

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 27th April 2023 AT 7.15PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr. M. Cooper, Cllr. C. Groom, Cllr. P. Snazell
Parish Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob
Apologies: Cllr. J. Barlow
Also Present: Twenty-nine members of public present including invited guest speakers

23/0001	CHAIRMAN	Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 19 th May 2022, already confirmed and approved/signed at the Parish Council meeting held on 31 st May 2022 minute number 22/061 item 2.
23/0002	CHAIRMAN	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR WICKHAM ST. PAULS 20022/2023. Cllr. M. Copper read out the Chairman's report - see attached Chairman's Report.
23/0003	ALL MEMBERS	GUEST SPEAKERS Bowls Club Church of All Saints – Church Warden The Look Out Magazine Cricket Club Village Hall Management Committee WI – Report read by WI Chairman This was a very informal meeting, and reports were read out by Guest Speakers/Representatives of the above organisations, outlining their activities, and events throughout the year.
23/0004	ALL MEMBERS	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION Various questions were asked throughout item 23/0003.
22/0005	ALL MEMBERS	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY To take place from 1 st March -1 st June 2024 – This to be confirmed and arranged by Wickham St Pauls Parish Council. The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Item 23/0003

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

May 2022 – April 2023

Membership.

At the start of the 2020 financial year, we had a full complement of six Councillors, during the year we were sad to lose two councillors, Cllr. Ian Ward and our Chairman Cllr. Derek Stokes, but were pleased to be joined by Catherine Groom in July. There are presently two vacancies if you wish to join us. Our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Diane Jacob, continues in her endeavors to guide us with her expert knowledge.

A vote of thanks expressed to Derek Stokes of his long serving contribution and commitment to the Parish Council and the local community.

Meetings.

The Parish Council met six times during each year for general meetings and they have been attended whenever possible by our District Councillor Wendy Scattergood, who represent our interests at District level and County Councillor Peter Schwier, our thanks and appreciation to them.

Wishing District Councilor Wendy Scattergood good luck in her future retirement and appreciation for all that she has achieved for our village.

Acknowledgments.

Our thanks to all our residents, committees, social groups, our volunteers and contributors, course personal thanks to my fellow Councilors and our Clerk.

What's happened over the last year.

We were very active and here are some of the main projects we were involved in:

Grasscrete hard standing for three vehicles on Church Road.

Gifted 170 Jubilee mugs to every household in the village and made sure every child received one. Erected a Jubilee beacon on the Village Green, now a permanent fixture.

Dredged the village hall pond of some 600 tons of silt, which nature has now replaced with 125,000 gallons of water.

Although not projects as such, we also:-

Reported and pursued issues of our public footpaths.

Maintained the village assets by preserving and painting benches and equipment.

General.

The **Fireworks Committee** comprising of Tina Humphreys, Peter Trew, Derek Stokes and myself with sufficient funds raised by current and previous members keep our fireworks night alive certainly for the next few years. Whilst it's free to attend, donations would be appreciated so we can continue to finance the event.

Our Handyman, Lee Sear, (funded by the Essex Association of Local Councils), is kept busy maintaining the Parish Council (your) assets.

Our village green is kept in first class condition by the Cricket Club, who look after our green and the W.I. and lots of volunteers do regular litter picks around the village.

Our defibrillator, sited on the Victory Inn wall, is maintained by the Parish Council. We decided not to fund raise for its upkeep as other Parishes do, because in fairness it is available to all residents. We felt that fund raising for the defib' would also divert funds going to the Church and Village Hall.

Our flag flying continues and we have some 27 different flags for recognising special occasions. We fly the W. St. P. flag to celebration the lady and gentleman of the village who have had the most birthdays. Since March 2022, we have flown the Ukraine flag in support of their people who are suffering. A big thank you to Derek for keeping the flags current.

The Village Hall have been busy with their continuing refurbishment, which includes the new kitchen. They have raised funds to finance the project and the Parish Council has assisted with a grant. There are updates on their progress in the Look-Out magazine and you can see it for yourself later. Please note that the Pavilion has also been updated.

Our Christmas tree lights were switched on by two of our newest and youngest residents, Bonnie and Teddy of Mansards. A well-attended evening, we had carol singing by the Hedingahm Singers, mince pies courtesy of the W.I., and the mulled wine and gifts sponsored by Cox's of Spencer's Farm Shop. Many thanks to all who came and supported us and of course Father Christmas who made a special visti to see not only the children but went on to see some of our residents that couldn't get out.

Regular activities include Bowls Club, New Age Kurling, Dog Obedience Training, Soup and Cake, Church Lunches, Crafty Women at Spencer's, W.I. talks and events, cricket and a variety of other social events including quizzes and Race Nights. We have five 'Wickham Chapter' members of the Belchamp Morris and if you like good exercise and great company, do join them, musicians and dancers all welcomed.

Our Welcome pack continues to be a success and we have presented copies to newcomers, copies are also available to all residents free of charge. Our grateful thanks to Pam for keeping it updated and printing them.

Wickham St. Pauls Parish Council Responsibilities:

Our duties include maintaining the assets and land we own, (The Green), local planning advisory and supporting 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:	Martin Cooper tel: 269236	martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Janice Barlow	janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Catherine Groom	catherinegroom@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org
Councillor:	Paul Snazell	paulsnazell@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 Peter Schwier
cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk. **Tel No.:** 01787 460473. **Essex County Council**, County Hall, 08457 430430, e-mail: **contact@essex.gov.uk**. Chelmsford. **Essex**. County Councillor.

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
Address: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

or

Braintree Conservatives Association Office:
Suite 11, The Centre, Lakes Industrial Park, Braintree, Essex CM7 3RU

Your Local Police Contact

PC 3655 Craig Wheeler
Essex Police -C shift
Community Policing Team - Braintree
Phone 101 ext 400155 email: Craig.Wheeler@essex.police.uk