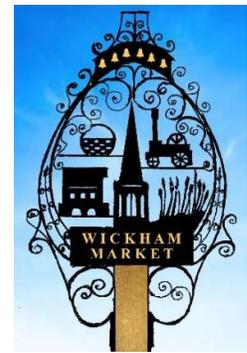


WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

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 12 February 2024 at 19:00

- EL23:61 **Present from the Council:** Cllr Dempsey-Gray (Chair) Cllr Huggins Simon Harrington
Cllr Cooke Cllr Jenkinson Anne Westover
Cllr Fowler Andy Baker A. Besly (Clerk)
Cllr Horsnell John Eldridge
- EL23:62 **Present from the Public:** 3
- EL23:63 **Open Public Forum session** One member of the public expressed concern over allotment Glebe plot 39 and the proposal to grub out Hazel trees. She felt that this was unnecessary as Hazel creates biodiversity and habitat. Everyone should be involved in biodiversity.
- EL23:64 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Cheney, Josie Hopps
- EL23:65 **Declarations of Interest in items on this agenda:** Cllr Horsnell: Item 69 Plot holder at Glebe
A Baker, J Eldridge & A Westover item 69, Allotment plot holders
- EL23:66 **Approve the minutes** of the Environment & Leisure (E&L) Committee meeting of 11 December 2023
Cllr Jenkinson asked for the word vociferous to be replaced by strong. 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.**
- EL23:67 **Chair's Report:**
Councillor Dempsey-Grey highlighted that this was the last E&L committee she would chair. There were no volunteers to take over.
She highlighted the group training and will ask Cllr Cheney to get a selection of dated for Councillor training over two weekday evenings and circulate.
- EL23:68 **Clerk's Report:** None beyond items on the agenda
- EL23:69 **Allotments Report:** John Eldridge remarked on Glebe hedges:
Eastern was OK, Northern was overgrown and southern was messy
- 69.1 Update on Proposal for Glebe plot 39A.** John Eldridge explained that the saga of plot 39 had been going on for years. He described the mess and explained that it doesn't get looked after. He noted that rather than remove the entire Hazel coppice, the proposal was to keep 1/3 of it. He confirmed that there is a waiting list for allotment plots.
Anne Westover expressed concern over the removal of the Hazel and agrees that the plot holder should be offered help to manage it.
Simon Harrington's proposal was noted but it was also noted the contractor had already been engaged to do the work on the plot that is to be returned to vegetable growing.
There was some concern that the public did not know what was happening with plot 39. It was noted that all the actions regarding plot 39 have been recorded in the minutes of the appropriate meetings and are therefore available for all to see. John Eldridge also confirmed that this was brought up at the Allotment Association annual general meeting so allotment holders would have been aware.
The meeting was closed to allow a member of the public to contribute
A member of the public expressed concern that biodiversity was diminishing, and that the parish council should do more to protect and preserve it. It would be a mistake to remove a corridor for insects birds and mammals.
The meeting was reopened
Proposal to engage Shaun Wright to top and face Allotment hedges cost £1,200. One abstained, all others agreed. **Carried**
- EL23:70 **Footpaths warden Report:** [Published](#)
Anne Westover noted that she is still working on a permissive route to Fowls Watering and that there still needs to be a walking map.
- EL23:71 **Tree Warden Report:** [Published](#)
Anne Westover noted from her report:

The tree planting at Simons Cross and asked if people supported the principal. Cllr Jenkinson noted that some trees in the school grounds overhang the tennis courts and football pitches and asked if the school plan to maintain them. He took an **action** to contact the school and ask.

EL23:72 **Wild about Wickham report:** **Published.** There were no questions

EL23:73 **Cemetery report:** **Published** There were no questions. Anne Westover noted that she was working on ways to reduce artificial tributes.

Cllr Jenkinson noted that there would need to be a period on notice. It was suggested that he and Simon Harrington be involved in the discussion to move to natural tributes

73.1 Cllr Jenkinson reported that there were a number of ways to control Rabbits and that it is a legal responsibility. These include traps or snares, shooting, fencing, gas or ferreting. The first three were considered impractical and he is awaiting costs for gas and ferrets.

73.2 **Consider the Council’s approach to litter collection:**

- Should the council employ a dedicated litter collector for the Cemetery at further cost to Cemetery operations?
- Should the Council consider reducing or banning environmentally unfriendly artificial decorations which constitute 99% of the litter collected recently.

There was a discussion regarding litter picking and Cllr Jenkinson took an **action** to work with the Staffing and Personnel committee to produce a Job Description and maps to support the employment of a part time litter picker

EL23:74 **Consider D Day 80 plans**

There was some discussion about encouraging other parish organisations to be involved. However, in order to rely on the Parish Council’s public liability insurance the Council would need to lead any group.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to all councillors requiring a response by 16 February, asking:

- 1) Do you agree that the Parish Council should mark this occasion?
- 2) Can you help?
- 3) Can you lead?

It was suggested that a response rate of <80% on a) would mean that the Council would not progress this and <50% on 2) would mean that the council would be unable to manage and event, particularly if no Councillor offered to lead.

EL23:75 **Consider the councils response to biodiversity:** **Published.** Biodiversity was considered and acknowledged. There were no plans for activities beyond the existing good work primarily led by Anne Westover

EL23:76 **Reporting items for the next meeting:** Suggested items included:

- D Day 80 update
- Village Hall Car Park
- Flooding issues
- Who is going to chair

EL23:60 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 8 April 2024

Meeting closed at 21:23

Signed.

Cllr Gemma Dempsey-Gray, Chair.

Date.

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