

WRABNESS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at Wrabness Village Hall.

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

3476. Declarations of Interest: None

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

3477. Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2024 were agreed as true record

3478. Matters arising and actions:

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

i: Review Speed Limits: WPC is bitterly disappointed by the response received from CC Carlo Guglielmi on behalf of Essex County Council. *“With regards to lowering speed limits the LHP will only consider schemes where there is continuous housing development on both sides of the road, which is in line with Essex Highways Policy, or where there is evidence of serious RTAs attended by emergency services that have been caused by excessive speed”.* WPC had been led to believe the requested review would be carried out in due course, but we are now being told it will not be considered. The village green is located so that half of the frontage is in a 60mph zone and the other half in a 30mph zone. This is unsafe and illogical. The village green should be a safe space where children and pedestrians take priority and where passing fast moving traffic is discouraged. This item will remain on the agenda and WPC will continue to campaign for a speed reduction and a review of the existing speed limits on through roads in the parish. WPC will contact CC Guglielmi and request reconsideration. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

ii: Review Parking issues: WPC has not received any new photographic evidence of nuisance parking in the village. It was reported that an unlit car has been regularly parking on Harwich Road at night which is a hazard when approaching Cook’s Corner, contrary to the requirements of the Highway Code in a 40mph zone. On receipt of the photographic evidence WPC will report this to the police. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

iii: Harwich Road footway repair: WPC are pleased to see the ECC scheduled works have finally been completed. There is some disappointment that the remaining sections of path as originally requested were not included in the scheme.

b. *Demolished wall at crossroads reported to Essex County Council – (3463b):* CC Guglielmi reports that ECC is aware of the request to rebuild the parapet wall are “waiting for the works to be passed to programming”. No timeframe has been provided.

c. *A120/Primrose Lane Junction - request for Highways England review and safety improvements (3452c):* There has been no official update. It is understood that planning is underway for the A120 speed limit reduction scheme. WPC will continue to campaign for safety improvements to this sub standard junction.

d. *Replacement Litter Bin adjacent to old phone box. Rectory Road (3465):* The old bin has been removed and new metal litter bin has been installed, paid for by the parish council. New signage applied by TDC promotes its use for dog waste in addition to general litter. The old open top litter bin is redundant and is to be removed from the asset list.

3479. Manningtree Museum and Local History Group: *Replacement of Harwich Turnpike Road Mile Stone & Post No 65 Wrabness (3466):* GB met with Phillip Cunningham of the Local History Group to discuss the proposed siting of the replacement marker. The owner of the land adjacent to the Main Road location proposed by the museum group suggested the marker be placed slightly to the side, but they are otherwise happy. GB will continue to liaise with the museum group and will report back to WPC. **ACTION: G BOWERS**

3480. New Planning Application – the parish council has been notified of the following new application received by Tendring District Council:

[24/01270/FUL](#) - Site 15 East Foreshore Wrabness Manningtree Essex CO11 2BB - Planning Application - Erection of beach chalet (replacement of previously fire damaged chalet): No objections.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

3481. Planning Application Update: The Parish Council has already commented on the following application to TDC. The current position is summarised below:

[24/01427/FULHH](#) - Strandlands Rectory Road Wrabness Essex CO11 2TX - Householder Planning Application - Proposed single storey extension. Status: Approved on 04/11/2024.

3482. Discussion on Environment Award 2025: The 2024 winner of the Wrabness Environment Award was Freddie Eves. The 2025 winner will be decided on at the January meeting, and will be presented with the award at the March Annual Assembly. Nominations of hard-working Wrabness volunteers are welcome.

3483. Reports:

<p>HIGHWAYS: The potholes on Wheatsheaf Lane have been marked up prior to repair. It was noted that the road would need to be closed for the repairs.</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS: It was noted that the painted markings on junctions in the village have not been finished. It is assumed that this is related to the lowered ECC budget which has also affected installation and upkeep of road signs.</p>
<p>TDALC: The next meeting is 27th November. RC and RSE plan to attend via zoom.</p>	<p>KIOSK: The display for the Christmas season is expected soon.</p>
<p>STATION MASTERS GARDEN: The new garden team plans drought tolerant planting and to grow community produce in the large planters. They would welcome volunteer help. The memorial tree is dead and replacement is suggested, keeping the Keith Morsley memorial plaque. The interior of the train engine bug hotel is crumbling. WPC will reach out to the Community Rail Partnership as the project originated with them. WPC will also contact Wix and Wrabness primary school as they were involved with the project. It is hoped a renewal of the feature will be a community project.</p>	<p>TRANSPORT: There are reports of a national bus funding increase. It is hoped that this may lead to the reinstatement of the 103 Harwich – Wrabness – Colchester service. In the absence of any scheduled bus service serving Wrabness the Harwich Connexions community buses provide a service, free to those who have a bus pass. DC Ferguson reports that the Garden Settlement A133 link road works have begun, this will result in 3 roundabouts along the A133. Additionally, the A120 night closures are temporarily postponed due to cold weather which will hinder the tarmac setting.</p>
<p>VILLAGE GREEN: The grass and flowering areas have been cut for the final time this year. GW will gather quotes for fertiliser/grass seed treatment, excluding the wildflower areas.</p>	<p>PUBLIC HEALTH: The defibrillator at the station was seen being serviced. Last month the defibrillator at the village hall was taken to a patient in an emergency but was not used. RC has checked it over, it is back in place and operational.</p> <p>TREES: The ash tree in the grounds at All Saints' Church is in decline, HA is monitoring. The sorbus tree in front of the village green gates is to be removed at an appropriate time of year to maintain safe passage.</p>

3484. NALC 2024 Local Government Services Pay Award: The NJC have announced the 2024 national pay award for local authority staff. This represents an increase of 6.5% for our parish clerk which is to be backdated to 1 April 2024. It was agreed to implement the backdated award.

3485. 2024-5 Accounts and monies received:

RECEIVED	AMOUNT	DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	CQ No.
Wrabness Hall Farm sponsorship for Winter edition village newsletter	£250.00	Parish Clerk Salary for November 2024	£226.88	1278
		Parish Clerk – National pay award backdated to April 2024	£94.85	1279
		Village Hall Hire for October Meeting	£18.00	1280
		Lawnmower Petrol June to October 2024 - Graham Watkins	£15.83	1281
		TDC Waste Bin and Installation	£379.00	1282

3486. Confirmation of Account Balances:

Current Account: Balance as at 11 November 2024 £6,765.75

Deposit Account: Balance as at 11 November 2024 £6,893.25

3487. Budget Committee - Draft Budget for 2025-26 (3470): The budget committee, comprising Councillors Colley, McGowan, Southall-Edwards and Watkins with the parish clerk, had reviewed parish council finances. The committee reviewed each item of expenditure and prepared a draft budget for the next council year which was circulated. This was duly noted and it was agreed the budget will be finalised at the January meeting after TDC provides information relating to the parish precept arrangements for 2025-26.

3488. Any Other Urgent Business:

- TDC had advised that additional cold winter payments will be released to those entitled to them after 7 consecutive days at 0 degrees or below. This payment would be £25.00.
- Thank you to John Acton of Wrabness Hall Farm for Sponsoring the Winter Edition of the Wrabness Village Newsletter.

The meeting closed at 20:45.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th January 2025 in the Village Hall.

Juliet Attrill - Wrabness Parish Clerk

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