

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at Wrabness Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Mr Harry Adams, Mr Gary Bowers, Mr Richard Colley (Chairman), Mr Francis McGowan (Vice Chairman), Mr Graham Watkins, District Councillor Tanya Ferguson and Juliet Attrill Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Ms Alice Cole, Mr Rob Southall-Edwards and County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi.

3489. Declarations of Interest: None

Public Forum: There was 1 member of the public present. The public forum was opened and no points were raised.

- Public Forum Closed -

3490. Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2024 were agreed as true record and signed.

3491. Matters arising and actions:

a. Parish Council requests to Local Highways Panel – (3463a)

i: Review Speed Limits: Unfortunately there has been no movement on this issue. RC reports that other rural parishes have issues with the current ECC Highways speed limit criteria and Tendring District Association of Local Councils has adopted the objective 'Lower Speed Limits for Villages. Change Criteria.'

ii: Review Parking issues: WPC has received no new evidence of nuisance parking in the village.

b. Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council – 3463b) no update received since November when we were advised ECC is aware of the request to rebuild the parapet wall and are "waiting for the works to be passed to programming". No time frame has been provided.

c. A120/Primrose Lane Junction - request for Highways England review and safety improvements (3452c) no further update received since last meeting.

3492. Highways: new requests for highway maintenance and improvements: At present, requests for highway improvement are dealt with through the LHP. It was proposed by RC and agreed that parish councillors bring suggestions of highways issues to the February meeting to help compile an updated list of local highway improvements. There is frustration over the long standing issue of the incomplete footpath repair on Harwich Road; the scope of which was reduced, leaving the original scheduled section of footpath unrepaired. Evidence of this shortfall was shared during the meeting and will be brought to County Councillor Guglielmi's attention. District Councillor Ferguson reports that proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is causing delays and the Local Highway Panel is not currently meeting, therefore local highway issues are unlikely to be addressed for some time. It was noted that collaboration through TDALC meetings will be a way forward with local town and parish councils experiencing similar issues. DC Ferguson offered to forward an email from WPC to the Tendring LHP. This offer was well received. **ACTION: Parish Clerk**

3493. Manningtree Museum and Local History Group: Replacement of historic Harwich Turnpike Road Mile Stone & Post No 65 Wrabness (3466) - update: The location for the Mile Stone post has been marked. GB has strimmed and prepared the area but there has been no further contact from Phillip Cunningham. **ACTION: G Bowers**

3494. New Planning Applications – the Parish Council has been notified of the following new applications received by Tendring District Council:

[24/01719/FUL](#) - Broadfields Primrose Hill Wrabness Essex CO11 2TZ - Planning Application - Proposed dwelling (following demolition of forge building): permission has already been granted for the conversion of the forge building to a dwelling. It was noted that a conversion would likely change the appearance of the building due to the level of work required to meet building standards and the alternative of new build is more practical. Proposed no objection: 2 votes for, 3 abstained. Carried. **No Objection. ACTION: Parish Clerk**

[24/01729/DISCON](#) - Wheatsheaf Level Crossing Station Road Wrabness Essex CO11 2TH - Discharge of condition application for DPI/Z1585/17/12 for Essex level crossing reduction - Condition 2 (Detailed Design Approval - Design and External Finish of a footbridge). **Status: Approval - Discharge of Condition on 23/12/2024. Noted.**

3495. Planning Application Update: The Parish Council has already commented on the following application [24/01270/FUL](#) - Site 15 East Foreshore Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2BB - Planning Application - Erection of beach chalet (replacement of previously fire damaged chalet). **Status: Awaiting Decision.**

3496. Wrabness Litter Pick 2025: The 2025 Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 8th March, meeting outside the village hall at 10:30am. Harry Jones and Nick Pullen are organising this annual event which will be advertised in the next Village Newsletter. The Parish Council has budgeted to pay incidental litter pick costs. Volunteers are required to prepare the light lunch at the Village Hall. A new volunteer is sought to take over the organisational side of the litter pick for next year.

3497. Discussion on Environment Award 2025 (3482): The 2024 winner of the Wrabness Environment Award was Freddie Eves. Two groups were put forward for the award this year and a vote was taken. The Wrabness Youth Club have been chosen as the winners of the Environment Award 2025. The Youth Club will be invited to the Annual Assembly in March to receive the award. **ACTION: R Colley**

3498. Reports:

HIGHWAYS: The potholes in Wheatsheaf Lane have still not been repaired. These have been reported several times.	STATION MASTERS GARDEN: The Community Rail Partnership are happy for the large planters to be kept and reused.
TRANSPORT: The station ticket machine is yet to be replaced. There continues to be difficulties paying for parking resulting in visitors parking in the village. RC to contact CRP.	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Local PCSO reports there have been 2 recent incidents; a false alarm activation and an RTC on the crossroad.
VILLAGE HALL: The VH has requested to have the sorbus tree adjacent to the new gates moved to near the tank in the hall grounds. HA will do this during an appropriate time of year. The VHC is looking to get WIFI and has identified a need for a salt box in the car park. The next meeting is on 14th January.	WEBSITE: The parish council's website provider, Hugo Fox, can now offer gov.uk web addresses to parish councils. Hugo Fox has explained that this would be at no cost to the Parish Council as they can seek a grant which they will do on the PC's behalf. It was agreed to proceed. RC to contact Hugo Fox to confirm details to ensure there will be no cost.
VILLAGE GREEN: GW gathering quotes for lawn seed and fertiliser.	TDALC: The next meeting is 22nd January.

3499. 2024-5 Accounts and monies received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
		Parish Clerk Salary for December 2024	£226.88	1283
		Autoprint printing winter edition of Village Newsletter	£249.00	1284
		Parish Clerk Salary for January 2025	£226.88	1285
		Village Hall Hire for January Meeting	£18.00	1286

3500. Confirmation of Account Balances:

Current Account: Balance as at 31 December 2024 £5,804.31
 Deposit Account: Balance as at 31 December 2024 £6,901.67

3501. Budget for 2025-26. (3487): *To note the TDC parish precept information and confirm the Parish Council budget and precept for the next Council year:* The updated draft budget including the figures from the 2025-26 Ready Reckoner provided by TDC was approved. The draft budget mirrors the 2.5% precept increase proposed for 2025-26 by the budget committee. Parish Clerk to notify TDC. **ACTION: Parish Clerk**

3502. Any Other Urgent Business:

- **Grant Application:** Wrabness Village Hall - Request for £500, toward the cost of refurbishment and upgrade of the Village Hall kitchen. The parish council supports this refurbishment proposal. HA proposed a grant of £300; this represents over 25% of our annual budget and was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Richard Colley

-The meeting closed at 20:57 -

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th February 2025 in the Village Hall.

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

Contact Wrabness Parish Council: Email: wrabness.parishclerk@gmail.com Telephone 07535812543