

EC181

**Minutes of the meeting of the Wickhambrook Parish Council Estates Committee
9th August 2011 at 7.30pm in the MSC Pavilion**

Present

Cllrs. J. Walker (Chairman), K. Merritt and K. Sammons.
M. Cowan and J. Norton
R. Medley (Clerk)
One member of the public.

1. Welcome to new members and Appointment of Chairman. Julia Walker was welcomed as Parish Councillor representative and John Norton as lay member. Marion Cowan had previously agreed to continue as lay member.
Cllr. Walker was appointed as Chairman having been proposed by Cllr. Sammons and seconded by Cllr. Merritt.

2. Apologies for absence.
Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Taylor.

3. Declarations of interest in agenda items
None was declared.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 14th June 2011
These were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising
5.1 Publicity for new members. A redesigned poster would be displayed on notice boards and further publicity placed in the village magazines.

6. Correspondence
6.1 Tennis Club – resurfacing of courts. Jim Field, Tennis Club Vice Chairman and Secretary, updated Cllrs. Three quotes had been received and forwarded to the Clerk. The favoured option was Anglian and Midland Sports, the company that had carried out the previous work on the courts, and their quote was just under £18,000, plus vat. Jim suggested that the constitution be amended so that if the Tennis Club failed through lack of support then any surplus money would be donated to the Parish Council. Following approval in principle at previous Parish Council meetings, and as the contractor had requested acceptance of the quotation before the next full Parish Council meeting, a proposal was made by Cllr. Sammons, seconded by Cllr. Walker, that the Clerk should contact the contractor and formally accept the quote of £17,690 plus vat. The Clerk was instructed to contact Jim Field to advise him of the decision.

7. Playground
7.1 Safety Inspection. The monthly summaries were handed in. Marion Cowan had noticed a pin missing from the contractor’s entry gates.
7.2 Fundraising and Publicity for improvements. Cllr. Sammons reported on a visit to the Woman’s Institute. Members were considering a coffee morning, or similar, to raise funds. An application for £5,000 had been made to Havebury. This would be considered at the next Panel meeting to be held on 16th August. A display was planned for the Farmer’s Market in September. Cllrs. instructed the Clerk to enquire about the member of staff taking responsibility for St Edmundsbury grants. Cllr. Taylor had reported that she was aware of the need to gather support for a steering group.

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Chairman

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8. Tree Warden' Report

Nothing to report.

9. Cemetery

9.1 Safety Inspection. The report was handed in. The responsibility for regular inspections was taken on by John Norton.

9.2 Funeral Biers. Information about the biers had been sent to all churches in the diocese and the benefice, to Gressinghall Museum and to the Museum of East Anglian Rural Life. No interest had been shown. This matter would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

9.3 Donation of memorial bench. Cllrs. agreed that the best site would be against the hedge looking along the row of the most recent interments. David King required clearance of between 2.5 and 3 feet from the hedge for periodic trimming.

9.4 Allocation of plots. Cllrs agreed that no changes were necessary.

10. Churchyard

10.1 Safety Inspection. Cllr. Sammons gave a verbal report.

11. Teen Project

11.1 Safety Inspection. Reports were handed in. The basket ball net had yet to be replaced and the bench seat screws on the far side of the games area needed tightening. There was evidence of minor but regular fires being lit.

11.2 Replacement litter bin body and other maintenance. A new bin body had been fitted and the partially damaged cover, plus firestop, put in the Chapel. Eibe had promised replacement screws for the funbox.

12. Six Acres

12.1 Inspection reports were handed in. The responsibility for regular inspections had been accepted by Cllr. Merritt. The insecure small goals had been placed back on Parish Council land.

12.2 Bowls Club water meter. This had been changed as part of an updating programme.

13. Village Greens

13.1 Reports were handed in. The benches on the village greens would benefit from weatherproofing. John Norton offered to re-proof the Atleton Green seat. The trees on Genesis Green were beginning to grow into each other. Some remedial action may be needed over the winter.

13.2 Litter Pick. The date suggested by the Parish Council was Sunday 20th November but the Clerk was on holiday immediately prior to that date. As some organisation may be required Cllrs. agreed to bring the date forward to Sunday 23rd October. Cllrs. hoped to clear litter from the centre of the village and the minor roads. There was a possibility of continuing the exercise on the B1063 in the Spring when growth on verges would be minimal.

13.3 'Smartening up' the village. Highways had been asked to repaint the barriers over the brook in Wash Lane, the Wickhambrook entry 'gates' on the A143, and the brook barriers at Coltsfoot Green. Cllr. Sammons offered to write a brief article for the 'Scene' on the subject of 'Pride in your village'.

Date of next meeting.

This would be held in the MSC Pavilion on Tuesday 11th October 2011. Marion Cowan and John Norton offered their apologies.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

I confirm that the above is a correct record of the meeting held on 9th August 2011.

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Chairman

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Date