

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
 I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
 H M Bass
 P J Bates
 P D Edwards
 I S F MacGregor
 R Mundell
 S J Nicholas
 Ms J Williams



Winner Best Kept Village 2009, 2015
 3rd Place Essex Village of the Year 2015
www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

Parish Clerk

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MINUTES of Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
17A/01	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs H Bass, Bates, Edwards, MacGregor, Mundell, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Nicholas. District Cllr Durham; Senior Park Ranger Mr Adrian Rayner and a colleague, both representing the Maldon District Council Community Protection team; and eighteen members of the public, were present.</p>
17A/02	<p>Approval of Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 3rd May 2016 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Mundell, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p>
17A/03	<p>Chairman's Remarks and Annual Summary The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the outgoing Chairman, Cllr MacGregor, to the Assembly. Cllr MacGregor gave a summary of the Parish Council's activities during the year to April 2017. Cllr MacGregor highlighted the continued high level of planning application-related activity, with the Parish Council engaging the services of a Chartered Town Planner to fight a large, unwarranted and inappropriate development on Church Road. Cllr MacGregor thanked the residents, District Cllrs Bass and Durham, Maldon District Council and the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP for Witham, for their assistance in setting aside the proposal at this time. The outgoing Chairman asked for volunteers to help the Neighbourhood Plan development and the air raid shelter tidy-up, and thanked the Councillors, Clerk and Tree Warden for their individual and team efforts over the year. Noting the retirement of County Cllr R Bass, Cllr MacGregor voiced his appreciation for the work he had done on behalf of the village. Cllr MacGregor expressed the sadness of all Councillors at the recent passing of Mrs Tilly Pink, who had worked tirelessly on behalf of the parish, district and county and had served as a parish councillor for 41 years, retiring in February. Following his recent resignation after 14 years as a councillor, Cllr MacGregor thanked Mr Barry Sayers and welcomed two new councillors, Ms Jane Williams and Mr Paul Edwards, to the Council. Cllr MacGregor wished Chairman Mickelsen all good wishes for her year ahead.</p>
17A/04	<p>The Maldon Community Protection Team Mr Adrian Rayner, Senior Park Ranger for Maldon District Council, gave a presentation of the Community Protection Team and the services it offers. Mr Rayner explained that the CPT is accredited by Essex Police and given targeted powers to take on roles that contribute to</p>

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	<p>maintaining and improving community safety. Examples include enforcement actions against antisocial behaviour, fly tipping, dog and litter fouling, and an upcoming deployment of TruCAM speed and video cameras. The CPT will also work with the South Essex Parking Partnership to enforce parking restrictions.</p> <p>Mr Rayner answered requests and questions from councillors and members of the public. A problem with overgrown vegetation along Witham Road would be attended to by the Park Rangers. In answer to a concern that some motorists persisted in speeding despite being caught by the Speedwatch team, it was explained that TruCAM would give a complete chain of evidence including facial characteristics of the offender, allowing fixed penalties to be imposed.</p> <p>Cllr Bass remarked how helpful the CPT had been in improving the parking problems caused by the car sales business, near The Mitre.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Officers for their interesting presentation, who then left the assembly.</p>
17A/05	<p>Speedwatch and Traffic Calming Measures</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop gave a summary of the progress of the outstanding Local Highways Panel requests. Two Speed Indicating Devices had been supplied and affixed to poles on The Street and Kelvedon Road. Essex County Council's Highways division was waiting for verification of the solar panel installations, before determining the process for rotating the SIDs around the village's six poles.</p> <p>The feasibility study into build-outs in The Street was expected to be deferred to fiscal year 2018/19, due to over-delivery of other Local Highway Panel schemes.</p> <p>There was a lack of clarity as to why the overdue extension of the 30mph zone along Church Road had been delayed by Essex Highways, however Cllr Wardrop had been notified that the requested 40mph buffer zone before the 30mph zone on Witham Road had been rejected due to the December 2016 speed-count data showing the criteria had not been met.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop explained that, in their discussion in the previous meeting, Councillors felt that the Parish Council should reach out to the new LHP Chairman, due to be elected in June, to deliver the promised improvements.</p> <p>In answer to a question regarding the types of improvements that could be sought, Cllr Wardrop said a central reservation in The Street might be a future possibility, but that the build-outs would be a preferred option. Speed humps and mini-roundabouts would not be achievable as the locations and conditions would not meet ECC's criteria.</p> <p>Residents expressed concern that the North Heybridge Garden Suburb would bring significant traffic to The Street and urged the Parish Council to pursue funding opportunities to subsidise early actions to mitigate the impact.</p>
17A/06	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>There were no further questions from the public.</p>
17A/07	<p>Close of Assembly 9.10pm</p> <p>The Chairman pointed out the Neighbourhood Plan display, asking volunteers to contact Cllr Jane Williams or the Clerk, and thanked residents for attending the Assembly. The Chairman and a member of the public then endorsed Cllr Bass's praise of the Parish Council, noting its improvements and increased professionalism over the previous four years.</p>