

**Wendens Ambo Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting 10th April, 2017**

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, Royston Road, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JX at 8pm. Present: Chairman Isobel Grant, Cllr Andrew Farrimond, Cllr Jim Grant, Cllr Alan Lovett, Cllr Guy Morrogh, Cllr Dominic Russell and Cllr Ann Wade. In Attendance: District Cllr Robert Chambers, Parish Clerk and 5 Members of the Public. Prospective candidate for Essex County Council Heather Asker attended as an observer.

04/17/01	Chairman 's Welcome Chairman Isobel Grant welcomed those present to the meeting.
04/17/02	Apologies For Absence Apologies for absence were received and accepted from District Cllr Julie Redfern. Apologies for early departure were received and accepted from District Cllr Rob Chambers.
04/17/03	Declarations Of Interests None received.
04/17/04	Public Participation A member of the public requested that the Parish Council might consider writing a letter in support of the proposed works at the church. A member of the public asked District Cllr Chambers whether planning application UTT/17/0366/FUL has been successfully called into committee. District Cllr Chambers agreed to clarify and confirm this matter tomorrow.
04/17/05	Previous Minutes Councillors agreed the minutes of the March Parish Council meeting and the March Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate records of proceedings and Chairman Isobel Grant signed the minutes of the March meeting.
04/17/06	Clerk `s Report The clerk reported; i. District Cllr Chambers has tonight reported that he will; a. chase the donation from the New Homes Bonus towards the notice board as he believed it had been despatched. b. pursue John Moran`s feedback regarding the reliability of the bus service. c. donate £200 from the New Homes Bonus to Wendens Ambo Rugby Club to be used towards their joint purchase of a defibrillator with Saffron Walden Hockey Club to be sited on the club house wall at Joyce Frankland Academy Newport. ii. Hardy Landscapes have proposed 2 cuts a year at £80 + VAT per cut for the highlighted areas of footpath. iii. Eddie Johnson`s response (13.03.17) to the PC letter of support to Audley End Estate`s request for winter closure of byway 10 stated that the project to date has shown that seasonal closures can help to keep some byways open to all categories of user in summer months. However byway management requires a very fine balance between the competing interests of users and the statutory provisions available to enable such management are not straightforward. All users of a Byway have equal rights, any prohibition imposed is quite rightly scrutinised by user groups and subject to potential legal challenge. No decision has been made about the future of the project (ending March 2017). It also suggested that damage arising from the misuse of the byways and the issue of hare coursing are criminal matters which should ultimately be reported to the police. It was agreed that the clerk would reply requesting an update on the outcomes and actions resulting from the project. iv. Eddie Johnson responded (14.03.17) to the PC letter highlighting the increasing issues at the junction of B1039 Station Road and B1383 London Road requesting that they review the lighting at the junction with a standard " the issues raised are being looked into and full replies will be sent shortly." It was agreed that the clerk would chase a response to the letter.
04/17/07	Financial Report The clerk presented a statement and review of accounts and cheques for payment; 690 - WA Village Hall hire - Sept + Oct 2016 - £20.00 691 - WA Village Hall hire - March 2017 - £20.00 692 - Clerk`s salary March 2017 - £241.80 693 - Clerk`s expenses March 2017 - £58.95 which were approved for payment.

04/17/08	<p>Friends of Wendens Ambo Play Park</p> <p>It was agreed by majority to support FOWAPP's proposed extension to the play park to cater for pre-school children, including the installation of plastic safety matting at a total cost of £7,747.00 + VAT (reclaimable). It was agreed that Chairman Grant would order the equipment and that the clerk would liaise with Hardy Landscapes to ensure the grass cutting dates do not clash with installation dates.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Lovett would request a quotation from Tarquin Ellington to repair the mound.</p>
04/17/09	<p>Village Works</p> <p>a. Cllr Morrogh confirmed that Network Rail have painted over the graffiti on the railway viaduct, and it was agreed that the council do not think that the installation of a fence is necessary.</p> <p>b. The damaged road sign previously reported to Essex Highways and rejected as not considered to be a safety issue has been reported again - ref 2512067.</p> <p>c. Chairman Grant detailed Network Rail's confirmation that the whistle boards remain in use until the crossings are completely closed. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Network Rail for clarification of the ownership of land to be used for the footpath, whether a compulsory purchase will be required and whether the process would be expedited if no footpath was required. A member of the public requested that the Parish Council insist that a footpath is installed as a matter of principle.</p> <p>d. Cllr Wade confirmed that the most recent litter issue has been cleared by the land owner and a sign has been installed informing of CCTV in operation in the area.</p> <p>e. Cllr Morrogh confirmed that planning permission is required for the notice board at a 50% reduced cost of £97.50. It was agreed that District Cllr Chambers would speak to the planning department as he finds it ridiculous that the grant he is allocating will partially be used to finance planning permission for a replacement notice board that is moving only a short distance.</p> <p>f. Chairman Grant confirmed that Affinity Water have now planted the laurel bushes and semi-mature trees instead of their proposed holly and hornbeam and that hopefully the planning permission will soon go through for the fencing.</p> <p>g. Cllr Wade confirmed that the new defibrillator signs are in place and that training will hopefully be arranged for a Tuesday evening in June, once the instructor confirms availability. Bill Arnold explained the options available regarding extra lighting above the defibrillator and recommended the cheapest option as a movement sensor and 2 additional spotlights.</p> <p>h. Bus service - Covered under Clerk's report. District Cllr Chambers left the meeting.</p> <p>i. It was agreed that possible uses for the telephone box would be a topic for the Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>j. It was agreed to consider replacement of the Station Road notice board later in the year, once the works have been completed in the area.</p> <p>k. It was agreed that Cllr Farrimond would remove the bench opposite the cricket pitch on grounds of safety, retain the plaque and that Cllr Wade would inform the Wendens Ambo Society and revisit the topic at the May Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>l. It was agreed to purchase 2 replacement litter bins for Duck Street (telephone box) and Royston Road (opposite the cricket pitch) at a cost of £80.43 per bin.</p> <p>m. It was agreed that Cllr Lovett would request a quotation from Tarquin Ellington to replace the small gate on The Wick.</p> <p>n. Cllr Grant confirmed that the lack of adequate signs on London Road relating to the bridge at Newport has been reported to Essex Highways ref 2512061.</p>
04/17/10	<p>Village Plan</p> <p>It was agreed to carry this item forward to the May meeting.</p>
04/17/11	<p>Cycle Races through Wendens Ambo</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Farrimond would investigate the timetable of races due to pass through Wendens Ambo and request advance notification of the races, as was historically the case.</p>
04/17/12	<p>Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday 23rd April 11-12.30.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Russell would design and print a flyer advertising the Annual Parish Meeting and forward to Cllr Farrimond or Cllr Morrogh by Thursday to enable delivery either with the May Day Fun Run leaflet (1st May) or with the Saffron Walden Reporter.</p> <p>Subsequent to this meeting there has been a change to the arrangements, there is now no meeting on April 23rd.</p>

04/17/13	<p>New Homes Bonus It was agreed that the clerk would chase the £200 donation to the Village Magazine.</p>
04/17/14	<p>Bear Walden Business Park It was agreed that Cllr Farrimond would confirm with the station whether they erected the " Private Road, no access to railway station" sign at the top of Bear Walden Road and that an article would be included in the Parish News encouraging consideration of private property and encouraging the public not to access the station through the flats. It was also suggested that a lock fitted by the land owners to the gate to the flats would resolve the issue.</p>
04/17/15	<p>Potholes Cllr Grant detailed an obscure Ringway Jacob`s report on Rookery Lane which the Parish Council were not consulted or included in which included the possibility of installing passing places, £10,000 expenditure on signage and the possibility of works being carried out this financial year. It was agreed that Cllr Grant would continue to try to contact the author of the report and raise a formal complaint. Cllr Grant detailed the 13.03.17 Essex Highways meeting, highlighting that Ringway Jacobs are contracted to Essex Highways. The meeting used budget restrictions as the go to excuse for lack of action, predicted 150,000 new homes in Essex in the next 30 years and confirmed that motorways are not the responsibility of Essex Highways, although bridges, roads and motorways are considered assets. Cllr Grant noted that Essex Highways have 340 miles of major roads to grit and 100 brand vehicles, including 60 new gritters. Highland Region in Scotland have 4,200 miles of roads to grit and have 116 gritters. Pothole repair criteria was confirmed as 50mm depth on the highway and 20mm depth on the footway, with pink paint confirming that the hole will be repaired and purple informing that they are aware of the hole but are taking no action. The meeting confirmed that Essex Highways only pay 10% of claims each year, at a current sum of £1.2million. It was agreed that the clerk would invite County Cllr Eddie Johnson to visit Wendens Ambo to see for himself the state of the roads.</p>
04/17/16	<p>Matters to be raised for next meeting`s agenda a. Support for Church Project. b. Review clerk`s salary. c. Concerns over traffic speed, particularly over the roundabout, suggested traffic calming measures and Community Speedwatch.</p>
04/17/17	<p>Public Participation Cllr Dominic Russell announced his retirement from the Parish Council due to a new extremely time-consuming role that he has recently undertaken. Cllr Russell said that it has been a huge pleasure and a privilege working with the council and particularly highlighted the tremendous efforts of Chairman and Cllr Grant in the work they do around the village. Cllr Russell confirmed that he will always be available to help out and wished everyone all the best for the future. Chairman Grant confirmed that the council are extremely sorry to lose Cllr Russell, thanked him for all his hard work and wished him good luck in his new role.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 22.05</p>

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is 8th May, 2017 - Details to be confirmed. The draft minutes of the meetings are posted on www.wendensambo.org.uk and displayed in the Church Porch, The Fighting Cocks and The Bell. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting.