

# Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

### OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2025 AT 7.15PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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**Present:** Cllr. M. Cooper, Cllr. J. Barlow, Cllr. C. Groom, Cllr. P. Snazell, Cllr. P. Shipperley  
Parish Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob

**Also Present:** Twenty three members of public present including invited guest speakers

County Cllr Peter Schwier

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|---------|---|
| 25/0001 | <b>Presentation.</b><br>Presentation made by the Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) to Wickham St Pauls Parish Council for achieving the Bronze Level Quality Council Award.  |
| 25/0002 | <b>Minutes.</b><br>Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024, already confirmed and approved/signed at the Parish Council meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 minute number 24/058 item 2.  |
| 25/0003 | <b>Chairman's Report for Wickham St Pauls Parish Council 2024/2025.</b><br>Cllr. M. Copper Chairman's report - see below Chairman's Report.   |
| 25/0004 | <b>Reports from County &amp; District Councillors.</b><br>County Cllr Peter Schwier – The full annual report can be viewed on the Parish Council website.<br>District Cllr David Holland – reported to residents on the Local Plan process, waste bins consultation, and the proposed unity devolution programme a new mayor of Essex will be elected in 2026. The full annual report can be viewed on the Parish Council website.    |
| 24/0005 | <b>Reports from Community Groups and Organisations.</b><br>Bowls Club<br>Church of All Saints – Church Warden<br>Cricket Club<br>The Look Out Magazine<br>Village Hall Management Committee<br>WI<br>Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust<br><br>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. |
| 24/0006 | <b>Public Participation/Questions &amp; Answer Session.</b><br>Various questions were asked throughout item 24/0003.  |
| 24/0007 | <b>Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Assembly 2026.</b><br>To take place from 1 <sup>st</sup> March -1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 – This to be confirmed and arranged by Wickham St Pauls Parish Council.   |
|         | <b>Meeting closed at 8.25pm</b>   |

Item 25/0003

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT May 2024 – April 2025

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

Chairman.....

29<sup>th</sup> July 2025

practice on a Tuesday.

Firstly, I would introduce our County Councillor Peter Schwier and our District Councillor David Holland they do attend our meetings regularly and keep us well informed on matters occurring that affect our area. So thanks expressed to both for your help during the year. District Councillor David Holland was present see item 25/0004 above.

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.

Then we have Councillors

Janice Barlow Cathy Groom, Paul Snazell and our most recent addition and after a little persuading Paul Shipperley.

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 no longer 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.

Thank You everyone I hope it has 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.

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|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Clerk:      | Diane Jacob, Tel: 07907 631172 | <a href="mailto:parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>       |
| Chairman:   | Martin Cooper                  | <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                | <a href="mailto:paulshipperley@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">paulshipperley@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a> |
| Councillor: | Paul Snazell                   | <a href="mailto:paulsnazell@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">paulsnazell@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>       |

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, Essex CM7 9HB

Tel: 01376 552525

Email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk)

**Your District Councillor** is David Holland [Cllr.dholland@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.dholland@braintree.gov.uk) Tel: 01787 269693

#### **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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Website: [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

Tel: 0345 743 0430

Email: [contact@essex.gov.uk](mailto:contact@essex.gov.uk)

**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

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](mailto:Craig.Wheeler@essex.police.uk)