

# WICKLEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held in Wicklewood Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Present:** John Seville (JS) Chair, Nick Kemp (NK) Vice Chair, Richard Goodings (RG), John Hipperson (JH) Danny Clarke (DC) Stephen Brown (SB) Hilary Matthews (HM)

**In attendance:** Gemma Creasey (GC) (Clerk)

**77. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Sophie Scott (SS) and Margaret Dewsbury (MD).

**78. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None.

**79. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024.** DC noted that 75.8 referred to some trees being trimmed but this was not the case, only the grass around the trees had been trimmed – GC removed this. HM noted 75.9 referred to seconding rather than seconded – GC corrected. **SB proposed accepting Minutes as correct with the above amendments, HM seconded, all agreed.**

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

**80.1** Had been primarily working on the budget.

**80.2** Had notified two residents who had requested to be kept up to date on the Hackford Road application that the Committee meeting regarding it was deferred due to drainage information needing clarification.

**80.3** Purchased thermostatic valve for Committee Room.

**80.4** Allotment invoices and explanation of cost increase had gone out.

**80.5** Chased Highways regarding High Oak Lane and Church Lane issues – both these matters involve other departments so Highways are chasing these departments to be able to respond.

**80.6** Extra signs have been made and laminated to clear up signage in the hall and provide instructions to hirers on the new heating system.

**81. APPROVE QUOTE FOR VILLAGE SIGN REPAINT AND THANK MR COLDHAM FOR THE REPAIR**

**WORK ON SIGN** JS had contacted various different people to try to obtain quotes for the repaint of the sign – several did not wish to quote given it is fibreglass and one had recently moved out of the area so was unable to help. Mike Amiss came back with a quote of £250 - £380. He has seen the sign and is aware it is fibreglass and they will repair the cracking as well as repainting it. It wasn't initially in the budget however hopefully repainting now will

give it longevity as indications were that a new village sign would be around £10,000 - £15,000. **Proposed NK seconded SB, all agreed.** GC has already sent a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to Mr Coldham thanking him for his work repairing the village sign – the Councillors also wished to note their thanks to Mr Coldham. GC will contact the NET to have thanks put in the next edition along with an update on the sign for parishioners and a thank you to the ladies who do the flowers around the sign. HM has photos of the Councillors removing the sign and will send to GC to add to the article.

## 82. FINANCE

### 82.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Monthly

|                     |                                                  |                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Salaries            | Clerk & Booking Clerk (including back pay)       | 807.74         |
| HMRC                | Month 7                                          | 40.40          |
| Clerk's expenses    | Mileage, printer ink, sim and thermostatic valve | 46.28          |
| James Howe          | Fixing of guttering                              | 100.00         |
| EDF                 | Electricity – DD                                 | 47.87          |
| Various             | Return of hall deposits                          | 100.00         |
| TTSR                | Grass Cutting                                    | 424.86         |
| Dream Team Cleaning | Village Hall clean                               | 324.00         |
|                     | <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>1891.15</b> |

**Resolved: That all accounts as presented be paid. Proposed DC, seconded HM, all agreed**

### 82.2 Monthly Receipts and Payments Report

|                            |         | Current        | Premium          | Total            |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Balance b/f                |         | 6054.61        | 33,398.44        | 39,453.05        |
| Total receipts to 25.10.24 |         | 2591.40        | 0.00             | 2591.40          |
| Hall hire                  | 1517.50 |                |                  |                  |
| Allotments                 | 687.00  |                |                  |                  |
| CIL                        | 136.90  |                |                  |                  |
| Recycling bins             | 250.00  |                |                  |                  |
|                            |         |                |                  |                  |
| Total payments to 25.10.24 |         | 2500.49        | 0.00             | 2500.49          |
|                            |         |                |                  |                  |
| Inter Account Transfers    |         | -1500.00       | +1500.00         |                  |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>     |         | <b>4645.52</b> | <b>34,898.44</b> | <b>39,543.96</b> |

**82.3** JS noting we haven't had the invoice for Brian Clarke for the rural grass cutting – GC rang last week to remind him so **GC will chase again.**

**82.4** JS explaining that there have been issues in the past with the toilet light switch as this is in the boiler room. Now that the Air Source Heat Pump has been installed, hirers of the hall do not have a need to go in the boiler room to turn the heating on and would only need to go in the boiler room to get cleaning equipment. JS suggested putting the toilet light switches near the men's toilet wall in the hall. The electrician has been contacted to quote for this but we haven't received the quote yet. **GC will chase and will add to December's Agenda.**

**82.5** In relation to the draft budget, GC mentioned that the increase in National Insurance announced in the Government's budget will impact the budget by a few hundred pounds

and she will add this to the budget prior to it being finalised. There is some debate as to whether councils are exempt from this rise in the media – certainly Parish Councils are not allowed to apply for employment allowance. NK noting that following the National Insurance increase and minimum wage increase it is likely that the grass cutting will go up more than expected. JS saying we had incorporated some increase for this but the quote will also include an extra cut in early March so this will also increase cost. GC confirming we have heard about increases from the cleaners and the urban and rural grass cut and these have been put in the draft budget. Hopefully we will have a quote for the playing field and allotment cuts and the National Insurance issue before December's meeting so the budget can be finalised then. JS pointing out that there is still money in the draft budget in contingency and that most areas are still within budget for this financial year. Discussions regarding the precept will be made at the next meeting.

**82.6** GC explained that the backdated pay award had been agreed by NALC and is backdated to April. Noted.

- 83. HIGHWAYS:** NK noted that Highways appear to have been in the village recently as there is a hole in Church Lane with white paint around it. JS also noting there seemed to be some repairs to High Street. JS noting the Church Lane issue is still a problem as the hedge is still extending beyond telegraph poles etc and asked **GC to chase Highways once again.**

**84. PLANNING:**

**84.1 Decisions** – 2024/2770 Whitehall Farm Crownthorpe – Agricultural general purpose building to store farm implements and crops from surrounding fields – prior approval not required (delegated.)

2024/2412 – 12 Wicklewood Rise – demolition of existing garden wall and erection of single story extension – approval with conditions.

**84.2 Application** – 2024/3046 – TPO trees at 3 Cooks Terrace – circulated– no views or comments.

**85. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS**

**85.1 Booking clerk report** – SS was unable to attend due to a broken arm – GC had checked with her and she said there was nothing to report. HM had checked the defibrillator and replaced the batteries so the light works.

**85.2 Hall Maintenance Items** – JS has replaced the thermostatic valve in the Committee room, the thermostat has been programmed and instructions have been produced to aid hirers, radiators have been bleed.

**85.3 Playing Field Inspection** –The table tennis bats have been removed again – NK suggesting to replace in the spring. NK saw one of the bats in the brambles but was unable to get it. JH asked how many trees have been damaged and JS saying quite a few have been chewed by deer's. JH stating that he could provide more trees if needed and suggested plastic tubing might help but these disintegrate after a while. NK suggesting trees such as Hawthorn don't seem to attract the same issues with deer. NK will double check the condition of the trees. HM asked for an update on the abandoned car from October. JS and

GC said it had gone and JS noting he has not seen it since. NK noting that when there had been a function at the hall the other week some cars had parked up the allotment track as the car park was busy. The overflow car park was not open. NK asking whether SS sends out information about the overflow car park in her information to hirers. **GC will check this and what else SS sends out to hirers.**

**85.4 Report from allotments inspection:** DC inspected the allotments on 31<sup>st</sup> October and couldn't see any issues or concerns – Orchard was in good order. NK asking whether allotment fees have been paid – GC confirmed that all fees for the allotment gardens have been paid and only 1 person had raised issue with GC about the £3 increase. GC confirming there had been one person give up their allotment in October and this was filled from the waiting list. There is still a current waiting list for allotments.

- 86. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 7.45pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024. Agenda items to Clerk by 22<sup>nd</sup> November.