

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 4th April 2022 at 7.30 at Wicklewood Village Hall

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Joel Pailes (JP), Richard Goodings (RG), Stephen Brown (SB), John Hipperson (JH) Louise Downton (LD) – part meeting

In attendance: Margaret Dewsbury (MD) Richard Elliot (RE), Helen Frayer (HF) Parish Clerk

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received Margaret Dewsbury. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, no apologies

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 12th APRIL 2021: Resolved, to agree these as correct – JP proposed, NK seconded, all agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Parish Council meetings continued to take place via Zoom video conferencing until June 2021 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and due to the Omicron variant arriving in December 2021, driving a further increase in cases that surpassed previous records, the Parish Council took the precaution to cancel the January 2022 meeting as Zoom meeting were no longer allowed by law.

At the annual Parish Council meeting May 2021, the positions were elected as follows – John Seville - Chairman, Nick Kemp - Vice Chairman and Playing Field Officer and Joel Pailes - Highways Officer. Richard Goodings was appointed to the new role of Allotments Inspector to do monthly inspections for the risk assessment to ensure compliance with our health and safety duty of care, with monthly plot inspections between March and November with one visit in winter to ensure compliance with tenancy agreement.

During the year Nick Kemp resigned from his position of Playing Field Officer and Joel Pailes resigned from his position of Highways Officer but agreed to continue to help with the Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM 2) sign. Louise Downton took over the position of Playing Field Officer, but the Council did not appoint another Highways Officer as it is not a recognised post for a Parish Council.

At the September meeting we announced the sad news of the death of Councillor Alan Goodings. Alan had given over 50 years' service to the council and community and at the December meeting a commemorative plaque in memory of Alan and in recognition of his exceptional length of service

was unveiled. Similarly at the February meeting the Parish Council acknowledged the death of a previous councillor Gerald Neave and his many years of service to the Parish Council and Poor's Firing Charity.

Three candidates applied for the vacant councillor position and Stephen Brown gained the majority vote and was co-opted onto the Council in February.

I and the other councillors are again indebted to our Parish Clerk Helen Frayer for the dedicated hard work she has put in during another exceptional year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our Booking Clerk Rachael Mold was 50% furloughed for the first six months because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, so worked 50% of hours while hall usage and bookings were low. I would like to thank Rachel for her efforts during the year.

The Council has continued through the year to maintain the Village Hall to a high standard. The letting income from the Village Hall is a major income stream for the Council, but again was disrupted due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, the dance classes took place when allowed under COVID secure conditions and most of our regular groups have now returned. Dream Team Cleaning continues to provide cleaning services at the Village Hall and the licensee of the Buck Public House at Morley continues to provide a licenced bar at the Village Hall when required.

The Village Hall evenings and weekend hire rate remains unchanged for 2022, but as agreed at the December 2020 review, the two-tier pricing system with a lower weekday daytime rate will be removed resulting in a single price from April 2022. The hire rates continue to be some of the most reasonable in the area and the next annual review of hire rates will be at the end of 2022.

A publicly accessible defibrillator was purchased by the Parish Council and is installed on the outside of the Village Hall. This combined with the one at the school, which the Parish Council contributed to, provides greater access to life saving equipment within the village. I also would like to thank Wicklewood Bowls Club who made a donate towards the cost.

The Playing Field and the children's play area continues to be enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. The Council agreed in December to allocating future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts (*a tax levied by the local authority on liable new development in the parish*) to the play area with a maximum cap of £7,500. This together with, and subject to, a match funding grant would give a total of £15,000 which would provide 3 substantial new items for various age groups. As per my report last year some of the users are still leaving behind drinking bottles and other litter. Please can I remind everyone to clear up their litter. There is a recycling bin at the village hall.

The allotments continue to be enjoyed by parishioners, with all the new plots let which were created by dividing up the large vacant plot near Wymondham Road. The remainder of the large vacant plot has been turned into a community orchard with wildflower underplanting where residents have purchased and planted a tree.

The two Council owned agricultural fields continue to being cultivated for commercial use under a farm business agreement. Mindful of the fact that there are no public footpaths in Wicklewood, the Parish Council has created a Permissive Footpath around the field that they own between Wymondham Road and The Green (near St Georges / Old Hospital), and this is being well used and enjoyed by residents.

The new footpath extending from the new development in High Street to its junction with Wymondham / Hackford Rd was completed by the Highways Authority during the summer through the 50/50 Parish Partnership Scheme with the Parish Council. This has made a major improvement to pedestrian safety along the High Street. It is therefore disappointing to see that some selfish people are parking on the new pavement, forcing pedestrians to walk into the road to get past. In collaboration with the Highways Authority the conifer trees that have obstructed the visibility at the High Street (Cherry Tree PH) junction with Wymondham Rd for many years have just been removed. Again, this has made a major improvement to safety for all at this junction. New combined Village Hall / Bowling Club signs have been provided and erected on High Street by the Highways Authority and funded by a Members Highways Grant via our County Councillor. 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 Parish Council for taking responsibility for these activities.

The Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM 2) (flashing speed sign) has been moved around the pre-approved locations to record speeds and flash when vehicles are over 30mph, and information is shared with local police. Councillor Nick Kemp and Stephen Brown agreed to assist with the SAM2. During the year several residents have raised the issue of speeding vehicles with the Parish Council. However, to date the data captured by the SAM2 indicates that most vehicles were under the speed limit and therefore would not meet the Highways Authority criteria to install additional speed reduction measures in addition to the general 30mph through the village and the 20mph flashing signs by the school.

The Council purchased several speeding sign stickers for residents to put on their wheelie bin in target locations where bins are most visible from the road and at the time of writing a Community Speed Watch is being considered by a group of parish volunteers.

A bid was submitted for a bus shelter near the Cherry Tree PH through the 50/50 Parish Partnership Scheme and with a Members Highways Grant via our County Councillor. At the time of writing the Clerk has just been informed that our bid was successful. The total scheme cost is £3,500, but with grants the Parish contribution is only £750.

At the time of writing a Platinum Jubilee event is being planned for Thursday 2nd June 2022 at the village hall and playing field culminating in the lighting of a beacon. Please come and support this event.

I will let the Clerk go through the financial details of the year, but I am pleased to say through careful management the Council has been able to maintain the parish precept for 2022/23 at the same level.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work during another exceptional year, particularly those who have special responsibilities. Nick Kemp, Richard Goodings and Louise Downton for carrying out their regular safety inspections, Joel Pailles for Highways and moving the SAM2 sign around. I would also like to thank John Hipperson who has contributed to discussions and the working of the council during the year and more recently Stephen Brown.

4. OBSERVATIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

HF delivered the report, full details attached. End of year balance £28,547.74.

5. REPORTS FROM:

5.1 County Councillor – MD provided a written report, attached and went through the highlights.

5.2 District Councillor – RE provided a written report, attached. He briefly outlined some of the highlights

5.3 Wicklewood Poor Firing Allotment Charity – Mike Gamble, Secretary and Treasurer of the charity reported:

- At a meeting of the trustees held in July 2021 it was agreed that in future the charity would be known as the Wicklewood Support Fund (Poors Charity) and that in addition to applications for support from elderly persons, request from families with school age children who are experiencing hardship and that have lived in the parish for 3 years will also be considered.
- The income of the charity in 2021 was £223.56
- At Christmas 2021 the charity made grants of £70 each to 3 applicants
- The charity's assets are held in 398 COIF Charities Investment Fund Income units which on 30th June 2021 had a value of £7,647.85
- Mr Nick Kemp was elected as a trustee in December j2021

5.4 Old Village Hall Trust – Peter Woodrow provided a report, attached. 3 grants were given through the year and balance carried forward is £75.00

5.5 Wicklewood Primary School – No report received

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None raised