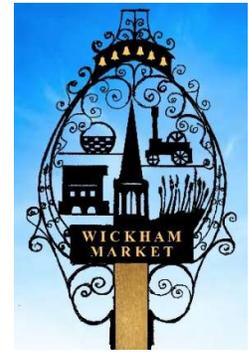


WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR: GEMMA DEMPSEY-GRAY

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: GEMMA DEMPSEY-GRAY



MINUTES of the Wickham Market Parish Council Environment and Leisure Committee meeting held on Monday 11 December 2023 at 19:00

EL23:48 Present from the Council:

Cllr Dempsey-Gray (Chair) Cllr Horsnell Simon Harrington
Cllr Chenery Cllr Jenkinson Josie Hopps
Cllr Cooke John Eldridge A. Besly (Clerk)

EL23:49 Present from the Public:

EL23:50 Open Public Forum session

John Eldridge reported as a member of the public, the flooding that had taken place on Broad Rd and Broadway the properties involved were 14 and 16 Broad Rd and numbers 9 through to 15 odd numbers of Broadway. It was confirmed that this flooding has been reported on Suffolk County Council's reporting tool.

EL23:51 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr French, Cllr Huggins, Andy Baker, Anne Westover

EL23:52 Declarations of Interest in items on this agenda:

Cllr Horsnell: Plot holder at Glebe

EL23:53 Approve the minutes of the Environment & Leisure (E&L) Committee meetings of 14 August and 9 October 2023

14 August: There was continued discussion regarding item 28; whether Cllr Jenkinson and Josie Hopps took an action to look at alternative methods of rabbit control in the cemetery. As neither remembered taking this action, it was proposed that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. **Two abstained** through not being in attendance, **All Others Agreed**. Cllr Jenkinson and Josie Hopps agreed to take an action to look at alternative methods of rabbit control in the cemetery from this 11 December meeting.

9 October: It was proposed that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. **Three abstained** through not being in attendance, **All Others Agreed**.

EL23:54 Chair's Report:

Councillor Dempsey-Grey highlighted that she had only agreed to chair this committee for two meetings.

She will approach another councillor to see if they want to chair the environment and leisure committee going forwards. If so, this will be added to the full council meeting for this person to be appointed as chair.

The full council will also have an agenda item to appoint councillor Fowler to the E&L committee.

EL23:55 Clerk's Report: [Published](#). There was a discussion regarding the East Suffolk Towns Initiative funding. (ESTI)

Lower High Street Notice Board. Pre-planning advice had been sought but Cllr Dempsey-Gray and East Suffolk Cllr Noble have received a strong objection to this proposal. As Cllr Noble has agreed with the objection and ESC were providing the funding, this project will now be terminated.

Seats and Planters for the Hill. Funding may be made available through ESTI but no proposal has been made.

Walks Leaflet: this has previously been accepted for ESTI funding but is not on the current schedule. Clerk to follow up at next ESTI Meeting.

Street Audit: The Clerk confirmed that Richard Ellis has agreed to clean and straighten signage and cut back excess vegetation from road signs.

Parking: The Clerk confirmed that he was investigating parking options with Ann Parker from ESC Parking Services

EL23:56 Allotments Report: nothing to report beyond item 56.1:

56.1 Update on Proposal for Glebe plot 39A. It was noted that the plot holder was not following the agreed action plan.

- Cllr Dempsey-Gray has written to the plot holder to ask him to comply.
- The Clerk will send a revised tenancy agreement for signature.

- Cllr Dempsey-Gray will write to the plot holder asking him to remove the hedge he has installed in the wrong place.
- Cllrs Horsnell and Chenery will obtain quotes to reinstate plot 39B

EL23:57 Footpaths warden Report: [Published](#)

A vote of thanks was recorded for Simon Harrington for his hard work

- There was a question regarding the ownership of the path past the heath Centre between the Car Park and the Church. Therefore, who is responsible for its repair.
- Cllr Jenkinson showed a cadastral map based on the land registry. Cllr Chenery will attempt to confirm ownership.
- Simon Harrington has produced a cost comparison for the purchase of a brush cutter to manage the footpaths. The clerk will request funding from Alexander Nicoll.

EL23:58 Cemetery report: [Published](#)

It was proposed that the Full Council meeting on 15 January be asked to register the cemetery working group as a Parish Council working group and appoint appropriate members and agree terms of reference. **All agreed**

At 21:09 the meeting had run for two hours so the Chair proposed that standing order 3) x. be suspended to allow further business to be transacted. **All Agreed**

EL23:59 Tree Work Report: [Published](#)

59.1 Proposal to engage AB Trees to complete the works described in the tree works schedule for the following areas:

1. **Pightle Holm Oak: £710.** It was proposed that Anne continue to pursue UK Power Networks for this work, so **Not Approved. All Agreed**
2. **Cemetery works** (exclude southern hedge and Yews unless this can be added): **£1,130. Approved, All Agreed**
3. **VH Playing Field, Field Maple Crown Reduction: £565.** Following third party advice it was proposed that this be **Not Approved. All Agreed.**

Looking at the three maple trees in this area all are reasonable the same high and have good shape, show no signs of disease or any other major faults, the trees are now close to the maximum growth height. I understand that these are blocking the light into number 2 Birch close. Under law (Trees and light) your neighbour has no right to light from the side of the property. Although this sounds harsh, most councils don't cut trees for this reason, to add to this, cutting these trees could cause further issues with other neighbours, and by reducing these trees would leave a hole in the tree boundary height overall. I also don't feel that reducing these trees by 3 meters would achieve the desired effect that your neighbour is hoping for. If anything I would suggest a height reduction greater than this or even a pollard but if you do one you'd more than likely be asked to do them all, my advice to the Parish would be to leave them alone.

4. **VH Playing field other works: £1,130. Approved, All Agreed**

EL23:60 Date of next meeting: Monday 12 February 2024

Meeting closed at 21:24

Signed.

Cllr Gemma Dempsey-Gray, Chair.

Date.

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