

Parish Council News ...

Our 30th. March meeting was again held by 'Zoom' and lasted just less than one hour. We had one member of the public attend and we did have a full complement of Councillors. Apologies were received from our District Councillor Wendy Scattergood and our County Councillor David Finch.

At this moment in time (8th. April) we don't know if we can hold another Zoom meeting on the 25th. May or have an actual face-to-face meeting, but we're waiting for Government guidance.

Chapel Yard.

We are continuing work to enhance this conservation area and have agreed to purchase a petrol lawnmower to keep areas clear for access to the graves. We've had a variety of indigenous flowers in bloom and as the summer progresses, it will be an area to visit, sit and reflect.

A131 Long Gardens – Traffic Calming.

The Local Highways Panel (L.H.P.) has now acknowledged receipt of our proposal. It's a long process, but is moving forward.

Church Road Additional Parking.

Highways have advised that the scheme is feasible, but would only give additional parking for two vehicles. Ongoing.

Village Hall Pond.

Work is still ongoing and we aim to have the banks cleared in time for the August wedding.

Recreational Equipment – Matting.

We received tenders to replace the matting beneath the swings, the average price being £4800.00. The proposals will be reviewed during April and a contractor appointed at our next meeting.

Bamford to Twinstead Network Reinforcement.

Letters had only just been received from National Grid and it was agreed to analyse and comment at the May meeting.

Village Pump.

The pump has been refitted to the original position on the corner of the Green adjacent to the Village Hall. Our aim was to get it fully functioning, however the cost of clearing the well and reinstating the mechanism would run into several thousand £s, so for the time being we've put that on hold. The plaque is inscribed:

Wickham St. Pauls Village Pump.

This well and pump has served the residents of Wickham St. Pauls since Victorian times and it was kindly donated in memory of Joyce and Gordon Harding Payne.

Restored by the Parish Council in 2020 A.D. and funded by The Essex Heritage Trust.

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.

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

Other news....

County Council News.

Our County Councillor, **David Finch**, has announced that he won't be standing for re-election on the 6th. May, so sadly we won't be seeing him in the future in an official capacity. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Parish Council and former P.C. members and our Parishioners, for David's hard work and dedication over many years. He's given us so much support and encouragement and has attended our meeting whenever he could, coming out in all weathers. Thank you David and best wishes for the future.

Annual Parish Assembly.

For the second year running owing to Covid-19, the annual event has been cancelled, but we hope that something will take its place once we come out of the lock-down. Please keep your eye on notice boards and social media announcements.

Flag Flying Programme.

8 May	V.E. Day	Union
12 May	Manitoba Day (1850)	Manitoba
16 May	Relief of Mafeking (1900)	Union
21 May	St. Helena Day	St. Helena
24 May	Bermuda Day	Bermuda
28 May	Battle of Goose Green	Union
31 May – 1 June	Battle of Jutland	White Ensign

Manitoba is a Canadian province and received Royal Assent from Queen Victoria in 1870. The Manitoba flag was dedicated and raised for the first time in 1966 and depicts a Union Jack in its canton (corner of the flag).

The relief of Mafeking ended a 217-day siege during the Boar War. The mainly British forces defending Mafeking were around 2000, whilst the Boar troops numbered 8000.

We fly some Commonwealth country flags and protectorates, particularly those that have the Union Jack canton.

The St. George flag will be flown most of the time in between other appointed flags. A full list of our flag flying days is posted on the village notice board and on the W.St.P. website.

and finally

To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.