

# Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 03/20.

Clerk to the Council, Andrea Evans, Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham, Worcs, WR11 8RW.  
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**Present** Chairman: J Newbury, V. Chairman J. Poulter, Councillors, D. Heeks, S Wride, R Gutteridge and T Waller, County Councillor L Eyre, District Councillor N Robinson.

Clerk, A. Evans.

## 1. Apologies –

None.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr T Waller- Item 8a. Parking on Pitchers Hill- Neighbour.

Cllr J Poulter- Item 9a. Memorial Hall Improvement Proposal- Hall Committee Member.

## 3. The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

3 members of public attended, 2 from Wickhamford Memorial Hall committee to hear discussion regarding item 9a. 1 attended to request consideration for memorial to be put in cemetery to commemorate air crash in 1941 near to crash site and for a possible donation to works. Considered in item 8g.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed, proposed by SW, seconded by RG with a unanimous vote in favour.

## 5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- Section 106- PC has £4415 to spend on enhancing/maintaining rec ground. NB. It cannot be used for any other purpose. Quotes received for repair and repainting of bowtop fencing at a total cost of £2800. It was agreed to confirm this quote and apply for funding accordingly. It was also agreed to proceed and get quotes for forest school type seating and apply for free trees from Woodland Trust that would support a forest school feel. The remainder of the funding would be used towards solar lighting along access to club.

## 6. District / County Councillors Report

a. The County Councillor and District Councillor reports are available on the website when provided.

- Cllr Robinson has met with Rooftop who are keen to be seen in a good light with all matters relating to their properties. He now has a contact quite high up in Rooftop who can be contacted when required.

- Chief Executive of Wychavon is retiring and role has been advertised and interviewed for.
  - New service at Wychavon called 'Housing Services' who will deal with issues relating to all housing regardless of public or private housing.
  - Consideration will be given to removing white lines along Manor Road and adding dragons teeth
- b. Footpaths- Cllr Eyre is looking into the costings involved in a footpath to cemetery. Worcs CC footpaths warden has been out as a result of a residents' concerns about some paths. She has deemed them usable given the bad weather.  
Work will be carried out on corner of Manor Road in summer 2020.
- c. Neighbourhood Plans- Letter received from Wychavon offering support and funding to get plans underway. It was agreed to put in newsletter for volunteers.

## 7. Police Officers Report.

Police incidents and found the following crimes for Wickhamford for the month of February –

2 x Domestic type incidents  
1 x car key burglary

## 8 Items for Consideration:

- a. Highways proposals for congestion on Pitchers Hill- Resident has expressed concerns over parking which blocks drives on Pitchers Hill near phone box. Two suggestions have been received from Highways. Firstly, to double yellow line all area and secondly to put 'keep clear' in area, It was unanimously agreed to support 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal and to review situation.
- b. Village planter(s)- Following a resident volunteering to maintain planters, it was unanimously agreed to have 2x 6 feet by 2 feet wooden rectangular planters made upto a budget of £150 and put on A44 under 'Wickhamford' signs, to purchase plants as required and to request sponsorship from Castle Nurseries.
- c. Rooftop regarding vegetation on Coombsfield Road- Response received to email to Rooftop regarding work carried out on corner of road junction. It advised that they didn't see a problem and had had no complaints, therefore would not pay invoice for works instructed by PC. PC had received the complaints and indeed thanks for carrying out the work.
- d. HGV's- Manor Road and Badsey- Cllr Newbury raised concerns about increased number of large HGV's using as cut through including skip hire company. Cllr Eyre requested details to contact companies initially.
- e. Mowing Contracts- Contract has been renewed at same price as 2019 with no issues. Confirmation that mowing will commence immediately.
- f. Footpaths-Concerns raised about footpaths at back of Coombsfield Road. Agreed to put in newsletter.
- g. Memorial Plaque- Air crash in Wickhamford in 1941 close to cemetery. Request for memorial plaque to be installed at end of path. Cllrs unanimously agreed location, design and a donation of £125 towards plaque cost.

## 9. Parish Council.

- a. Memorial Hall- Request for funding.

Request was received in open forum in January 2020 for consideration at March meeting for funding to make improvements to Memorial Hall totalling approx. £50k. Cllrs attended the hall prior to the meeting to familiarise themselves with the layout and proposals to save time. This was not to discuss or make any decision about the proposals.

It was agreed that as there were reps from the hall present, that when required, they would be asked to clarify any points not available in the proposal.

Clerk confirmed that if all invoices are made out to PC and paid by PC then all VAT can be claimed back.

SW asked if any other funding sources had been considered. 2 reps from the hall had attended a meeting at Wychavon for funding for hall but it was not clear what the exact fund was or what it would provide. Clerk agreed to seek clarification on this matter. It was established though that Wychavon would be willing to provide 25% of whatever the hall could raise.

RG suggested that a full structural survey be considered as cllrs raised concerns about the state of the building and whether works should be carried out until it was confirmed that hall was deemed in a fit state. Rep from hall advised that 2 surveys had been carried out but they were casual and not written down which is not sufficient for PC to use. Concerns were also raised about the lintel but again it was advised that this was in a satisfactory state although there is not written report.

TW advised that he is struggling to understand what the priorities are for the hall especially as fire doors for insurance purposes are no. 12 on the list. Clarification had been sought at the January meeting as to order of priority but had not been established. TW would like an idea of need rather than what would be nice to do.

SW felt that it was premature to consider the list until the survey had established the hall state. It was agreed to carry out a full structural survey to include electrics either by contacting Wychavon for assistance or by contacting Community First who support halls. Cllrs agreed that they would approve cost of survey by email response so that they could have this information to hand at May meeting for consideration.

SW again asked for funding sources to be provide as well as any fundraising that the PC had carried out to support their application. It was also agreed to ask via newsletter if anyone had experience of grant application writing that could assist the hall committee.

At the close of the meeting after consideration, SW added that she would like to know who uses the hall, information of which is available on the webpage, so as to ascertain how many villagers would benefit from the grant. SW also asked how much the hall have in funds which was confirmed by JP as approx. £8k.

## **10. Correspondence-**

**Item 7 – Police event put on newsletter and webpage.**

**Item 8b- Email to Rooftop sent and response to be considered at March meeting.**

**Item 9a- Elected Members Code of Conduct- Confirmation sent to Wychavon.**

**Item 12b- Precept request returned.**

**Item 12c- Churchyard mowing donation sent and acknowledgement received.**

**Item 12d- Fixed Deposit renewed for further 3 months as at 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as agreed with Chairman.**

**Item 13- Bus shelters cleared out and shelves put in telephone box for book exchange and signed erected.**

**Other matters.**





Chairman

DRAFT