

**Minutes of Wickhambrook Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 26th May in the Dulcie Smith Room at the MSC**

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairman of the Parish Council Paul Couzens

Present: Cllr Mike Lavelle, Cllr Kerry Merritt, Cllr Sandy Thwaite, Clerk Hilary Workman
11 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence:

Were received from Dorothy Anderson, Cllr T Turner, WS Cllr Sarah Pugh

2. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Paul Couzens

3. Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

With the approval of the meeting these were taken as read and signed.

4. Presentation of the Alf Hicks Crystal Biscuit Barrel – Mrs Sandy Wood

The Parish Council had unanimously agreed that the Biscuit Barrel be awarded to Mrs Sandy Wood, Secretary and Trustee of Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre.

Cllr Couzens presented the Biscuit Barrel to Mrs Wood and thanked her for all her time, experience and dedication to the Memorial Social Centre and the wider community of the parish of Wickhambrook.

Mrs Wood responded, accepting on behalf of all of the trustees over the past two years who have worked so hard to make sure the hall would continue in use for a further 75 years.



5. Parish Council Annual Report(s)

A summary of the 2021-22 financial year (previously circulated) was presented by the clerk (following item 8 on the agenda).

6. County Councillor's Report (previously circulated)

7. District Councillor's Report (previously circulated)

8. Reports from village clubs, organisations and societies

- Horticultural society – an oral report from Jacky Merry summarising the society's activities in the previous year
- Beavers – an oral report advising that the group's goal was to start a cub pack within Wickhambrook in the long term.
- Tennis Club – previously circulated
- History Society – An oral report from Pam Millar summarising the Society's activities in the previous year.
- WI – An oral report from Wendy Mansfield summarising the Society's activities in the previous year which included an increase in numbers and the celebration of its 95th anniversary at Bedford Lodge

Signed: *Mike Lavelle*

Dated: *18/05/2023*

- Wickhambrook Bowls Club – an oral report presented by Noel Miccallef (previously circulated) on behalf of Richard Buckley

9. Questions from Residents

A number of questions and concerns were raised by local residents, including:

- Lack of street lighting extending down Cemetery Road from The Meadows to Moor Green (alongside the Nature Reserve).
- How could near misses and traffic issues be reported – the clerk signposted the Report a Problem tool on the Suffolk County Council website.
- Why the boarding at the old MUGA space had been removed. Councillors advised that the boarding had been damaged in a storm in May '21 and was unsafe. The boarding had been replaced with lower bow top fencing consistent with the skate park, and the long term plan was to redevelop the old MUGA space for outdoor fitness and re-establish a new MUGA suitable for 5 a-side football and other team sports at an alternative position on Six Acres.
- Concerns that West Suffolk's proposals for new development within the parish would place a further burden on:
 - the Surgery, which was considered to be over-subscribed, and situated in a building which was too small and location with limited access (Nunnery Green). Cllrs advised that it would be for the GP practice, and the Commissioning Group, to consider and agree upon alternative location(s).
 - the school, which was already anticipating a further 25-30 in the new intake. This would continue to place pressure on parking in the vicinity of the school. A wider discussion took place on issues of road safety and Cllr Thwaite summarised the progress of the Road Safety Working Group, which had:
 - Worked with the school on a speed reduction campaign
 - Commissioned two speed surveys, at Shop Hill and Wickham Street
 - Approached Suffolk Highways for assistance and advice
 - Commissioned improvements to FP25 to improve safer walking in and around the village.

Cllr Thwaite invited residents with interests and concerns in the above matters to join the Road Safety Working Group to help with moving these issues forwards.

10. Date of the next meeting – to be advised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7:10pm.