

Wendens Ambo Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 6th April, 2020

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting on Skype at 8pm.

Present: Chair Gail Gibbs, Cllr Trevor Back, Cllr Kathryn Butterworth, Cllr Clive Glazebrook and Cllr Sam Slota-Newson.

In Attendance: District Cllrs Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt and the clerk.

04/20/01	Chair`s Welcome Chair Gail Gibbs welcomed everyone to the meeting.
04/20/02	Apologies For Absence Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllrs Alan Lovett and Simon Rowley.
04/20/03	Declarations Of Interests None.
04/20/04	Public Participation None.
04/20/05	County Councillor`s Report No report submitted.
04/20/06	<p>District Councillor`s Report</p> <p>District Cllr Richard Pavitt noted his concern that some people are continuing to make non-essential journeys, and not enforcing social distancing.</p> <p>The District Council will be holding an exceptional meeting at the end of the month, to vote on the Local Plan, and they have been advised that online voting will be permitted. It is considered likely that a new draft Local Plan will then be commenced.</p> <p>District Cllr Neil Gregory offered to answer any questions and the clerk asked if there was likely to be any delay in planning decision making. District Cllr Neil Gregory advised that nothing should change, levels of delegation remain the same, noting that online planning meetings are being considered.</p> <p>Chair Gibbs asked what impact the abandonment of the emerging Local Plan will have on planning application UTT/20/0658/FUL. District Cllr Neil Gregory noted that abandoning the emerging Local Plan means that the 2005 Plan is still in place, and the application is not in keeping with that Plan. Although not the strongest argument, it is relevant, and coupled with the lack of evidence of need or of requirement could provide a strong case. The plans submitted are identical to the previous application with no new data, indicating a lazy tick box exercise to appease Abelio`s agreement with the Department for Transport. District Cllr Neil Gregory advised that the application has been called into Planning Committee and will probably be considered at the May or June meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Slota-Newson asked which Cabinet Member is responsible for the UDC Climate Change Emergency Team and District Cllr Neil Gregory advised that Louise Pepper holds the role. District Cllr Richard Pavitt noted his roles on Planning Committee and Deputy on the Climate Change Emergency Team.</p> <p>Chair Gibbs raised concerns that residents from other communities passing through Wendens Ambo on their daily hour walking/running are contributing to the ongoing issues of responsible dog ownership and respect for land and property. District Cllr Richard Pavitt agreed to request that UDC sends out a bulletin reminding the public to keep their dogs on leads where necessary, clear up after their dogs and stick to official footpaths when out enjoying the countryside.</p> <p>Chair Gibbs raised concerns that the ACME school bus has advised that they will continue to charge parents full fares for the remainder of the school term, despite the schools being shut. District Cllr Neil Gregory agreed to confirm that Essex County Cllr Ray Gooding has resolved this situation satisfactorily, and noted that UDC`s Scrutiny Committee have involved their Community Safety Member in communications with the bus company.</p> <p>District Cllrs Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt left the meeting.</p>
04/20/07	Previous Minutes Councillors agreed the minutes of the March Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate record of proceedings and Chair Gail Gibbs devolved power to the Clerk to sign the minutes on her behalf.

04/20/08	<p>Clerk`s Report</p> <p>The clerk reported;</p> <p>i. A request has been received for the Council to consider using paying for the Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt next weekend. It was unfortunately agreed that whilst the Council thoroughly approved of the event in principle, the current climate means that the council cannot support the provision of Easter Eggs as part of the Egg Hunt, due to concerns over the risk of transferral of infection. The Council would very much like to fund provision of the Easter Eggs in 2021.</p> <p>ii. The need for online banking .The problem with Lloyds is that their online banking doesn`t seem to offer the shielded access a Parish Council requires, where the Clerk can go view statements and set up payments, and then any two Councillors have to authorise the payments. Lloyds only offer full access or view only, which is not appropriate. Am awaiting a call back and will update.</p>
04/20/09	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>i. The Council resolved unanimously to increase the Clerk`s hourly rate to SCP25, effective immediately, and the clerk rescinded her resignation.</p> <p>ii. The clerk presented a statement and review of accounts and cheques for payment;</p> <p>DD - eSlip Ltd - monthly payroll February 2020 - £17.96 876 - Wendens Ambo Village Hall (hire March) - £10.00 877 - Ashridge Nurseries - trees for Green Triangle - £277.21 878 - Clerk`s salary March 2020 + annual leave - £726.18 879 - Clerk`s expenses March 2020 - £47.25 DD - eSlip Ltd - monthly payroll February 2020 - £17.96 880 - HMRC - Annual PAYE + NI payments - £129.48</p> <p>These were agreed for payment. It was agreed that the Clerk will bring the cheques to Wendens Ambo for signature, when bringing the minutes over for the notice board, within 48 hours of the Council meeting.</p>
04/20/10	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following comments were agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council;</p> <p>i. UTT/20/0658/FUL - Audley End Station, Station Road, Wendens Ambo Surface car park extension at Audley End Railway Station to provide an additional 152 car parking spaces, lighting, CCTV security cameras, signage, access and associated hard and soft landscaping. (23/04/2020) - <u>It was agreed that the Council objects strongly to this application and that Cllr Slota-Newson will meet (virtually) with District Cllr Neil Gregory and Richard Walford to draft the Council`s response, before circulating to the Council for agreement, prior to submission.</u></p> <p>The following planning decisions were noted;</p> <p>ii. UTT/19/3154/FUL - Former Indian Take Away, Station House, Station Road, Wendens Ambo Retention of existing A5 Use Class, installation of new commercial kitchen and extracts, refurbishment of internal areas, use of side window as serving hatch and removal of external advertising along with associated works - <u>Approved with conditions.</u></p> <p>iii. UTT/19/3155/LB - Former Indian Take Away, Station House, Station Road, Wendens Ambo Retention of existing A5 Use Class, installation of new commercial kitchen and extracts, refurbishment of internal areas, use of side window as serving hatch and removal of external advertising along with associated works - <u>Approved with conditions.</u></p>
04/20/11	<p>War Memorial</p> <p>Chair Gibbs detailed the advice given to Sue Watson regarding appropriate cleaning of the war memorial. The advice is to use lukewarm water and a soft scrubbing brush.</p>
04/20/12	<p>Website</p> <p>Cllr Back confirmed that the website has been updated to include a new privacy policy. A new .org.uk address for the site will be £120/year with a one off training cost of £75. Transferral of pages is £6/page. It was agreed that Cllr Back could proceed with the transfer and reduce/condense the pages to only transfer the most useful information.</p>
04/20/13	<p>Green Triangle Update</p> <p>Cllr Slota-Newson confirmed that six fruit trees have been planted on the Green Triangle. One complaint was received, raising a concern that the trees could impair drivers vision on the roundabout. It was agreed that Cllr Slota-Newson will forward his draft response to the clerk for despatch, confirming that the trees were planted in consultation with guidelines and confirming the Council`s intention to prune</p>

	and maintain the trees appropriately.
04/20/14	Sand Bags Cllr Butterworth agreed to arrange removal of the sand bags, once the isolation period has come to an end.
04/20/15	School Transport No update.
04/20/16	Emergency Powers Following recent advice from the Essex Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council agreed; i. Cancelling all public Parish Council meetings with immediate effect. ii. Co-ordinating monthly Parish Council meetings on Skype. The Clerk will publish agendas for these meetings with at least three clear working days notice as required for usual Parish Council meetings. Residents wishing to raise items within the public forum, may contact the clerk in writing, by phone or email, before midday on the day of the meeting. Draft minutes of the meetings will be made available to the public within 48 hours on the village email group, the Parish Council website and the village notice board. iii. Devolving power to the Clerk to approve and make any payments below £500 in conjunction with the Chair. iv. Devolving power to the Clerk to approve and make any payments below £1500 with approval via email from three Councillors. v. Payments requiring approval above £1500 require approval from all Councillors via simple majority in the usual way, with the Chair's casting vote as necessary. vi. All decisions need to be made on the monthly Skype meeting via simple majority with the Chair's casting vote as necessary. vii. Decisions requiring prompt action to be made via new email chain, with approval from three Councillors. viii. Genuinely urgent decisions to be proposed to the Parish Council on email, and ratified by two of the Chair and any Councillor. Any doubt as to promptness or urgency or whether it can wait until a Skype meeting to be settled by the Chair. ix. These powers to be in place for a period of three months, subject to review and cancellation at any point by simple majority, and renewal after three months on the same basis.
04/20/17	Telephone Box Chair Gibbs confirmed that there are currently no volunteers willing to undertake the telephone box renovation, and that the matter will be revisited once normal service has resumed.
04/20/18	Responsible Dog Ownership It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate details of the bio-degradable coloured spray paint used by several parishes to highlight dog mess issues.
04/20/19	Wenden Neighbours The Council extended their thanks to the Wenden Neighbours for their marvellous work in recent weeks, and note the success of the traffic light card system implemented to highlight when assistance is required. It was noted that one resident is believed to be in hospital, recovering from Covid-19, and the Council extends their best wishes to this resident.
04/20/20	Matters to be raised for next meeting. i. Village celebration when normal service is resumed. ii. National recognition in local communities. iii. Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting. iv. Local interest in new Councillors.
	Meeting closed at 21.02

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 4th May , 2020 at 8pm, platform to be agreed.