

Wendens Ambo Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 4th September 2023

Wendens Ambo Parish Council Meeting in Wendens Ambo Village Hall, Wendens Ambo at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors Alan Lovett, Chris Howitt, Kathryn Butterworth, Sam Slota-Newson

In Attendance: County Councillor Paul Gadd, District Councillor Neil Gregory, six members of the public and the Clerk Jane Rolfe

09/23/01	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>It was agreed, for now, that the Chair's role would be divided equally between Parish Councillors. Chris Howitt was appointed Chair for tonight's meeting.</p>
09/23/02	<p>Apologies For Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received, and accepted, from District Cllr Richard Pavitt. Simon Rowley was absent; no apologies were received.</p>
09/23/03	<p>Declarations Of Interests</p> <p>None</p>
09/23/04	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>i) A member of the public reported an incident that he had experienced regarding two dogs in the village. He explained that when walking past the house where the dogs are kept, one of the dogs, although on a leash, lunged at him. Then one dog broke free and charged at him before the owner managed to seize the dog. The member of the public asked if there is anything that can be done about this.</p> <p>Cllr Slota-Newson explained that the Parish Council has no authority to act, and that the incident could be reported to the police. Cllr Butterworth advised that she knows the owners of the dogs in question and offered to have an informal chat with them to convey the concern raised. This was considered to be the best way forward.</p> <p>ii) A member of the public referred to the minutes of the July Parish Council meeting. He said that he felt more clarification was needed under item 07/23/06 'District Councillor's Report' which stated that Regulation 18 was to be published at the end of October. District Cllr Gregory explained that Regulation 18 is the first draft of the local plan which is open to public consultation.</p> <p>iii) A member of the public referred to item 07/23/04 of the July minutes regarding Anglian Water's tests that were carried out, and that 18 tests had failed. He asked for more information about the tests. Another member of the public explained that Anglian Water did percolation tests at 19 properties whose owners had volunteered. All but one had failed. Due to the results of these tests, main sewerage for the village was recommended by Anglian Water. It was explained that geology did not allow for the water to percolate down.</p> <p>iv) A member of the public reported that there was a spelling mistake in item 07/23/13 of the July minutes 'Meeting Actions'</p> <p>v) A member of the public reported that Chris Stringer is still listed as councillor on the Wendens Ambo website. Cllr Howitt offered to fix this.</p>
09/23/05	<p>County Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Paul Gadd advised that:</p> <p>i) The Highways pothole scheme has now exceeded his allocation. He asked to be contacted with regard to any that are dangerous.</p> <p>ii) The 40MPH zone scheme is proving to be very disappointing. £500,000 worth of existing schemes may be rolled over to the current financial year, but this has not yet been decided. Cllr Gadd explained that he submitted this application in December 2021, and will continue to chase the officer involved.</p> <p>iii) Cllr Gadd asked if the manhole cover at Duck Street had been repaired. As it has not, will chase again.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Gadd explained that the government plans to abolish all rights of way unless they are registered. He advised that the Parish Council checks whether commonly used paths are registered as public rights of way. Cllr Gadd said that getting registration for publicly used paths can be a convoluted process; one way is consensual, asking the landowner to agree, and the alternative is to find 20 people to confirm that the path has long usage. Cllr Gadd advised looking at Ordnance Survey maps, which Cllr Butterworth offered to do.</p> <p>v) Cllr Lovett asked about a 20MPH speed limit and why the village can't achieve this. Cllr Gadd reported that Essex County Council are giving priority to cars at present and whilst this approach is maintained, this speed limit will not be attained locally.</p>
09/23/06	<p>District Councillor's Report</p> <p>i) Cllr Greogry reported that the Local Plan is still on track, and that he will know more details at end of the month.</p> <p>ii) He advised that housing numbers are better than believed, a count showed more than expected; it was felt that numbers had been under-reported.</p>

	<p>iii) Cllr Gregory said that a lot of progress had been made in planning, but that there is still a way to go. He explained that a culture of 'let's keep people happy' was evident, rather than ensuring structures are built correctly.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Gregory reported that there was some doubt as to whether Katherine Seymore school would open this week due to RAAC. However, it was established on Friday that the school is safe for the present. He said that Essex is the worst affected county for RAAC.</p>
09/23/07	<p>Previous Minutes Councillors agreed the minutes of the July Parish Council meeting as a true and accurate record of proceedings and Chris Howitt signed the minutes. The points raised during the meeting were taken on board.</p>
09/23/08	<p>Clerk's Report The clerk reported that:</p> <p>i) The website was updated with minutes from the July meeting.</p> <p>ii) The clerk will be downloading data from flashing speed sign in future. The software is loaded on to the Parish Council's laptop, and the clerk will talk with the Truvelo representative to arrange the download.</p> <p>iii) The clerk has been handed SumUp card machine from outgoing chair and is happy to store until needed.</p> <p>iv) The clerk has been handed keys for bins and for the Wick from outgoing chair – the clerk would prefer a resident/councillor to hold these as she does not live in the village. Cllr Slota-Newson offered to keep the keys and to arrange for another key to the Wick to be cut; this will be held by Cllr Butterworth.</p> <p>v) A quotation has been received from Falcon Tree Specialists for trimming hedges on Wick for £500. Councillors agreed to go ahead with this and to ask for the trees on the path at the Wick to be trimmed as well. It was decided that a local farmer would be approached to find out if they may be interested in doing the job in future.</p>
09/23/09	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>i) Invoices paid in July were signed by the the Chair.</p> <p>ii) The following invoices for August were approved for payment: Topsource Worldwide (UK) Ltd - monthly payroll costs plus P11D filing £45.77 Hardly Landscapes -grass cutting x 2 for July 2023 £396.62 Wendens Ambo Village Hall – hire of hall £40.00 J Rolfe - clerk's salary June 2023 (£86.80 PAYE to pay) £347.60 J Rolfe - clerk's expenses August 2023 £11.06</p>
09/23/10	<p>Planning To review the following planning application</p> <p>i) Reference UTT/23/1386/HHF Alternative Reference PP-12202953 Application Received Wed 31 May 2023 Application Validated Wed 31 May 2023 Address Flat 2 Lime Tree House Royston Road Wendens Ambo Saffron Walden Essex CB11 4JX Proposal Proposed additional floor extension Status Approved Decision Approve with Conditions Decision Issued Date Tue 01 Aug 2023 <u>Noted by councillors</u></p> <p>ii) Reference UTT/23/2137/FUL Alternative Reference PP-12358200 Application Received Mon 21 Aug 2023 Application Validated Thu 24 Aug 2023 Address Bulse Grange Rookery Lane Wendens Ambo Essex CB11 4JT Proposal Single detached two-storey dwelling and detached double garage -resubmission of approved application UTT/22/0477/FUL to include extension to porch, PV panels and changes to roofing tiles. Status Awaiting decision <u>Nominal changes- no objections</u></p>
09/23/11	<p>Internal Audit Report This was reviewed and the clerk explained that she had requested a bank mandate from Unity Trust Bank which is being sent in the external mail; when this arrives, it can be amended accordingly. It was agreed that various policies would be reviewed over the course of the next few PC meetings. It was also agreed that a contract will be drawn up for the current clerk, who does not hold one at present.</p>
09/23/12	<p>Damaged Bench at the Wick A Wendens Ambo Society Bench has been damaged by vandals. The vandals were children who were spotted and told off by a resident. It was suggested that if the hedges at the Wick were cut lower and regularly trimmed,</p>

	vandals would be more visible. Cllr Slota-Newson explained that hedges can't be cut during bird nesting season, but Councillors would consider this option. The clerk suggested that this bench may be able to be repaired by Community Services at the District Council; she will contact the relevant person. A member of the public reminded councillors of the Community Shed in Audley End; they are a charity who make/repair benches amongst other things.
09/23/13	Damaged Post at Wick There are two large posts at the Wick which are rotten at the bottom. They need to be replaced and if they are concreted in, it will be a huge task. Cllr Slota-Newson will take photos so that quotations can be obtained. The clerk will contact Community Services, but it was felt that it is too big a job for them.
09/23/14	Bollard at Dodna Lane Cllr Butterworth explained that the bollard has been knocked over and is at an angle. Investigations will take place to see if it is able to be pushed back into place. It is an equestrian style bollard.
09/23/15	Jubilee Wood Some fruit trees have died in the wood due to lack of water and have been, possibly about six. This could possibly be due to the fact that they were established trees and not whips when planted. Cllr Slota-Newson will order new whips to replace the dead trees. The brambles in the wood need to be cut back as they are massively overgrown. Ed Perks will be contacted to do the work as he offers good value for money. Cllr Lovett said that people have asked for the rest of the wood to be wild.
09/23/16	Enquires, Complaints and Correspondence i) A member of the public invited attendees to harvest lunch on 24th September. She also invited sponsors for Cllr Slota-Newson's cycle ride to Chelmsford and back (100k). ii) A member of the public asked if it is possible for the Parish Council to approach the relevant body to get the road signs painted on the mini roundabout near the station. Councillors explained that this is dealt with by Highways and that the Parish Council will write to highways or go on to their website to report it. The PC will also write to Cllr Gadd. iii) It was agreed that an extension would be requested on planning application UTT/21/3248/HHF so that it can be on the agenda item for the October meeting.
09/23/17	Matters to be raised for next meeting's agenda i) Roles and responsibilities of councillors ii) Football Posts for the Wick iii) Update on Replacement Bus Shelter iv) Mini roundabout road markings plus road markings for Duck Street and Rookery Lane v) Recruitment for vacancies vi) Purchase of Wick Glebeland
09/23/18	Meeting Actions i) Cllr Butterworth to speak to dog owners ii) Cllrs Chris Stringer and Gail Gibbs to be removed from the website by Cllr Howitt ii) Cllr Butterworth to investigate Public Rights of Way iii) Local farmer to be contacted re: hedge trimming at the Wick iv) Clerk to request extension on planning application UTT/21/3248/HHF; it will be an agenda item for the next meeting. v) Community Services to be contacted by the Clerk. vi) New trees to be ordered by Cllr Slota-Newson vii) Councillors to contact Highways and Cllr Gadd regarding road markings in the village
	The meeting closed at 9.35pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 2nd October 2023 at 8.00pm, in Wendens Ambo Village Hall.

