

Parish Council News in brief...

As Covid-19 continues, we had our second Virtual meeting by Zoom on the 29th. September, we must be getting the hang of it, as our meeting only lasted a record breaking 35-minutes. We had a full committee and also had two additional attendees.

If you want to participate or just see what we do and from the comfort of your armchair, ask Diane for an invite to our 24th. November meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Our minutes are posted on notice boards and on the website, but if you would like a hard copy, (also available in large print or Braille), please let our Clerk know: Diane Jacob, tel: 07907 63 11 72 or e-mail parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org

Here is a brief summary of what was discussed.

Neighbourhood Development Plan.

We have agreed to work towards a Neighbourhood Plan, *so what is it?*

An **NDP** can set out the policies on the development and use of land in the Parish. The plan will show how the level of growth identified in Braintree District's Local Plan is to be met and managed.

A working group with an optimum number of five, involving Parish Councillors, residents of all ages, businesses, local groups, landowners and developers are invited to join.

The Parish Council will be sending out flyers with more information outlining the benefits to the Parish. This is a very important step for our village to take, it will take a lot of hard work and several years to complete, but will be worth the effort. Keep an eye out for the flyers.

Tree Survey and Inspections.

Whilst we keep a general eye on the condition of our twenty trees on the Green, we do need an annual inspection by a qualified arborist. They will advise us of any damage or diseases that require both short term and long term attention.

Long Gardens (A131).

We had site meeting with two surveyors from Highways and representatives from Long Gardens on the 16th. September. The Parish Council will be submitting a request for traffic calming measures to the LHP (Local Highways Panel) along with a petition from the residents. The first steps for the LHP is to consider a speed survey.

Recreational Equipment.

The slide has now been extended by around 1.2m, has rubber cushioning at the end of the run and modifications made to the steps, all ahead of programme. Having tested the slide myself, I thought it was a bit slow and in need of a good waxing with Warburton's bread wrapping (*disclaimer: other suppliers of bread wrapping are available*). Our next works will be to replace the worn matting beneath the swings in April 2021.

Village Hall Pond.

Phase 1, clearing the car park side of the pond of brambles and vegetation is now complete, and Phase 2, clearing the Oak Farm side should be completed before Christmas.

Hedges.

Our Clerk has contacted all the land owners reminding them that their hedges require trimming back and are pleased that most have now been completed.

Village Maintenance Operative.

We are pleased that Lee Sear has been appointed our Handyman and will commence his duties as from 1st. October. His work will include not only the maintenance of the Parish Council assets, but also regular inspections to ensure the safety of the equipment and facilities.

Councillor Vacancies.

We are pleased that we now have two new Councillors joining our team and we welcome Paul Snazell and Ian Ward, both of whom are long term and highly respected Parishioners.

Wickham St. Pauls Parish Council Responsibilities:

We hold bi-monthly meeting to discuss local matters with residents and our roles and duties include maintaining land we own, (The Green), local planning advisory and support concerns and projects of residents. Your initial contact ideally is with your Parish Clerk, but your Councillors are always there to offer assistance where we can.

Our continued thanks to all our residents who do contact us direct with their concerns and suggestions and we will continue to address them to the best of our ability.

Clerk:	Diane Jacob, 07907 631172	parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Chairman:	Derek Stokes tel: 269284	derekstokes@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Vice-Chairman:	Martin Cooper tel: 269236	martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Janice Barlow	janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Angela Johnstone	angelajohnstone@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Paul Snazell	paulsnazell@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Ian Ward	ianward@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council website: www.e-voice.org.uk/wickham-st-pauls

Braintree District Council Responsibilities:

Some of the services they provide include refuse and recycling collections, street cleaning, enforcing environmental and other legislation, planning applications.

Website:	www.braintree.gov.uk
Address:	Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree.CM7 9HB
Tel:	01376 552525
Email:	csc@braintree.gov.uk

Your Ward Councillor for Stour Valley South is Mrs Wendy Scattergood.

Tel:	01787 267800
Email:	cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk

Essex County Council Responsibilities:

Some of the services they provide include Highways, traffic management, libraries, adult and social care, education.

Your County Councillor is Mr David Finch.

Website:	www.essex.gov.uk
Tel:	0345 743 0430
Email:	contact@essex.gov.uk

Westminster Member of Parliament is Mr James Cleverly MP

Email: james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

Recycling.

There is a Tetra Pak black bin sited next to the Bottle Banks in the Victory Inn car park, which specifically takes food and drink cartons i.e. milk, juice, custard, takeaway cups, all of which are difficult to separate at the recycling depots. We are only one of five parishes in the Braintree area to have these bins on a trial basis, due to end in June 2021. Our residents and neighbours appear to be making good use of it, please continue to deposit your cartons when you visit the Bottle Bank.

The Bottle Bank sometimes gets overflowed, which shows just how successful it is and it is emptied every Tuesday, except for Bank Holidays and then it's a day later.

Flag Flying Programme.

4-10 November	Run up to Remembrance Day	<i>'Lest we forget'</i> flag
11 November	Remembrance Day	Union
14 November	Birthday of the Prince of Wales	Union
20 November	Her Majesty's Wedding Anniversary	Union
30 November	Saint Andrew's Day	Scottish Saltire

A full list of our flag flying days is posted on the village notice board and on the W.St.P. website.

The St. George flag will be flown most of the time in between other appointed flags.

We fly some Commonwealth country flags, particularly those which include the Union flag, as an acknowledgement of our proud British heritage.