



Wickham and Knowle Parish Council

Wickham Water Meadows Committee

Minutes of the Wickham Water Meadows Committee held at Wickham Tennis Clubhouse, Monday 20th January 2025, 13:05pm

Committee members present:

Cllr Craig Manuel (Chair), Cllr Malc Burt, Cllr Sheila Chambers, Cllr Leah Greenbank, Cllr Ben Sawyers (Vice), Mark Ashton

In Attendance: Sophie Thorogood, Parish Clerk & RFO
Victoria Glenister, Business Manager

The Committee met for a walk around the Water Meadows to see the picnic area, new fencing on the side stream and other issues in person, before retiring to the Tennis Clubhouse for the AGM.

1. **Apologies for absence** –
2. **Declarations of interest on Agenda:** None declared
3. **Public Session** – no members of public present.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting 14th October 2024:**

RESOLVED: Minutes of the Meeting were approved and signed as a true record, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr Greenbank and carried with abstention from Cllr Burt.

5. **Charity Accounts for 2023-24:**

The draft accounts were circulated with the document pack. For 2023-24, income was £4,974 and expenditure £2,031.17.

RESOLVED: To approve the Wickham Water Meadows Millenium Green Trust Charity accounts for the financial year 2023-24 and delegate to the Clerk to submit the accounts to the Charity Commission, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr Sawyers and carried.

6. **Tree Survey:** The tree survey was carried out in mid-December 2024 and the detailed report circulated with the document pack. A number of trees were highlighted needing work.
7. **Tree work:** The Clerk had only managed to obtain 1 quote so far for the work and was for £7,000 which is not financially possible right now. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek 2 further quotes and bring all 3 to next Full Council meeting for decision. Clerk to ask all 3 companies the cost implications of staging the work over several financial years by Red-Amber-Green (RAG) the survey to group the trees into urgent, medium-urgent and non-urgent work.
8. **Handrails on the bridge:** A request had been received to consider installing handrails on the bridge to improve safety. The Committee felt that the bridge needs further reviewing before handrails are installed. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to the resident to thank them for the request and that it will be considered as a complete review of the bridge.
9. **Water vole channel work update:** The Committee had viewed the new fencing in person on the walkaround prior to the formal part of the meeting. The Committee were pleased with the new fencing but agreed that installing new gates either side for access for grass cutting and litter collection is needed. **ACTION:** Clerk to seek quotes to install 2 new access gates and speak to the litter collection volunteers to agree best location for the gates. Mark Ashton suggested a plaque is created to give history of the water voles and why the fencing to the side stream was necessary.



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10. Agree list of planned work to the picnic area: A suggested list was included in the document pack. **ACTION:** Clerk to progress the following list:

- Repair damaged wooden picnic tables
- Install a new metal bin by the picnic area
- Install 1 barbecue stand
- Consider a barbecue disposal bin alongside the new bin

11. Grounds maintenance arrangements for April 2025 onwards:

The Committee considered the request from PC Garden Contracts to continue carrying out the Water Meadows grounds maintenance work. The Council is still considering employing a Maintenance Officer who would be asked to cut the grass and maintain the Water Meadows alongside other work. **ACTION:** The Clerk to seek 1 other quote from another contractor as a comparison and for HR Committee to discuss the cost-benefit analysis of the Maintenance role at its next meeting before a decision is made regarding this request.

Meeting Closed, 13:56pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT