

**Wendens Ambo Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting 4th January 2016**

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, Royston Road, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JX at 8pm. Present: Cllr Isobel Grant (Chair), Cllr Jim Grant, , Cllr Andrew Farrimond, Cllr Dominic Russell, Cllr Ann Wade, Cllr Alan Lovett and Cllr Guy Morrogh. In Attendance: Parish Clerk and 3 Members of the Public.

01/16/01	Chairman 's Welcome Chairman Isobel Grant welcomed those present to the meeting.
01/16/02	Apologies For Absence None received.
01/16/03	Declarations Of Interests The clerk declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 01/16/09v.
01/16/04	Public Participation A member of the public queried the clerk`s declaration of interest.
01/16/05	Previous Minutes Councillors agreed the minutes of the December Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate records of proceedings and Chairman Isobel Grant signed the minutes.
01/16/06	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Dodna Lane</u> Following a site meeting, it was agreed to purchase and locate 1x reflective bollard, to be installed by provider at a total cost of £199, 30 yards south of Fiddlers, and that Cllr Jim Grant would obtain pricings for signage detailing "access only to (named properties)" for consideration post installation.</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u> Cllr Jim Grant detailed the recent pollarding of trees in Chinnel Lane to assist with drainage in the area. It was noted that landowners are responsible for clearance of waterways on their land.</p> <p><u>Church Renovations</u> It was agreed that the £1000 grant agreed at the December meeting would be paid in February.</p> <p><u>School Transport</u> Carried forward to the February Parish Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Broadband</u> It was agreed that Cllr Farrimond would submit an article to the Parish Magazine explaining fibre broadband with speeds that can be >10MBps is now available within some parts of the parish. The website www.superfastessex.org gives details of the overall programme and details which cabinet serves each property and when that cabinet is expected to enable a fibre connection. Issues should primarily be raised with the service provider but Cllr Farrimond is happy to assist in identifying the status of fibre for your property or if you are aware of identical service problems affecting multiple properties. Cllr Jim Grant detailed his attendance at the recent Superfast Essex meeting, where the intention to connect 95% of Essex by 2019 plus a 24 megabit 2nd connection was detailed. Concerns by many parishes that the maps showing village and network connections were often inaccurate were not dealt with and those present showed concern that misleading advertising which promises targets that are not currently being met by any connected parish and are affected by many external issues such as out of date or badly written/configured software, distance from cabinet and positioning of electrical cables, would quite possibly drive up expectation of the end users but not be delivered.</p>
01/16/07	<p>Clerk`s Report The clerk reported;</p> <p>i. Essex County Council have responded to the Freedom of Information Act request and provided links to the Essex Property Assets Map, which the clerk has circulated.</p> <p>ii. Uttlesford District Council responded on 18/12/15 to the Freedom of Information Act request submitted 26/11/15, explaining that the request has been considered but that proper assessment needed to be made under the Enviromental Information Regulations Act 2004, and that maps of the properties are held on the GIS system which they are happy to show the clerk at the UDC offices. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Chairman Grant regarding viewing the maps.</p> <p>iii. As a result of walking Duck Street and Rookery Lane 62 individual potholes were measured and photographed, the maximum size being 60x60x8 inches. On multiple occasions the clerk has attempted to report the potholes on the online reporting page on the Essex Highways website. Each pothole has to be detailed individually and there is no way to submit multiple</p>

	<p>details. Every single time (over 16 days) when I have attempted to submit my report, the website has crashed and buffered for 4 minutes, before issuing a "something is up, but don't worry, the website probably just needs a slight configuration, the problem has been logged" message appears. The problem has not however been logged as I have not been issued with any reference numbers or confirmations. I have gone through this process many times. I have also been unable to get a response to the telephone calls I have made, and attempts to again report the potholes yesterday ended exactly the same way.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested copying emails to the Chief Executive at Essex County Council and their deputy, and all Essex County Councillors</p> <p>It was agreed that if the clerk was not able to register the potholes online within 24 hours, that the details would be forwarded to all Essex County Councillors, the Chief Executive and deputy, and the local press.</p>
01/16/08	<p>Planning</p> <p>i. It was agreed to note the planning decision to refuse application UTT/15/3031/OP - Land East of Glebe Cottages, Royston Road, Wendens Ambo - Outline application with all matters reserved except for the access fro the erection of 1 no. dwelling and garage. The reasons detailed were;</p> <p>"Permission is refused for the following reasons: The development of this site would result in additional built form in the countryside which would be detrimental to the open and rural character of the surrounding countryside. The proposed development does not need to take place there and is not appropriate to the rural area. There are no material considerations which would outweigh the harm of the development in this unsustainable location by virtue of the location's relative inaccessibility to local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being contrary to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework."</p> <p>ii. It was agreed to note the planning decision to approve with conditions application UTT/15/3205/HHF - Weald House, Nats Lane, Wendens Ambo - Demolition of single storey garage, conservatory and annexe. Construction of two storey extensions, new cart lodge and garden room and remodelling of driveway.</p> <p>iii. Following the recently raised sustainability issues, it was agreed that Uttlesford District Council has to apply existing rules for sustainability, which are open to interpretation by individual planning officers. It was also noted that planning decisions can be appealed by the applicant.</p>
01/16/09	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>i. Jim Grant presented a statement and review of accounts and cheques;</p> <p>603- Clerk`s Salary December 2015 - £191.40 604 - HMRC December 2015 - £47.80 605 - UDC Election Costs May 2015 - £103.37 606 - Parish Magazine - £90.00 607 - Clerk`s expenses - £53.23 608 - Village Hall hire - £30.00 609 - External Auditor 2014/15 - £240.00 610 - CPRE - £36.00</p> <p>for payment. These were agreed.</p> <p>ii. The precept was agreed at £10,190 and the Chairman and Clerk completed and signed the Precept request form.</p> <p>iii. It was agreed that the audit report for the 3rd quarter will be completed before the February Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>iv. Cllr Jim Grant detailed the VAT claim of £700.60 which has been submitted for repayment.</p> <p>v. Chairman Isobel Grant detailed the Parish Council`s legal obligation to register as an employer. It was agreed that the clerk would appoint E-slip to process the registration at a cost of £100 to verify any obligation towards registering the clerk for a pension.</p>
01/16/10	<p>Green Triangle, Station Road</p> <p>i. It was agreed that the clerk would commence the procedure to register the land by adverse possession at a maximum cost of £70. Following detailed discussion regarding the purchase of a sign for the village at an approximate cost of £6,000, it was agreed to carry this item forward to the February Parish Council meeting to investigate funding and grants.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested inviting local 6th form students to design a sign. Another member of the public suggested approaching local businesses for sponsorship, plus opening up</p>

	<p>the design opportunities to local children and the youth club.</p> <p>ii. In order to prevent further damage to the green triangle on Station Road, caused by persistent parking by one resident, which in turn encourages others to also use the area as a car park, it was agreed to position large logs with retaining posts on the perimeter of the area. Cllr Jim Grant agreed to source donated logs within the parish and arrange notices for the area giving notice in advance of the works.</p> <p>iii. It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the February Parish Council meeting.</p>
01/16/11	<p>Boxing Day Treasure Hunt</p> <p>Chairman Grant detailed the success of this event with 67 participants, including 15 children and 2 babies. Joint winners were the Boxing Day Boys and The Rookery Lane Sansoms. Thanks were extended to Jenny and Sue and Rob and Alex for all their hard work and hopes are high for a repeat performance next Boxing Day.</p>
01/16/12	<p>Footpaths and Signs</p> <p>Cllr Lovett submitted a report detailing the 14 footpaths, bridleways and byways in Wendens Ambo, noting the responsibility for maintenance of footpaths is that of both the landowner and Essex. It was agreed that Cllr Lovett would pursue the replacement of missing way markers. Cllr Farrimond agreed to scan the A3 original map of footpaths produced by the Wendens Ambo Society in 2004 for reproduction on the village website.</p>
01/16/13	<p>Adoption of Telephone Box</p> <p>It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the February Parish Council meeting.</p>
01/16/14	<p>Items Protected In The Village</p> <p>Cllr Jim Grant detailed the 30 Grade 1 listed buildings, 1 Grade 1 listed building, 7 Assets of Community Value, 59 residential properties with trees covered by TPOs and 11 non-residential properties with trees covered by TPOs and it was agreed that this information would be added to the village website, minus the detail covering properties with trees without TPOs. It was noted that The Fighting Cocks is deregistered under the Assets of Community Value, which the Parish Council were not notified of.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Lovett would view the 3 walnut trees on the land next to Glebe Cottages, with a view to consideration for action at the February Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Wade detailed the possibility of requesting the listing of Neville House, the demolition of part of which has been mentioned in 3 separate planning applications and is of historic interest.</p>
01/16/15	<p>Village Plan Questionnaire</p> <p>It was agreed to carry this item forward to the February Parish Council meeting.</p>
01/16/16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Cllr Russell confirmed that he has received no response from Rissa Long.</p>
01/16/17	<p>Matters to be raised for next meeting`s agenda</p> <p>i. Appointment of internal auditor.</p> <p>ii. Viewing of maps at UDC</p>
01/16/18	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>A member of the public raised concerns that The Bell is rumoured to be up for sale with a potential division of land with a view to a residential development .</p> <p>A member of the public queried Uttlesford District Council`s recent call for sites for potential development and whether the Parish Council had responded.</p> <p>A member of the public queried whether the Parish Council would be represented at the Station Road planning meeting next week.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding damage to footpaths caused by runaway horses and whether hardcore could be put down in areas where ditches have been cleared.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 22.00</p>

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting is 1st February, 2016 at 8.00pm. 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.