

Wickham Parish Council

GP Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Wickham Centre on Monday 10th May at 7.30pm.

Present: Justin Gamblin (Chairman), Thérèse Evans (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Astbury, Mike Bennett, Mike Carter, Angela Clear

Parish Councillors Marie du Boulay, Di Frost, Jenny Hollis and Sue Roger-Jones, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver

1. **To receive apologies for absence** None.
2. **To receive declarations of interest on agenda items** None.
3. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public** Not required.
4. **Agenda**

4.1 To receive update on current committee projects:

4.1.1 Yellow lines to village roads (Cllr Clear/Clerk) **WCC has agreed to rectify mistakes but not until a review of the whole installation is carried out later in the year.**

4.1.2 Map of parish (Clerk) **Boards are being assembled and will be installed shortly.**

4.1.3 Review of parking permit system in The Square (Cllr Clear) **Clerk to ask for a copy of WCC's letter to residents in The Square, if it has been sent.**

4.1.4 Best Garden competition (Cllr Evans) **Members were asked to promote the competition and to encourage entries by the end of May.**

4.1.5 Maintenance of Knowle Cemetery **Members to visit the Cemetery to view the extent of work required.**

4.1.6 Development of land adjoining recreation ground gifted for a cemetery, update on agreed proposals for gate and land management. Agree way forward for the site including arrangements for public access. (Clerk) **The agreed work has been completed. Plans to consult residents on the future use of the land to be prepared.**

4.1.7 Monitoring Southern Water's plans for improvement to Wickham's drainage system – Riverside Mews in particular **No further news, proposals from the surgery and two exception sites are awaited.**

4.1.8 Flower beds and hanging baskets, to agree a way forward **Nothing further to report.**

4.1.9 Speed warning signs, update on installation **The sign ceases to function shortly after the new batteries are installed. A request to Amey's engineers for advice on how to solve the problem has been made.**

4.1.10 Notice board for Community Centre grounds, update on installation **Written agreement from the Community Association to install the board has been requested prior to progressing further.**

4.1.11 Refurbishment of railway bridges (Cllr Bennett) **It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas, the costs are prohibitive and no grant funding opportunities have been identified.**

4.1.12 Chesapeake Mill turbine as tourist attraction (Cllr Bennett) **Minutes of a meeting held on 22nd April are appended, the meeting was productive and it is hoped with some further research the turbine can be used on an occasional basis.**

4.1.13 Re-landscaping open space either side of Bridge Street junction with A32 including bridge embankments –agree next steps. (Chairman/Clerk) **It was agreed to install a fence to the property adjoining the open space at a cost of £650 and to seed the green at an appropriate time but not to install dragons teeth to the boundary of the green to prevent parking.**

The Clerk is researching grants for further improvements; £810 of the agreed £5,000 budget remains.

4.2 To consider supporting the following new project proposals:

4.2.1 Clear weed trees, shrubs and brambles Manor Close/A334 verge . **A quote of £1400 has been received. It was agreed to ask WCC's Arboricultural Officers to advise on what action may be appropriate to protect the boundary walls and adjoining properties from damage caused by the roots of the trees.**

4.2.2 Emergency planning (Cllr Bennett) **Cllr Bennett circulated a draft Emergency Plan, some revisions were suggested and a revised draft will be produced for the next meeting.**

4.2.3 Footpath and rights of way review (Cllr Bennett) **Nothing further to report.**

4.2.4 Proposal to purchase display boards for community use (Cllr Carter) **It was agreed not to purchase boards due to storage space uncertainty.**

4.3 To consider draft proposals for a Complaints Procedure and make recommendation to Full Council (Quality Status requirement) **Some revisions were**

suggested and further advice needed, a revised draft will be produced for the next meeting.

4.4 To consider draft proposals for a Community Engagement Strategy and make recommendation to Full Council (Quality Status requirement) **Some revisions were suggested and a revised draft will be produced for the next meeting.**

4.5 To consider draft proposals for a Training Strategy Statement of Intent and make recommendation to Full Council (Quality Status requirement) **Agreed to recommend to Full Council for adoption.**

5. **To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit** Continue to monitor.
6. **Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available** Continue to monitor.
7. **Recent correspondence/ reports from meetings attended of relevance to this committee**

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Meeting to discuss the operation of the Chesapeake Mill water turbine and generator held at Wickham Community Centre at 10am on 22nd April 2010

Present:

Mike Bennett Parish Councillor (Chairman of meeting)

Justin Gamblin Parish Councillor and Chair of GP Committee

Nicki Oliver Parish Clerk

Chris Hoare Chairman of Wickham Society

Eloise Appleby WCC Assistant Director

James and Sarah Freemantle neighbours of Chesapeake (Mill House)

Rob Waite Environment Agency Development & Flood Risk

Adam Cave Environment Agency Fisheries, Recreation & Biodiversity

Adrian Fewings Environment Agency Fisheries, Recreation & Biodiversity

Anthony Taylor tenant of Chesapeake Mill

The meeting was called by Wickham Parish Council to explore the possibility of running an existing water turbine on an occasional basis for tourism, teaching and demonstrating renewable energy. The turbine has fallen out of use for a number of reasons. The meeting included a visit to the Mill and the grounds of Mill House. The Council greatly appreciates the positive approach of all attendees to finding ways forward that will allow the turbine to be operated again.

There are a number of issues to address if this is to be successful:

1. Use of the turbine requires access over land belonging to the neighbouring property owned by James and Sarah Freemantle to close hatches. The legal issues surrounding this will be researched by Mr and Mrs Freemantle to ensure their long term interests are protected.
2. Mr and Mrs Freemantle are concerned that repeatedly lowering of river levels, which is required to run the turbine, may cause damage to the river banks and increase the need for maintenance of the river walls on their property. Mitigation of this problem could include restricting operation of the turbine to a maximum of two hours (possibly less) per day. (Another possibility which was not discussed in any detail was the placing of an inlet paddle which would limit the drop in water level to a specified level.)
3. There is a significant amount of goodwill required from Mr and Mrs Freemantle for this proposal to succeed together with the continuation of the good relationship with Mill tenant Anthony Taylor. The willingness of both Mr Taylor and Mr and Mrs Freemantle to support the proposal is much appreciated.
4. The Environment Agency has concerns about the impact of the turbine on migrating fish and eels. There may be a need for an inlet fish screen, but the Environment Fisheries representative thought that the very limited, day-time only hours of operation may preclude this; he is investigating. It was noted that the fish stream needs weekly maintenance to keep it clear, this is carried out by Mr Freemantle.
5. The Environment Agency was asked to detail infrastructure improvements required to allow the project to proceed.
6. The turbine operation may also result in higher levels of silt being washed down stream, the impact of which would need to be taken into account. Advice on possible mitigation methods was also requested of the Environment Agency, although again, the very limited operation envisaged may make this unnecessary.
7. The Environment Agency advised that an Abstraction Licence may be required to allow the turbine to be used; they will take advice.
8. The legal situation regarding the various permissions is not clear. There has been some conflicting advice in the past and also some recent legislation that may affect the proposals. The Environment Agency was asked to clarify the current legal requirements for a project of this nature. It was noted that the turbine was originally installed before the 1923 legislation.