is a major income stream for the Council and once again the council found it necessary to increase the charges, however they continue to be some of the most reasonable in the area.
- 10** Our booking clerk Mrs Ann Margand resigned in the summer and the council appointed Rachael Mold, who has been very active in bringing the booking procedures and rules up to date. I would like to thank both Ann and Rachel for their efforts during the year.
- 11** The cleaning of the hall continues to be a challenge. Our cleaner resigned in the summer and the council has now appointed a contract cleaning company to clean the hall. As with all contracts they have to be monitored carefully and we have now asked our new booking clerk to oversee the cleaning contract.
- 12** The licensee of the Buck Public House at Morley continues to provide a licenced bar at the Hall when required, an asset which many local halls do not have.
- 13** The Council is once again indebted to Les Whitehead for carrying out a number of small repairs at the Village Hall. As ever, Les never makes a charge for his time spent at the Village Hall, as do Councillors who also deal with small maintenance projects.
- 14** Many of you will recall that during the summer of 2017 we had a problem with anti-social behaviour around the hall, and particular cars driving over the playing field at night. In order to prevent this the council has now erected a post and rail fence dividing the car park from the playing field.
- 15** The playing field and the children's play area continues to be enjoyed by parishioners of all ages, and the new hedge planted on the eastern boundary has started to grow well.
- 16** During the year Uk Power Networks buried the electricity line that ran down the eastern boundary.
- 17** During the snow and ice of February 2018 the village sign was damaged by a road accident, and the council had the sign rebuilt. I am glad to report that the costs were covered by the insurance claim, and the driver paying the excess.
- 18** The Council once again undertook the verge cutting in the parish, together with the areas of grass which are maintained within the village, with the County Council paying the council for taking responsibility for these activities.

- 19 The Council's new hedges and verges policy has seen the council write to a number of property owners requesting that they maintain their hedges where they are impeding users of the highway. I pleased to report that in the majority of cases householders have responded positively and the hedges have been trimmed back. In one case where the home owner refused the County Council's highways department had to get involved in order to get the property owner to respond positively to the request.
- 20 Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work during the year, particularly those who have special responsibilities. John Seville for overseeing matters in the Village Hall, Alan Goodings for his work overseeing the highway matters, John Hipperson for being the Council's Financial Officer and Nick Kemp for overseeing the playing field. Andrew Goodings and Richard Goodings have all contributed to discussions and the working of the Council during the year.

OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

- 21 The annual accounts for the year 2018/19 will shortly be passed to the Internal Auditor. The main points were read out to the meeting. As agreed by the Parish Council, £5,000 will be ringfenced for the new footpath. The Parish Council ended the year with cash in hand of £13,821.11

REPORTS FROM:

- 22 **County Councillor** – Unfortunately the report from the County Councillor was not received in time to be read at the meeting but will be posted online alongside these Minutes
- 23 **District Councillor** – M Edney announced that he is not standing for re-election at Wicklewood at the elections in May. There is a new candidate Richard Elliot who will be standing as a Conservative candidate. He paid tribute to the Chair for the way the Parish Council is run and said it had been a privilege being the Councillor for this area
- 24 **Poors Firing Charity** – As the Chairman of this charity is in poor health, the report was given by M Gamble, the Charity's Treasurer. At the meeting of the trustees held on Thursday 13th December 2018, it was reported that the income for the year was £198.33, and the balance at the bank was £205.45. There were four applications for grants, who were each awarded £50.

- 25 **Old Village Hall Trust** – Peter Woodrow, Clerk of the Trust gave the report
Current Trustees: Parish Council Nominative Trustees - Mr Richard Goodings (re-elected Chair Sept 2014); Mr John Lowe (nominated from 1 July 2015 for 4 years) is willing to be re-appointed if the Parish Council agrees. Co-optative Trustees: Mrs Janice Plunkett (nominated until Dec 2019); Mr Anthony Cook (nominated until June 2020). Ex-officio Trustee Rev Shirley Holt (representing Priest in Charge of High Oak Benefice)
- 26 The Charity was set up in 1976 using proceeds from sale of Old Village Hall. Capital is invested in Government Stock 3% redeemable in 2028 yielding an annual income of £268.54 with capital growth

- 27 Income is distributed by way of grants 'for the charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Wicklewood and the neighbourhood thereof for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes or other public funds' (Trust deed para 21)
- 28 During the year the charity has made grants totalling £260.00 (for year ending 31.3.18 grants totalled £235.00). Groups that have benefitted include Christmas Santa Group, Wicklewood Village Sign Garden, High Oak Music Group and 1st Wicklewood Brownies, Rainbows and Guides Senior Section.
- 29 Trustees meet twice yearly in June and December to coincide with the receipt of the dividend payments.
- 30 The Minute book, financial statement for the year ended 31.3.19 and charity details are available at this meeting. The parish clerk has a copy of the financial statement for the Parish Council Records.

Wiklewood Primary School

- 31 Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery continues to be a thriving village school with 212 children currently on roll, as well as 41 children attending our Nursery.
- 32 The development of the children's skills and knowledge is central to Wicklewood's aim of providing the children with what they need for the future so they can thrive in the joy of life-long learning. The staff work tirelessly to provide the children with learning opportunities that capture their imaginations and bring the learning alive. We continuously strive to explore innovative, engaging and exciting ways to learn, embracing change and trying new things for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- 33 This year we have continued with our 'Values Based Education'. To date the values of Respect, Understanding, Courage, Happiness, Friendship, Responsibility and Acceptance have been our focus with new values being introduced on a half termly basis. Our Forest School continues to thrive with the development of our wildlife area imminent.
- 34 The School Council continue to come up with new ideas as to how they would like to improve the school and their contributions make a significant difference. This year they have introduced a new recycling initiative.
- 35 Other events this year have been; Harvest Festival; a Carol Service; Christmas and Summer fayres and Summer BBQ; Christmas and Summer term plays; Sports Day and various sporting tournaments, including tag rugby, athletics and cross country; West End Schools Dance workshops; Road Safety days and Cycling Proficiency; trips to Norwich Castle, and the Dinosaur Park; as well a cooking experience with Pasta Gusto; and residential opportunities to Holt Hall and Hilltop, Sheringham and the Peak District.
- 36 The building and grounds continue to develop. This year we have replaced the existing year 2 (Swift Class) mobile with another modular build and redesigned the entrance to the school including very inviting brightly coloured stepping stones. We also have new playground markings and an outdoor gym which is very popular.
- 37 The school motto, 'Be the Best You Can Be' embodies everything that we do. The children are encouraged, on a daily basis, to challenge themselves and learn from mistakes. Visitors regularly comment on the positive atmosphere around the school. The community is always

welcome, therefore if anyone feels that they have something that they can share with us, any skill or expertise, please do let us know.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 38** HF said that the community Cream Tea arranged for 20th April had received no interest from local residents despite extensive publicity. Did any present have any ideas for drumming up more support. No ideas suggested.
- 39** There being no other business the meeting close at 8.00 pm

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