

WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors, I hereby summon you to attend the Meeting of WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL on Monday, 19th April 2021 commencing at 7.30pm to consider the following items of business. Due to the current government coronavirus response, the parish council will be meeting online using Zoom.us. Meeting ID: 687 728 5966.

Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council
14th April 2021

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WELCOME!

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**
- 3 **Public Open Session** [Standing Orders will now be suspended at the discretion of the Chairman]
This council is committed to community engagement and therefore warmly invites members of the public to contribute during this part of the meeting.
 - **During the Public Open Session:** Members of the public should note that the council is only allowed to take decisions on topics that are publicised on the agenda; items not on the agenda can be carried forward for a response at a later date. Any questions not presented to the council far enough in advance of the meeting may be noted and responded to at a later time.
 - **After the Public Open Session:** Members of the public are asked to respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct council business and interruptions during the remainder of the meeting are not permitted.
- 4 **To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th March 2021**
- 5 **Clerk's report on actions**
 1. **Crossing Attendant:** Contacted Highways who confirmed that a proposal/scheme is already in progress – study to determine if it meets set criteria will be undertaken in late March now that the schools are open again. Update: Expected now at end of April due to Covid-related resource issues.
 2. **New entrance signs:** Two signs on the A6 entrances have been installed. Waiting on Central Beds Highways to confirm suitability of western entrance, as identified by Cllr Ali. Third sign remains in storage. **Escalated at Central Beds due to lack of a response – progress is being made.**
 3. **Parking restrictions:** Bedford BC Highways acknowledged request for the parish council to pay for "No verge parking" restrictions on Bedford Road, and restrictions by Retirement Village (in conjunction with Tim Hill Ward funding) to stop HGVs parking overnight on verges. BBC Highways confirmed that June 2021 will be the earliest install date. Accurate costs have been requested for other items, and will be brought to parish council attention once received. **Not yet received.**
 4. **Waterside Way accessibility:** Bedford BC have been asked to resolve the accessibility issues between Waterside Way/Swan Road and the lake behind Budgens. Bedford BC are investigating options to replace the steps. **No further update.**
 5. **Wixams Rock Snake:** Informed parishioner that the works could start, and that the parish council will cover the costs. Purchased a slate plaque and delivered it to parishioner.
 6. **Street Ranger route:** a) Requested the sharing of the Street Ranger costs for Village 4 with Houghton Conquest Parish Council – awaiting response. b) Bedford BC confirmed that Village 2 was not being covered by their litterpicker because the area has not yet been adopted – this will be reviewed upon adoption.
 7. **"No HGV" Policy for central Wixams:** Cllr Coombes has agreed to add this request into his discussions with Jon Shortland (Chief Officer for Planning & Infrastructure Bedford BC) around improving signage for HGVs.

6 **Correspondence (requiring council attention):**

- *Parishioner emailed requesting that the parish council take over the project to replace dead/dying trees in Wixams.* Cllr Mardel agreed this could be taken on under the remit of the Green Spaces Committee who are investigating an initiative to bring more trees to Wixams.
- *Parishioner emailed in relation to anti-social behaviour in Wixams.* Clerk circulated the email to councillors and encouraged parishioner to report this to the Police whenever it happened as resources are allocated based on statistics.

7 **To receive the Crime Statistics report**

Crime report issued to council prior to the meeting.

Crime priority for the North Rural Community Policing team for the next 3 months confirmed to be Vehicle Crime.

8 **Salt bins**

Proposal from Cllr Fowles (carried forward from March meeting): To discuss areas of Wixams that might require salt bins for the winter months. Bedford BC have provided: criteria for allocating salt bin locations, the road gritting routes followed by Bedford BC, and confirmed that they see no liability on a council if reasonable steps are taken to salt roads – also confirmed that in some areas the public salt bins are not used by the public, but this is not a council liability.

9 **Meeting locations**

To consider the options for holding meetings when the legislation allowing remote meetings ends on 7th May 2021.

10 **Condition of housing site on Bedford Road**

Proposal from Cllr Musgrove: To consider what could be done to improve the condition of the building site on Bedford Road between Watson Road and Seasons Garden Centre.

11 **Annual Insurance**

To approve the annual insurance. Three quotes have been provided by the broker Came & Company, with the Pen Underwriting premium the cheapest at £601.63.

12 **Speeding on Bedford Road**

Proposal from Cllr Ali: To discuss the issue of speeding following the collection of speed data from the speed signs, and to consider the parish council's request to Bedford BC for average speed cameras.

13 **Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan**

To consider a response to the Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

14 **Councillors' Reports including:**

- Report from Borough Councillor Coombes (Wilshamstead)
- Report from Borough Councillor Tim Hill (Wixams Retirement Village)
Report circulated to councillors and uploaded to the Wixams PC website.
- Report from Planning Committee: Planning meeting

APPLICATION NO: 21/00870/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension with balcony/roof terrace.

LOCATION : 4 Parkview Terrace Wixams Bedford Bedfordshire MK42 6BT

- Report from Cllr Ali re: Allotments
- Report from Grants committee: Grants Meeting
- Update from MasterPlan Working Group
- Update from Green Spaces Committee
- Update from Events Committee

15 **Finance**

1. To approve the following payments and note balances:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee/payer</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Receipt</u>
29/03/2021	Multiple	BACS	Staff costs	1,480.59	
06/04/2021	Anglian Water	DD	Water at Allotments	46.00	
06/04/2021	BBC	BACS	1st Half Precept		30,400.00
19/04/2021	Wixams Newsletter	BACS	Wixams Newsletter - 3 months	300.00	
19/04/2021	Admin - other	BACS	Laptop and bag	659.99	
19/04/2021	Admin - other	BACS	Mcafee	25.99	
19/04/2021	Admin - other	BACS	MS Office 365 Subscription (£6.49 mth)	12.98	

<u>Account</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Balance £</u>
Lloyds Business Account	Current	93,200
HTB Savings - 1 Year 1%	Saver	85,000
		<u>178,200</u>

16 **Any other business for future agendas (No actions can be taken on items not on the agenda)**

17 **Date of the next meeting:** Date and location to be confirmed.