

# Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 AT 7.15PM  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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

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24/0001	CHAIRMAN	Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2023, already confirmed and approved/signed at the Parish Council meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023 minute number 23/073 item 2.
24/0002	CHAIRMAN	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR WICKHAM ST. PAULS 20023/2024.</b> Cllr. M. Copper read out the Chairman's report - see below Chairman's Report.
24/0003	ALL MEMBERS	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b> Bowls Club Church of All Saints – Church Warden Cricket Club The Look Out Magazine Village Hall Management Committee WI – Report read by WI 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.
24/0004	ALL MEMBERS	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ QUESTION &amp; ANSWER SESSION</b> Various questions were asked throughout item 24/0003.
24/0005	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 2025 – This to be confirmed and arranged by Wickham St Pauls Parish Council. The meeting closed at 8.15pm

## Item 24/0002

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### May 2023 – April 2024

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I welcome you all here tonight, it's nice to see so many people supporting this assembly particularly as there are a number of residents who are committed to choir practice on a Tuesday.

Firstly, I would introduce our County Councillor Peter Schwier and our District Councillor David Holland but neither of them has been able to attend. Both of them are on the Planning committee which also meets on a Tuesday night, so they must be busy with Counsel work. They do attend our meetings and keep us well informed on matters occurring that affect our area. So, thank you both for your help during the year.

I would also like to introduce your Parish Council members;

Firstly, our Clerk and Financial officer Diane Jacob who keeps us all up to scratch and watches the pennies, she recently achieved a successful in-depth audit of the accounts. I have to say that these government auditors are very strict so it's great to have an unqualified audit.

Then have Councillors

Janice Bowls, Cathy Groom, Paul Snazel and our most recent addition and after a little persuasion Paul Shipperley.

Now I welcome the representatives of the Village activities here tonight:

In no particular order I welcome:

W.I.	- Sandra O' Sullivan
Bowls Club	- Alison Handley
Cricket Club	- Steven Barnes
Village Hall Committee	- Sandra O'Sullivan
WSP Consolidated Trust	- Derek Stokes

Firstly, then I want to talk about the Parish Council activities.

**Financial Matters** – I am pleased to announce that 2024 is the first time in several years that we made our budget and ended up with a few pounds in the account. You may well ask why we increased the Parish Council rate again this year. We made budget but we did not have to hold an election this year and that saved around a £1000 and came out £300 to £400 up. It could so easily have gone the other way. Also, we have depleted our reserves over the years and we feel that we need to strengthen them a little. The increase is an average of £1.36 a month and if we did not increase the rate there would come a time when we would need to have a huge increase. The precept that we receive, unlike many Parishes around us, is our only source of income. We do not benefit from land rentals or house rentals. The Council feels that small increases each year as the cost-of-living dictates is more acceptable.

There have been several attempts during the year to engage with Essex County Council Highways department but with little success. From the natural water leak on The Green, Horse beware signs on Park Road and Church Road to Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles signs on Old Road and an extension of the 30 MPH area on Park Road we have received little response or rejection. We have offered meetings but Highways refuse to attend meetings on site. We have therefore asked our County Councillor for his advice.

#### **Planning Matters**

The Parish Council has processed several applications by response to each application, supporting most and commenting positively on others. We have little influence in the final decisions that are made by Braintree District Council Planning department but we keep trying.

#### **Local Bus Service**

We have responded to the survey but found it very limiting. You could only answer the questions posed and they did not necessarily cover the points we wanted to make. We made separate comments on those and can only hope it will inform the decision although we are not optimistic about its continuation.

We will now hear from each of the village organisations.

W.I.	- Sandra O' Sullivan
Bowls Club	- Alison Handley
Cricket Club	- Steven Barnes
Village Hall Committee	- Sandra O'Sullivan
WSP Consolidated Trust	- Derek Stokes

Thank You everyone I hope it's been interesting for you and if you are interested in joining any of the activities the representatives here tonight will be glad to hear from you.

Martin G Cooper

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council - Chairman

#### **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	<a href="mailto:parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Chairman:	Martin Cooper tel: 269236	<a href="mailto:martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Janice Barlow	<a href="mailto:janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Catherine Groom	<a href="mailto:catherinegroom@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">catherinegroom@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Paul Shipperley	Via the Parish Clerk

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council website: [www.e-voice.org.uk/wickham-st-pauls](http://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](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)  
Address: Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree. CM7 9HB  
Tel: 01376 552525  
Email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@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  
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08457 430430, e-mail: **contact@essex.gov.uk**. Chelmsford. **Essex**. County Councillor.

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**Westminster Member of Parliament** is Mr James Cleverly MP

Email: [james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk)  
Address: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
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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](mailto:Craig.Wheeler@essex.police.uk)