

February 2022 issue of Look-Out.

As this is the first issue of 2022, the Parish Council wish you all a **Very Happy New Year.**

Parish Council News.

Highways.

All the concerns and requests we have made to Essex Highways are still ongoing, but we do regularly ask them for updates, these include:

Church Road - additional parking.
A131 Long Gardens - traffic calming.
Speed Indicator Device.
Park Road - 30mph zone extension.
'Beware of Horses' signs.
Old Road - Erosion to verges.

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

We have agreed to hire a beacon for the event for the 2nd. June 2022 and if it proves popular, we will consider a permanent one for the future. No doubt there will be other forms of events taking place, so please keep an eye on Look Out notifications.

Christmas Lights Switch-On.

Our lights were switched on by two of our newest and youngest residents, Bertie and Kit Brooking. What a fantastic evening we had with over 70 residents, including 14 children, joining in. We had mince pies courtesy of the W.I., mulled wine and mulled Vimto. The highlight was certainly the visit from Father Christmas.

Precept/ Budget 2022/2023.

We have now set our budget for the next financial year and have also set our Precept (local tax). The precept will have to increase by just 3%, equivalent to around 5-pence per week per household, to ensure that our income doesn't exceed our expenditure.

For several years now our expenditure has exceeded our income and we have therefore had to draw on reserves, but in this coming financial period we are aiming not to draw on reserves. We are pleased to say the maintenance of the village is in good order and we don't have any projects planned.

Our finance information is on our website, but if you would like a hard copy of how we have calculated the budget and what our income and liabilities are, please ask our Parish Clerk, Mrs Diane Jacob or ask your Councillors.

Parish Council Meeting Dates.

We hope these meetings will continue face-to-face, as our last few ones were:
29th. March, 31st. May, 26th. July, 27th. September, 29th. November, 31st. January 2023.

General.

Our agendas and minutes are posted on the village notice boards and are on-line, but if you can't get access to these and would like hard copies or in large print or in Braille, please let our Clerk know: Mrs Diane Jacob, tel: 07907 63 11 72
or e-mail: parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org

Salt Bins.

Just a reminder that we have two rock salt bins available for residents use. One is sited at the Village Hall and one opposite the bus shelter on Church Road. Please feel free to use the grit for your own paths and please spread some at the homes of our more vulnerable neighbours. If distance is a problem, please let your Parish Councillors know and we'll drop off a bag so you have one locally. Stay safe and warm.

Flag Flying Programme.

6 February	Her Majesty's Accession (1952) + New Zealand Day	Union/New Zealand
19 February	Birthday of the Duke of York (1960)	Union

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

We fly some of our Commonwealth Country flags, particularly those which include the Union flag in its canton. We also fly flags from other countries to mark important historical events.

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