

WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 6th February, 2023

Present: John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Richard Goodings (RG), John Hipperson (JH), Stephen Brown (SB)

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

122. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Louise Downton and Tina Phillips

123. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

124. PUBLIC FORUM:

- A local resident raised an letter she had received from the council regarding the boundary hedge that had been planted along High Oaks Rd. She stated that the hedge had been planted in 2021 along the previous hedge boundary. JS responded that the letter had been sent after receiving various complaints about the hedge. The resident requested a site visit with Adam Mayo the Highways Engineer and JS.
- A local resident raised concerns about the South Norfolk Village Cluster Housing Associations Plan, in particular the site south of the school. She did not feel that this site met the stated objectives.
- A local resident raised the ongoing issue of the bus stop at the end of Hospital Rd. Since last meeting a small area of hardstanding had been created but it was further away so people had to walk along the road to reach it. HM updated that she had spoken to the neighbouring property who didn't want people waiting outside and the hardstanding was a compromise. JS said that as a hail and ride service, people are allowed to wait wherever they see fit and the verge is part of Highways land.

125. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2022: SB corrected typo with his initials on 108. RG proposed to accept the Minutes as correct, seconded by SB all agreed

126. TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLERK ON ACTIONS SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING:

- HF reported that she had contacted the PTA about the play area and their Chair had replied that it was not within their remit so they couldn't be involved, however, he personally may be interested in taking this further. No Councillors were prepared to get involved. **HF to contact him to suggest he takes this forward.**

127. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Noted, all on agenda

128. **FINANCE**

128.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT including late invoices

Ratification of payments made in January

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk (incl back pay)	774.54
HMRC	Month 9	156.94
Clerk's expenses	Mileage, de-icing salt for village hall	52.08
Dream Team Cleaning	Cleaning village hall	283.50
The Net	Advert	50.00
SNC - DD	Repayment of loan	2,100.00
NPTC	New councillor training	60.00
The Payroll Site	Annual fee	93.60
Various	Hall hire deposit return and overpayment	200.00
	TOTAL	£3,770.66

Payments for this month

Salaries	Clerk & Booking Clerk	631.34
HMRC	Month 10	100.20
Dream Team Cleaning	Cleaning village hall	371.50
Information Commissioner	Annual fee	35.00
EDF	Electricity	150.14
Various	Hall hire deposit return	211.00
	TOTAL	£1,499.18

Resolved: That all accounts as presented be paid. Proposed NK, seconded RG, all agreed

128.2 MONTHLY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS REPORT

	Current	Premium	Total
Balance b/f	21,089.23	24,564.72	45,653.95
Total receipts	3,030.67	11.90	3,042.57
	24,119.90	24,576.62	48,696.52
Total payments	6,357.76	0.00	6,357.76
	17,762.14	24,576.62	42,338.76
Inter Account Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing Balance	17,762.14	24,576.62	42,338.76

129. **HIGHWAYS:**

129.1 The hedge in Church Lane has only been cut back an inch or so. **HF to chase with Highways**

129.2 The hedge alongside Wymondham allotments is growing over the road, knocking wing mirrors. **HF to write to town council**

129.3 There are numerous pot holes. If people can report online themselves it is easier than giving the clerk the detailed locations. Will promote on social media

129.4 To contact Adam Mayo for a site visit re hedge on High Oaks Rd

130. PLANNING

130.1 To consider the South Norfolk Village Cluster Housing Allocation Plan: The Parish Council have previously responded to the consultation under Regulation 18. It is now at Regulation 19 and comments can only be submitted to challenge the legal soundness and compliance. JS has done some research and found that between Regulation 18 and Regulation 19, the long-standing statement of fact regarding the “extensive views of the surrounding countryside from Hackford Road and Wymondham Road” together with the statement about the school “operating near or at capacity” have been removed. This would appear to be because if they were left in, they would not support their site allocations VC WIC1 and VC WIC2. It would seem that SNC’s has manipulated the assessment of Wicklewood with the Reg. 19 Pre-submission Draft. **NK proposed that the parish council challenges this deliberate change of the facts. SB seconded all agreed.**

130.2 To consider response to Travellers’ sites consultation: There are no sites proposed for Wicklewood. Nearest site is Wymondham. **SB proposed responding that the Parish Council welcomes the GNLPC Consultation on Travellers and Gypsy sites and asks for any current and future planning applications for such sites within our parish to be refused unless the sites concerned have been considered by and approved through this consultation process. NK seconded, all agreed**

131. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS

131.1 Report from Booking Clerk: In TP’s absence, HF reported that the cleaners had reported that someone was urinating in the bins in the ladies. Users have been notified and will monitor at the end of their sessions. Dirty glasses and empty bottles were discovered which appears that someone brought unauthorised alcohol into the hall, against the terms of our licence. TP will ensure all hirers are aware of the rules.

131.2 Maintenance items in hall: JS reported there had been a problem with the front doors. It had been caused by grit in the bottom of the frame, cleared out and hinges adjusted. Cleaners will include this in their cleaning. The lock is playing up. Provisional quote of £50 to replace. Will monitor. If needs replacing will be covered by Clerks’ emergency powers.

131.3 The inverter has stopped working so the solar panels are no longer generating electricity. The company that manufactured it has ceased trading so the guarantee is worthless. Only one company contacted was prepared to quote £583 to replace. JS had prepared a paper which he had previously circulated showing that at the current FIT repayment rate, it would take another 7 year to recoup the install cost, with the cost of replacing, it would then take a further 2 years by which time the solar panels would be about 17 years old. He questioned whether it was worth replacing the inverter. JS said before investing any more money the solar panels should be inspected to ensure they were still operating at optimal level but the only company to quote would charge about £200 to come to site to do a check. NK knows of a company that may do a free inspection and will pass detail to the clerk. SB said that

Octopus Energy pay a higher rate of FIT and would enquire if this was available for commercial use. For agenda next month.

131.4 Consider council's response to hydrotreated vegetable oil heating options: An MP has introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill in Parliament today to support the use of HVO in heating. This could be beneficial to the parish council in terms of replacing heating oil as well as benefitting residents. Agreed to register our interest

131.5 Playing Field Inspection: LD is absent, abroad and does not appear to have made any arrangements for the inspections to have been carried out in her absence.

Quote has been received from TTSR to repair the worn grass at goals and around play area, however they have given a price per sqm not a total. JS estimated goals would cost £200-300 and considered they need doing asap so it has time to settle down before the evenings get lighter and they start being used. **NK proposed getting goals done, SB seconded, all agreed.** JS and RG will go and assess the play equipment to see what that would involve and bring to next meeting

131.5 Report from allotments inspection: RG reported he had inspected on 31st December and 26th January. All satisfactory. Plot 12 has still not been cultivated, HF reported she has received no response to her email and will write to plot holder

132 TO CONSIDER REVISING HALL HIRE COSTS:

JS proposed increasing the hall hire charges as on the budget, hall running costs exceed income. He proposed increase by £1 per hour. Comparing our hire costs with other local halls, we would still be cheaper than many other venues. Function rates to increase by £5 per session with non resident rate by £10. RG proposed these increases, HM seconded, all agreed. To start as from 1st April.

133. CORONATION EVENT: NK reported that a group of residents were organising an event. The proposal is a musical item in the morning, then a picnic with people bringing their own food. Bar and teas/coffees provided. In the afternoon a ceilidh for which tickets would be sold. The event would be on the Sunday as that is the day for the Coronation Picnic in the Park. The Buck to be booked. Ask them to donate percentage of profit as they did for the Jubilee. Profits to the play area.

134. TO ADOPT NEW CODE OF CONDUCT: SNC have brought out a new revised Code of Conduct which had been circulated to councillors. **SB proposed adopting it, NK seconded, all agreed**

135. RESPONSES TO CORRESPONDENCE: Request from Age Concern for donation. As previously decided by council, this was declined.

136. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: HF reported that a suspicious man with a white van had been seen twice in the early hours of the morning by the recycling bins. Asked everyone to be alert, main concern is heating oil theft.

- 137. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 7.45 on Monday 6th March 2023 as it had previously been decided not to hold meetings in January. Agenda items to Clerk by 25th February.