

Wendens Ambo Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 9th January 2023

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting in Wendens Ambo Village Hall, Wendens Ambo at 8pm.

Present: Chair Gail Gibbs, Councillors Sam Slota-Newson, Chris Stringer.

In Attendance: District Councillors Neil Gregory, Richard Pavitt, five members of the public and the Clerk Jane Rolfe

01/23/01	Chair`s Welcome Chair Gail Gibbs welcomed everyone to the meeting.
01/23/02	Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Kathryn Butterworth, Simon Rowley, Alan Lovett, Chris Howitt and County Cllr Paul Gadd
01/23/03	Declarations Of Interests None
01/23/04	Public Participation i)A member of the public followed up the subject of having a flagpole in the village for the King`s Coronation; this was discussed at the previous Parish Council meeting. He asked that consideration be given for a representative of the Parish Council to liaise with a representative of the Parochial Church Council to establish where the flagpole should be situated and who should pay for it. Cllr Chris Stringer explained that the concept of a flagpole for the Coronation was not opposed by Parish Councillors, but that the Parish does not want to have a political involvement as to what it supports. A discussion took place regarding occasions on which a flag would be flown and on what variety of flags would be used. As Cllr Sam Slota-Newson is a member of the Parochial Church Council, Chair Gibbs asked him to liaise on behalf of the Parish Council and report back. Cllr Slota-Newson agreed to do so. ii)A member of the public asked for an update on the trees discussed at a previous meeting. Cllr Slota-Newson advised that they have been ordered, but as they are bare-root trees, they will arrive when they are ready. iii)Two residents were in attendance to discuss the parking in Church Path. Cars are being parked in Church Path, to access the airport, for lengthy periods causing parking problems for those living there. Parked cars also cause problems for emergency vehicles and deliveries. Parish Councillors explained that this problem was visited two years ago with two outcomes, one to make the area `residents only` which carries an annual cost; the other to enforce a restricted time limit which relies on a traffic warden to impose. There was a discussion around residents erecting their own sign at the end of road, which Councillors advised could not be condoned by the Parish Council. It was agreed that Chair Gibbs will re-share information from North Essex Parking Partnerships to residents of Church Path and the Parish Council will await their decision.
01/23/05	County Councillor`s Report Cllr Gadd`s report was read out by the clerk (appendix 1). It covered the following: i)He should be notified if anyone has any schemes for the Locality Fund ii)He should be notified of any further potholes nominations as his second allocation of 18 has been received iii)The introduction of a 40mph zone west of the village is no further forward. The next LHP meeting is 16/01/23. iv)Cllr Gadd will continue to liaise with his drains contact at the council regarding the issues around the Station Road junction after flooding over Christmas. There is a possibility that the drain is blocked at the outfall end which would be a landowner issue. This has to be investigated further. v)Meetings attended by Cllr Gadd on Sustainable Transport were very disappointing. There was nothing positive from ECC on Sustainable Transport as their policies heavily prioritise road transport over sustainable transport.
01/23/06	District Councillor`s Report Cllr Neil Gregory gave a summary of the District Council at the end of the year, based on generality rather than specifics. He reported that there has been lots of movement in senior staff which was necessary to effect change. Cllr Gregory said that there has been a long-term culture of lack of candour which has become clear over time. He explained that the new chief executive is very good at encouraging councillors to ask questions and make challenges. He said that progress is underway. Cllr Richard Pavitt agreed with Cllr Gregory`s comments and said that it is refreshing to witness upfront pragmatism. A member of the public asked what effect the `Working From Home` culture had had on the council. Cllr Pavitt explained that it is not ideal in terms of losing the culture of team-work, something which the new chief executive is trying to bring back. However, it is beneficial to employees and aids staff retention. Cllr Gregory explained that the council is in the bottom quartile of payers in a top quartile area, which causes a high mobility of staff.

01/23/07	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>Councillors agreed the minutes of the December Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate record of proceedings and Chair Gibbs signed the minutes. There was one amendment made to the published minutes (12/22/06) regarding a decision made on the application at Norton House.</p>																		
01/23/08	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The clerk reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The website was updated with minutes from the December meeting. ii. £117.64 was received from UDC, via Richard and Neil to cover repairs to the noticeboard at the village hall. iii. £31.90 was received in interest from the Saffron Building Society for the year 2022. iv. Notification has been given that £250 will be received from UDC via Richard and Neil for a new bin to attach to the new bus shelter. v. Notification has been received from the payroll provider that their prices will increase by 7.8%. This will mean that the monthly charge increases from £17.96 to £19.36 																		
01/23/09	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>i)The clerk circulated a statement and review of accounts and invoices for payment;</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="240 667 1524 958"> <tr> <td>eSlip Ltd - monthly payroll</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£17.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank charges to end of December 2022</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EALC - 2 courses for clerk (£105 to be reimbursed by bursary)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£168.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.J. Figge Electricals - repairs to street lamp in the Groat</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£125.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sally Fairall - agreed contribution towards treasure hunt</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Rolfe - clerk's salary for Dec 22 (inc pay award) (£131.40 PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£526.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Rolfe - clerk's expenses December 2022</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - quarterly payment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£301.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jill Porter - village photograph (funds to be rec'd from sales)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£157.50</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Invoices were authorised for payment</u></p> <p>ii)The predicted budget for 2023/24 was examined and agreed.</p> <p>iii)The Precept for 2023/24 was calculated using three different strategies and agreed upon at £11,500.</p>	eSlip Ltd - monthly payroll	£17.96	Bank charges to end of December 2022	£18.00	EALC - 2 courses for clerk (£105 to be reimbursed by bursary)	£168.00	A.J. Figge Electricals - repairs to street lamp in the Groat	£125.00	Sally Fairall - agreed contribution towards treasure hunt	£100.00	J Rolfe - clerk's salary for Dec 22 (inc pay award) (£131.40 PAYE)	£526.44	J Rolfe - clerk's expenses December 2022	£7.46	HMRC - quarterly payment	£301.40	Jill Porter - village photograph (funds to be rec'd from sales)	£157.50
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01/23/10	<p>Planning</p> <p>Cllrs reviewed the following planning application:</p> <p>Reference UTT/22/2811/FUL</p> <p>Alternative Reference PP-11601508</p> <p>Application Received Wed 12 Oct 2022</p> <p>Application Validated Wed 12 Oct 2022</p> <p>Address Norton End Rookery Lane Wendens Ambo Saffron Walden Essex CB11 4JT</p> <p>Proposal Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning application UTT/22/1494/DFO in order to allow amendments to previously approved plans</p> <p>Status Approved</p> <p>Decision Approve with Conditions</p> <p>Decision Issued Date Wed 28 Dec 2022</p> <p><u>The decision was noted by Councillors</u></p>																		
01/23/11	<p>Bus Shelter Replacement</p> <p>Cllr Chris Stringer explained that four contractors had been contacted for quotations on the replacement brick-built bus shelter. He said that two will send quotations shortly, one gave no reply and one views the job to be too small. He asked for other contractor recommendations and a member of the public suggested Lodge and Son, from Great Dunmow, who had carried out work on the church. Cllr Stinger will liaise with her.</p>																		
01/23/12	<p>New Model Code Of Conduct</p> <p>Councillors had read this document and felt that it was aimed primarily at paid employees. Cllr Slota-Newson said that as the new code of conduct stipulates that councillors' training must be undertaken, he would like it confirmed as to whether there would be a breach if this did not happen. Chair Gibbs offered to contact EALC regarding this and to explore what training is available.</p>																		
01/23/13	<p>Purchase of the Wick</p> <p>Cllr Stringer felt that with the covenant attached to this land, it may prove to be quite worthless when independently valued. A member of the public suggested that the Parish Council appeals to the Diocese, not to the solicitors working on their behalf, to take a nominal payment for the land, e.g. £1000/£2000. He suggested that it would be favourable to the village and that the Parish Council currently pays for the maintenance of the land. It was agreed that Cllr Slota-Newson, as a member of the Parochial Church Council, will liaise with them to try and arrange a letter to the Disocese on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>																		

01/23/14	20's Plenty National Programme Chair Gibbs explained that there is a National Campaign to enforce a 20MPH speed limit in all villages and that a pack, along with support, will be supplied by the programme. She asked if there was a councillor who would be willing to take on this project. This will be deferred to February's meeting due to an absence of Councillors at this meeting.
01/23/15	Retain and Destroy Policy This policy was adopted by Councillors and will be published on the Parish Council website.
01/23/16	Enquires, Complaints and Correspondence Chair Gibbs had been contacted about the light on the Croat as it is not working. She has contacted the electrician who recently repaired the light and asked him to investigate.
01/23/18	Matters to be raised for next meeting's agenda i)Bus Shelter quotations ii)King's Coronation iii)Spring litter pick iv)20s Plenty National Campaign v)Church Path parking ? (if residents have reached a decision)
01/23/19	Meeting Actions i)Cllr Slota-Newson to liaise with PCC regarding village flagpole ii)Chair Gibbs to share information from North Essex Parking Partnership with Church Path residents iii)Clerk to send precept information to UDC by 20 th January iv)Cllr Stringer to contact Lodge and Son for quotation for bus shelter v)Chair Gibbs to contact EALC regarding governors' code of conduct and governor training courses vi)Cllr Slota-Newson to contact PCC on behalf of Parish Council regarding potential purchase of the Wick vii)Clerk to upload Retention policy to website
	The meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 6th February 2023 at 8pm, in Wendens Ambo Village Hall.
www.wendensamboparishcouncil.org.uk