

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
K W Jarvis
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
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 Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 8.30pm in the Village Hall's Small Hall	
Item	Subject
19A/01	<p>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, Jarvis (arr. 9.20pm), MacGregor, Nicholas, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Mundell. Nine members of the public were present.</p>
19A/02	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held 1st May 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.</p>
19A/03	<p>Chairman's Remarks and Annual Summary</p> <p>The Chairman began by welcoming all present and thanking Councillors, the Clerk, the Tree Warden, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and all volunteers for their efforts work throughout the year. The resignation of Mrs Judy Elliston from the Council in August was fortunately offset by the co-option of Cllr Karl Jarvis, to whom the Chairman offered congratulations on his recent election to the District Council.</p> <p>Remarking on the retirement of Cllr Bass from the District Council, the Chairman expressed the gratitude of the community and Council for representing the interests of residents and the wider district to the very best of his ability over a number of years.</p> <p>Recalling the highlights of the year, the Chairman stated that the Tommy soldier silhouette, which had been displayed at Snows Corner for the November Remembrance event, would be making another appearance in the parish in November 2019. Remedial works to the air raid shelter and parish sign had been completed and the sign would be reinstalled shortly. The Chairman thanked the Councillors and volunteers involved and for making and attaching dog waste bag dispensers to the waste bins. Explaining the modest increase in the Precept, the Chairman stated the Community Protection Team services had been expanded to include control of dog fouling and parking.</p> <p>Residents were reminded that each month, the Full Council meets on the first Tuesday, with a Surgery in the library on one Saturday and a Planning meeting if required. Residents were invited to attend and to be informed of the Council's activities by its regular parish magazine report, website, Facebook page and postings on the noticeboards outside One Stop and Olio's.</p>
19A/04	<p>The Wickham Bishops Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group, Cllr Williams, thanked group members for their support and commitment to the Plan's development. With the aid of a Powerpoint presentation, the assembly was taken through the Plan's initiation, community engagement, data gathering and draft policies. The four areas of Environment, Facilities, Economy and Housing were discussed, finishing with a request for more evidence supporting the proposed Local Green Spaces, Open Spaces and Special Views.</p>
19A/05	<p>Speedwatch and Traffic Calming Measures</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop outlined the main achievements in traffic calming. The completed feasibility study of road narrowing had concluded that white gates at the village entryways should be considered, and were hoped to be implemented within the year. A follow-up study would be conducted six months after the gateway treatment, to establish if further action was required.</p>

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	<p>The two Speed Indicating Devices were being circulated around the five sites every three months. They had been having a positive impact on speeds where installed. Noting the fatal collision on Witham Road in October 2018, Cllr Wardrop explained that the desired speed restriction had not yet gained support from Essex Highways and would not progress before the driver responsible was sentenced. The Parish Council had submitted a request to the Maldon Local Highways Panel for line painting and warning signs along Witham Road. The hoped-for extension to the Blue Mills Hill and Maldon Road traffic lights' hours was still a priority, with it being raised at the Braintree Local Highways Panel meeting once more.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop thanked the Speedwatch volunteers, who turned out in cold and often inclement weather, carrying out 95 sessions and recording 1,340 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The increase over the previous year was likely due to targeting the busiest sites. Comparing Speedwatch to the Community Protection Team's TRUCam monitoring, Cllr Wardrop explained that whilst TRUCam often recorded fewer incidents, those caught were subject to Police action and prosecution.</p> <p>The parking issues at One Stop, The Mitre and Great Totham Road's junction with The Street had been of great concern during the year and the Parish Council had reached out to the business owners with an offer to mediate a meeting. A resolution would depend on progress by One Stop to increase its available parking, possibly by delineating the spaces and increasing space to the rear of the shop.</p>
19A/06	<p>Planning and Development</p> <p>The Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr Iain MacGregor, outlined the two multi-dwelling developments taking place in the village. The field between Maypole Road and Great Totham Road, opposite the tennis courts, would provide nine large family homes and five affordable houses. These had been approved on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the recommendation from the Parish Council, which had met its affordable housing requirement in Mackmurdo Place. There will be cul-de-sac entrances from both roads, with no through-access to vehicles; however, the parish will benefit from a new footpath linking both roads, connecting the west of the parish to the school route.</p> <p>Following a refused, unpopular application to erect five large dwellings on the site of Pine Trees, opposite the entrance to Handley's Lane, a scheme for three detached bungalows had been presented to the Parish Council and residents. The final proposal had incorporated many of the residents' requests and met some of the independently-assessed housing needs of Wickham Bishops, and so was approved in November 2018. Site works were expected to complete by Summer 2020.</p>
19A/07	<p>Wickham Bishops Library Future – Working Group progress</p> <p>Cllr Peter Bates, leader of the Library Working Group, thanked the members of the group and detailed the flaws in Essex County Council's library strategy, which had over-simplified its analysis and was not representative of rural libraries and the Wickham Bishops demographic in particular. The Parish Council had submitted a full response and expression of interest, hoping to preserve the status quo but in the alternative, to retain the building and provide a community-managed service and asset.</p> <p>Stating that the Rt Hon Ms Priti Patel MP was opposed to the closures, Cllr Bates was pleased to report that the Witham MP had noted the strength of the group's ideas and given them her backing. The draft business plan also had some support from Cllr Barker CC, and both would be pressing the County Council to provide accurate costings at an early stage to aid the plan's development.</p> <p>Cllr Jarvis joined the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Bates thanked the public for their suggestions of library activities and for volunteering their future involvement. Attendees proposed further uses for the building, with one offering to run a Beginner's French class. Noting that the alternative venues in the parish were at capacity, residents were urged to establish the clubs as soon as possible as this would strengthen the business case. The Library Group hoped to have a presentation at the June 20th Welcome Event at St Bartholomew's Church.</p>
19A/08	<p>Public Questions and Forum</p> <p>A member of the public thanked the Councillors and volunteers for their work on behalf of the parish.</p>
	<p>Close of Meeting 9.39pm</p>