

# Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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**Present:** Cllr. D. Stokes, Cllr. M. Cooper  
**Apologies:** Cllr. B. Trew, and County Cllr. D. Finch  
**Also Present:** Thirty-two members of public present and invited guest speakers

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19/0001	CHAIRMAN	MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD 15 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018, already approved/signed and published on 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2018.
19/0002	CHAIRMAN	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR WICKHAM ST. PAULS 2018/2019.</b> Cllr. D. Stokes read out the Chairman's report - see attached Chairman's Report.
19/0003	D.CLLR.W.SCATTERGOOD	<b>DISTRICT CLLR. W. SCATTERGOOD</b> – see below Report read by Chairman from County Cllr. D. Finch – see below
19/0004	ALL MEMBERS	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b> Bowls Club Church of All Saints – Church Warden Cricket Club Village Hall Management Committee WI – Report read by Chairman Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust  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.
19/0005	ALL MEMBERS	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ QUESTION &amp; ANSWER SESSION</b> Various questions were asked throughout item 19/004.
19/0006	ALL MEMBERS	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY</b> To take place from 1 <sup>st</sup> March-1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 – This to be confirmed and arranged by Wickham St Pauls Parish Council. The meeting closed at 8.03pm

**Item 19/002**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT April 2018 – 2019 March**

**Membership.**

At the start of the financial year we had a complement of four Councilors and were joined just after that by Bev Trew. During the period we were sad to lose two councilors, Angela Johnstone and Pam Nuttall. We do still have vacancies for two more councilors. Our Clerk, Diane Jacob, continues to do sterling work and her work has proved invaluable.

**Meetings.**

The Parish Council met six times during the year for general meetings and had one additional meeting. Our meetings have been attended whenever possible by our District Councilor Wendy Scattergood, who represents our interests at District level and County Councilor David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council, our thanks and appreciation to them.

## **What's happened over the year.**

Our major project for this period was for the installation of play equipment to add to our swings. Proving very popular is the adventure trail, slide and see-saw, costing around £15,000.00. We managed to finance this by securing grants and renegotiating the tenders we received. We are pleased to say that we did not need any funding from the Parish Council and in fact had a small surplus left over. Our particular thanks to Angela Johnstone for securing the bulk of the funding.

Another major project just started is the Footpath Nature Trail, which is being led by Bev Trew. This will include bird and insect boxes, indigenous flower planting and signage illustrating the history of our village.

Other projects included the completion of a Memorial Garden in the Chapel Yard dedicated to Carol Giles, who served as Chairman of the Council for many years. We have continued work in the Chapel Yard, which is a conservation area and we would recommend a visit.

We replaced a wooden seat on the Green and a volunteer team cleaned and painted all our benches around the village.

Armistice Day was a big event and well attended. As part of the centenary of the end of the First World War, we had bagpipes played on The Green, a memorial plaque was added to the existing and a hornbeam tree planted. The day was finished off with a fireworks display on the village green. The main permanent feature was our 'Tommy' silhouette. The funding for this, driven by Angela Johnstone, came from the residents of Wickham St. Pauls and in fact such was the support that there was a surplus amount, which was donated to the Royal British Legion.

The Fireworks Committee has now been made a sub-committee of the Parish Council, with two councilors and two residents, Tina Humphreys and Peter Trew. It has a healthy bank balance, enough to secure displays for the next few years without seeking additional funding.

We had the wedding of Martyn and Eleanor on The Green in August. The venue is proving a popular setting for marquee.

We had another defibrillator refresher course and introduction to First Aid in October, which we had over 30 attendees. We have planned the next First Aid Training session for June 2019.

Our annual Trafalgar Day celebrations were held at the Victory Inn, where the villagers were entertained by the Belchamp Morris. Our thanks to Kevin at The Ship and Bob for the lighting.

Another annual event is our Christmas tree, which was kindly donated again by Vernon Nott and the lights were switched on by Howard Shipperley along with some of our younger residents. We also had our first Christmas Light Competition.

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. There are now six '*Wickham Chapter*' members of the Belchamp Morris, its good exercise and good fun.

The refurbishment of the Village Hall continues, the floor has been revitalised and the internal painting completed. The hall looks splendid.

Our trees have regular inspections by our Tree Preservation Officer, Danny Cummins and the water quality of our main pond is regularly monitored by Sandra O'Sullivan.

Our Welcome pack continues to be a success and we presented copies to newcomers, copies are also available to all residents free of charge.

Our thanks go out again to the Cricket Club for keeping The Green in such pristine condition and also to our other grass cutting people, who maintain the overspill areas. Our thanks also to our many litter pickers and especially the W.I. for their monthly litter pick.

### **Future Projects.**

An original cast iron water pump has kindly been donated by Robert Harding-Payne. We have secured funding for its refurbishment from Heritage England and it is our intention to install it as a working model on the original site adjacent to the Village Hall.

We are looking to improve the fishing in our main pond, this is going to be a substantial project and we will be looking for funding and grants.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Parish Council may I thank all our residents, committees, social groups and our volunteers, too many to name, who have made this village such a special place to live in.

Cllr. Derek Stokes – Chairman Wickham St. Paul's Parish Council

### **Item 19/003**

District Councillor Wendy Scattergood - Introduced herself, she represents 10 villages in the area and has just recently awarded the Village Hall a grant for refurbishment of the floor. Very busy at Braintree District Council, planning department very busy, 800 fly tips removed within 24 hours, 200 prevented from being homeless, and will possibly help fund improvements to the doctor's surgery in Sible Hedingham.

Chairman read report by County Cllr. D. Finch Report as follows:

Essex County Council is the most efficient/effective Council of its size in the country and ranks seventh overall.

Reports of potholes decreased by 45% in Essex between 2015-2016.

ECC is the best social work employer.

Broadband rollout (£1.4 investment)

Devolved funding to Parish Councils.

Essex's Youth Offending teams does Outstanding work with the you offenders.

Schools and skills success

Reducing unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments

Children's Services

New Young Carers Services

Three new special schools are built in Essex.

Essex Local Delivery Pilot funding,

Recently received 6 green flays for Country Park sites.

Award winning flood alleviation project in Harlow.

Successes in HR Future Libraries Strategy

Footways Essex Housing update

Green Essex Strategy

Resource and Waste Strategy for England

Homelessness

(For a copy of the full report please contact the Parish Clerk)

**Item 19/004**

This was a very informal meeting, and reports were read out by Representatives of the following organisations, outlining their activities, and events throughout the year.

**GUEST SPEAKERS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Bowls Club
- Church of All Saints
- Cricket Club
- Village Hall Management Committee
- WI (Report read by Chairman)
- Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust

**Item 18/006**

Next meeting to be confirmed.

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm