

# Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

### OF WICKHAM ST PAULS PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 AT 7.15PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

County Cllr Peter Schwier  
District Cllr David Holland

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26/0001	<b>Minutes.</b> Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025, already confirmed and approved/signed at the Parish Council meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 minute number 25/082 item 1.
26/0002	<b>Chairman's Report for Wickham St Pauls Parish Council 2025/2026.</b> Cllr. M. Copper Chairman's report - see below Chairman's Report.
26/0003	<b>Reports from County &amp; District Councillors.</b> County Cllr Peter Schwier – The full annual report can be viewed on the Parish Council website. District Cllr David Holland – reported to residents on the Local Plan, the new waste recycling bins and system, and the proposed unity devolution programme. The full annual report can be viewed on the Parish Council website.
26/0004	<b>Reports from Community Groups and Organisations.</b> Church of All Saints Cricket Club The Look Out Magazine Village Hall Management Committee Wickham St Pauls Consolidated Trust WI (Thanks expressed to the WI for preparing the refreshments for this evening).  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.
26/0005	<b>Public Participation/Questions &amp; Answer Session.</b> Various questions were asked throughout item 24/0003.
24/0006	<b>Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Assembly 2026.</b> To take place from 1 <sup>st</sup> March -1 <sup>st</sup> June 2027 – This to be confirmed and arranged by Wickham St Pauls Parish Council.
	<b>Meeting closed at 8.55pm</b>

Item 25/0002

#### **Chairman's Report May 2025 – April 2026**

I would like to start by remembering our friend Joyce ..... Who died recently after living to a happy old age of 104 and after living in the village for over 40 years

#### **Membership.**

At the start of the 2025 financial year, we had a complement of four Councillors with two vacancies. During the year we persuaded Paul Shipperly to join the Council as he attended every meeting with Cathy. He agreed to join and there being no other volunteers he was co-opted onto the council. Our hardworking clerk, Diane Jacob, continues in her endeavors to guide us with her expert knowledge, handle the finances and all the correspondence.

#### **Meetings.**

The Parish Council meets six times during the year for general meetings and they have been attended

Chairman.....

28<sup>th</sup> March 2026

whenever possible by our District Councilor, David Holland, who represents our interests at the Braintree level and County Councilor Peter Schwier, who represents us both at Braintree and Essex Councils our heart felt thanks and appreciation go to them for their work on our behalf and for their general guidance and support.

### **Acknowledgments.**

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

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

We have been working hard on the road situation outside the Village Hall where Councilor Paul Snazell has collated many items of evidence and presented them through Peter Schwier to Essex County Highways and directly to the Chief Executive Officer Essex County Council, Nicole Wood. We await to hear progress albeit very slow.

The Christmas lights were switched on brilliantly by one of our newest and youngest residents, Ophelia, of School House. Father Christmas came with children's presents and the refreshments were again very popular. A big thank you to the WI, and the Ladies who sang and the Victory Inn who sponsored the presents and mulled wine.

The lower Village pond banks have been cleared but the resulting cuttings won't be moved until the ground is drier.

We have reviewed and submitted comments on several planning matters and have one that was refused and is now in appeal.

The fireworks were enjoyed by a large crowd having watched the Morris Dancing and the festivities were continued afterwards in the Pub. Our thanks to Ben and Georgia, the landlords, for their support on the night.

We are maintaining a watching brief on the Power Network station although it is in the Parish of Twinstead it still affects us and we want to ensure that those effects are mitigated to our satisfaction. Here we take guidance from David Holland.

We are thankful to Steve Barnes for his diligence in the cutting of the green which despite the dry weather we endured during the summer, looked magnificent and a credit to the Village. You may have noticed that Steve misses a bit near Oak Farm, that's is on purpose for a bit of rewilding for the bird and insects.

We continue to report and pursue issues on our public footpaths, roadside hedges, flooding and Potholes. We thank our landowners for their co-operation with this.

We inspect the trees on the Green to identify any safety issues and we arrange inspectors to check the play equipment.

### **General.**

Our flag flying continues and we have some 27 different flags for recognising special occasions. We fly the W. St. P. flag to celebrate the lady and gentleman of the village who have had the most birthdays. A big thank you to Derek for keeping the flags current and flying them.

Our defibrillator, is still situated on the Victory Inn wall and is maintained by the Parish Council.

Our Welcome pack continues to be a success and we continue to present 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 and contacts:**

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 07910916645	<a href="mailto:martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">martincooper@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Janice Barlow	<a href="mailto:janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">janicebarlow@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Paul Snazell	<a href="mailto:paulsnazell@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">paulsnazell@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Catherine Groom	<a href="mailto:catherinegroom@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">catherinegroom@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org</a>
Councillor:	Paul Shipperly	<a href="mailto:paulshipperly@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org">paulshipperly@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)