

Wendens Ambo Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 6th January 2025

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

Present: Councillors Alan Lovett, Brian Cole, Nell Perks

In Attendance: County Councillor Paul Gadd, District Councillors Richard Pavitt, Neil Gregory, five members of the public and the clerk, Jane Rolfe

01/25/01	Election of Chair The Chair's role is being assigned on a rolling basis between Parish Councillors. Cllr Brian Cole was appointed Chair for tonight's meeting.
01/25/02	Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Chris Howitt and Simon Rowley.
01/25/03	Declarations Of Interests None.
01/25/04	Public Participation i)A member of the public thanked Cllr Cole for his hard work in clearing out the Ford in Duck Street, she said that it was much appreciated. ii)A member of the public extended thanks to Sally Fairall and Kathryn Butterworth for coordinating the Boxing Day Treasure Hunt which was attended by 95 people and a great success. iii)A member of the public explained that she had contacted Anglian Water who has confirmed that it is moving ahead on the mains water project for the village which is scheduled for the period 2025-2030. iv)A member of the public acknowledged the passing of Isobel Grant who was a former chair of the Parish Council for many years.
01/25/05	County Councillor's Report i)Cllr Gadd advised that major works to install new grips on the road at Clanver End had taken place to help relieve flooding in this area. He explained that it is likely the works may need to be renewed every 5 years but seems to have solved the problem for now. ii)Cllr Gadd reported that potholes on the B1039 are still outstanding but should be done this month, he will continue to chase. iii)The clerk referred to communication regarding the pothole at the bottom of Rookery Lane onto the B1383 which was reported in July 2024 and asked Cllr Gadd to chase; he said he would do so. iv) Cllr Gadd was thanked for chasing the road markings at the station roundabout which have now been completed. Please see Cllr Gadd's report (appendix 1) which gives information about Devolution and ECC's new grant scheme called 'Love Your Bus'.
01/25/06	District Councillor's Report Cllr Pavitt advised that an extraordinary meeting will take place on Wednesday night to discuss the Government's plans to replace district and county councils with 'unitary authorities'. He explained that this move may put more pressure on Parish Councils as the present tiered local government system will cease to exist and expressed concern that links between communities and their representatives will be impacted. Cllr Gregory advised that the Police Commissioner will be speaking at Dunmow in the near future. He said that the Local Plan was submitted on 18/12/24 and comes under the existing planning rules, and not the new ones, which is beneficial. Cllr Gregory said that Devolution is likely to happen and will mean that finances will merge alongside councils and some councils have huge debts.
01/25/07	Planning i) UTT/24/0124/FUL Dwellings to the rear of the Fighting Cocks Public House Reasons for refusal of this application are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• outside defined settlement development limits• harmful impact on rural character

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant harm to the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside harm the setting of a listed building fails to respond to the heritage sensitivity of the site <p>ii) UTT/24/1692/PAQ3 Change of use of Barns at Bulse Farm, Rookery Lane Reasons for refusal of this application are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> site not used solely for an agricultural use development would fail to comply with Q1(I)(ii) of the Town and Country Planning Order 2015 (TCPO) fail to comply with the restrictions specified in para x (restricted cartilage) of the TCPO <p>Prior approval is refused and planning permission is required for the proposed development.</p>
01/25/08	<p>Previous Minutes There were two minor amendments made to the December minutes after publication, after which Councillors agreed them as a true and accurate record of proceedings, and Cllr Cole signed the minutes.</p>
01/25/09	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting i) Cllr Cole to inspect grit bins. <i>Complete – 12 bags of salt purchased plus a new shovel.</i></p>
01/25/10	<p>Recruitment of Parish Councillors Nell Perks, a local resident, was coopted to the Parish Council. Paul Beauflis, owner of the Fighting Cocks Public House, will be coopted at the next meeting on 3rd February 2025.</p>
01/25/11	<p>Training for Councillors and Clerk The recruitment of new councillors will call for more training; this has been reflected in the budget for 2025/26. The clerk will attend a course on Planning, 75% of the cost for this will be reimbursed by EALC. The clerk will forward any suitable training courses to councillors for their selection.</p>
01/25/12	<p>Clerk's Report The clerk reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The website was updated with minutes from the December meeting, although there is a problem with the uploading of documents to the website at present. ii) Vat claim for Jan – Dec 2024 has been submitted to HMRC iii) The table tennis table for the Wick has been ordered. After payment of the invoice, there will be a two week lead time for delivery and it will be assembled on site. <p>It was decided to delay delivery of the table tennis table until better weather.</p>
01/25/13	<p>Financial Report i) The clerk distributed the cash book and bank statement for November and the following invoices were approved for payment: JC Fencing - Laying of concrete base in the Wick plus repair of a bench on the Wick £865.20 Unity Trust - monthly bank service charge £6.00 Brian Cole - purchase of rock salt for grit bins 12 x 25kg £121.32 Liz Lake Associates - stage 1 of Landscape Character Assessment £2028.00 J Rolfe - clerk's salary for December 2024 £386.40 J Rolfe - expenses December 2024 £24.99 HMRC - quarterly payment £312.00 Sally Fairall - Boxing Day Treasure Hunt Costs £92.90 ii) After some discussion and reference to proposed 2025/26 budget, the precept for 2025/26 was set at £12,000. Information from UDC showed that this would not increase the cost of the PC to residents.</p>
01/25/14	<p>Wendens Ambo Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee Cllr Lovett advised that, due to the Christmas period, there was little to report. The first part of the grant was received in early December and the Landscape Character Assessment was due to start imminently.</p>
01/25/15	<p>Tree Survey Cllr Lovett reported that, overall, the trees are in a good condition despite the recent strong winds. He said that some are growing close together, but this is quite natural. He reported that two trees will need</p>

	further inspection; one Ash tree and one on the bank that might need to be cut down as the heavy grain lorries might shift it. He will keep track of two other trees that will need double checking after storm. A tree surgeon will need to do some work in the future and Cllr Lovett checked that there was room in the budget for this job.
01/25/16	Enquiries, Complaints and Correspondence The clerk had received two emails, one from a member of the 'Hundred Parishes' who asked to attend a meeting to give a brief chat about the work of the society – it was agreed to invite him in March/April. The second was an attendee of the previous meeting who was considering becoming a Parish Councillor. He wrote to say that he found the meeting 'somewhat unfocussed' and suffering for lack of leadership by a permanent chair. A reply to this correspondence was sent by Cllr Howitt.
01/25/17	Matters to be Considered for the next meeting`s agenda VE Day 80 th Anniversary – Celebration to be planned.
01/25/18	Action Points from Meeting i)Clerk to send Precept amount to UDC by deadline of 22/01/2025 ii)Clerk to send new councillor details to UDC
	The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 3rd February 2025 at 8pm, in Wendens Ambo Village Hall.