

# Wendens Ambo Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 3rd February, 2020

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, Royston Road, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JX at 8pm.

Present: Chair Gail Gibbs, Cllr Trevor Back, Cllr Kathryn Butterworth and Cllr Simon Rowley.

In Attendance: County Cllr John Moran, District Cllr Richard Pavitt, 3 members of the public, and the clerk.

02/20/01	<b>Chair`s Welcome</b> Chair Gail Gibbs welcomed everyone to the meeting.
02/20/02	<b>Apologies For Absence</b> Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Cllr Neil Gregory and Cllrs Clive Glazebrook and Alan Lovett.
02/20/03	<b>Declarations Of Interests</b> None.
02/20/04	<b>Public Participation</b> The public raised the following items; i. A 30m tall tree is close to falling over by the stile onto the footpath that goes along the river and under the railway bridge from Mutlow Hill. The tree is being held up by a subsidiary branch of an adjacent tall, top heavy tree, which when it falls it will block the main road. It is understood that the tree is on Mutlow Hall land and that further fallen trees also regularly block the river. <i>Cllr Sam Slota-Newson arrived.</i> It was resolved that the Chair would liaise with the land owner. ii. New graffiti has appeared under the viaduct. The public agreed to forward photographic evidence to the clerk to submit to Essex Police. County Cllr John Moran recommended contacting the British Transport Police if the issue is not resolved locally. iii. A document regarding suggested fitness equipment on The Wick, was provided to the Council for consideration. iv. Following a resident`s complaint about speeding through Wendens Ambo, to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex at the public meeting at Saffron Walden Town Hall (23/01/2020), the Police have requested suggestions for suitable places for speed checks to be carried out, which will be conducted before the end of February.
02/20/05	<b>County Councillor`s Report</b> County Cllr Moran detailed ; i. A full council meeting is scheduled for next week at County Hall to agree the 2020/21 budget, where it is anticipated that Highways will receive a large increase in funding. ii. A planned review of road safety from the Fighting Cocks to Audley End, although noting that the introduction of lighting and speed reduction is not usually considered in such rural areas. Cllr Butterworth noted that general lighting is not required, but that the installation of one light would highlight and improve the safety of pedestrians crossing the road to the Fighting Cocks car park. iii. District and County Cllrs can be asked to start the process to ask homeowners to cut back vegetation on their land, although new legislation limits the window of opportunity to October- March. County Cllr Moran agreed to pursue the Council`s Highway Rangers request, clerk to forward details. iv. The unfortunate accident involving a Stephensons school bus which resulted in two pupils being injured is being thoroughly investigated and there is no current evidence of blame. v. Ongoing issues with school bus availability to get children to school at all, and the efficiency of the service overall are being investigated. Cllr Butterworth detailed a meeting of concerned residents planned for 24/02/2020 at 8pm in Wendens Ambo Village Hall, and County Cllr Moran and District Cllr Pavitt offered to attend, if available. vi. Newport PC have recently taken on a Community Special Constable, who has equal power to the police, with Essex boasting the largest Special Constabulary, other the Metropolitan Police, in the country. It was noted that PCSOs do community engagement and intelligence gathering, and often have a vehicle available to them, but often don`t do night duties.

02/20/06	<p><b>District Councillor`s Report</b></p> <p>District Cllr Richard Pavitt detailed;</p> <p>i. A group of UDC Councillors have written to the ECC Chief Executive, asking him to take a personal interest in improving and resolving the school bus issues, noting the local strong feeling on this topic, and 130 cases of dissatisfaction currently reported.</p> <p>ii. The Planning Inspectorate have responded to UDC regarding the lack of soundness of the draft Local Plan, and recommending that the garden community in Uttlesford is not pursued. Options moving forward include the UDC administration withdrawing the plan, reworking and resubmitting the current plan or proceeding under the guidance of the Planning Inspectorate. Unfortunately during this period that district is far more likely to be again adversely affected by speculative development.</p> <p>iii. The Stansted Airport planning application was rejected on material grounds, with 10 voting against and 2 abstentions.</p> <p>iv. The recently declared Climate Change Emergency will involve a lot of work for communities to change their behaviour, and there will be a number of emerging new initiatives to help,</p>
02/20/07	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>Councillors agreed the minutes of the January Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate record of proceedings and Chair Gail Gibbs signed the minutes.</p> <p><i>Chair Gibbs noted that the stile detailed in minute 01/20/15viii has been replaced and is now fully operational. The fallen trees have also been cleared.</i></p>
02/20/08	<p><b>Clerk`s Report</b></p> <p>The clerk reported;</p> <p>i. An update report was requested from County Cllr Moran, should he be unable to attend the PC meeting.</p> <p>ii. Tree works on The Wick were approved by UDC, although the PC were not notified of the decision.</p> <p>iii. A request to clear the flood debris behind the bridge at the ford was submitted to the Environment Agency and has been forwarded to their local asset performance team for consideration.</p> <p>iv. The precept demand form was submitted to UDC 07/01/2020.</p> <p>v. The playground advisor from Action, Play and Leisure, who supplied the newest play equipment, have advised that the PC should not be concerned regarding the split and cracked timbers. They say that there were a number of factors that have caused this and others that will prevent any problems occurring. He notes the date of the report is late August, at the end of a very long hot summer and all timber will have cracked as the moisture comes out of it, even with these conditions the cracks will not be more than 8mm, the industry tolerance level. He is certain that the cracks will have closed considerably. Also noted is that the timber is supplied by the leading Play Timer supplier in the country, M&amp;M Timber, and the treatment process will penetrate into the heartwood to prevent any rot/deterioration. The timber guarantees remain, but it is extremely unlikely that the integrity of the timber will be compromised by what is recorded.</p> <p>vi. The council noted thanks to Sue Watson for her assistance during the recent works on The Wick.</p> <p>vii. It has still not been possible to clarify ownership of the fence between The Wick and the property beyond. County Cllr Moran offered to investigate using the county mapping wizard.</p> <p><i>County Cllr Moran left the meeting.</i></p>
02/20/09	<p><b>Police Community Support Officer</b></p> <p>A member of the public detailed attendance at the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex public meeting at Saffron Walden Town Hall (23/01/2020), only 30 public were present, possibly due to the meeting being advertised at a different time in the local press. The council were provided with contact details to discuss the benefits of PCSOs and Community Special Constables.</p> <p>The council agreed to defer consideration until package details for both options are available.</p>
02/20/10	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>i. The clerk presented a statement and review of accounts and cheques for payment;</p> <p>870 - Clerk`s salary January 2020 - £313.72</p> <p>871 - clerk`s expenses January 2020 - £76.77</p> <p>DD - eSlip Ltd - monthly payroll January 2020 - £17.96</p> <p>872 - Falcon Tree Specialists ( tree work on the Wick) - £750.00</p> <p>These were agreed for payment.</p>

	<p>ii. It was agreed that the Council's Grant Awarding Policy does not allow the Council to make a donation to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.</p> <p>iii. The Council resolved to fund a Remembrance Day wreath.</p> <p>iv. The Council agreed that additional funds will be required to cover minor village works, but that these funds can be diverted from the reserves.</p>
<b>02/20/11</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>The following comments were agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council;</p> <p>i. UTT/19/3155/LB - Former Indian Take-Away, Station House, 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>No objections.</u></p> <p>ii. UTT/19/3154/FUL - Former Indian Take-Away, Station House, 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>No objections.</u></p> <p>iii. UTT/20/0066/FUL - Barn at Whiteditch Farm, Rookery Lane Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of 1 no. new dwelling (following Prior Approval application UTT/19/0780/PAQ3) - <u>No objections, but the Council requires that traffic accessing and leaving the dwelling utilises the two way Newport access, rather than the single track Rookery Lane access.</u></p> <p>iv. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate the Regulation 14 Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Plan on the village email and a note put in the Village Views, to encourage parishioners to respond. A Council response to the plan will be considered at the March Council meeting.</p>
<b>02/20/12</b>	<p><b>War Memorial</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the clerk would request further details regarding the requested cleaning of the war memorial.</p>
<b>02/20/13</b>	<p><b>Website</b></p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Back will review and obtain quotations from the suggested website providers, and report back to the March Council meeting.</p>
<b>02/20/14</b>	<p><b>Litter Pick</b></p> <p>It was agreed to hold a Litter Pick on 3rd April, meeting 2-4pm at the Village Hall. All welcome, grabbers and bags provided, please bring gloves.</p>
<b>02/20/15</b>	<p><b>Narrowing Footpaths</b></p> <p>It was agreed that action is required to cut back vegetation to restore footpaths to their full width, particularly between the railway bridge and the Village Hall. It was resolved that Chair Gibbs will speak with home owners to offer support in achieving this.</p>
<b>02/20/16</b>	<p><b>Matters to be raised for next meeting.</b></p> <p>i. Police Community Support Officer/ Community Special Constable.</p> <p>ii. Website.</p> <p>iii. Consideration of new equipment on The Wick.</p> <p>iv. Yellow line parking restrictions towards the station - consideration of changing/increasing the restrictions to discourage misuse.</p>
<b>02/20/17</b>	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>None.</p>
	<b>Meeting closed at 22.10</b>

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 2nd March, 2020 at 8pm in Wendens Ambo Village Hall.