

**Minutes of Wickhambrook Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 18th 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 Mike Lavelle

Present: Cllrs Paul Couzens, Mike Lavelle and Tracey Turner.
Clerk Hilary Workman
SC Cllr Bobby Bennett
Mr Kevin Grimes, 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence:

Were received from Cllr Sandy Thwaite, WS Cllr Sarah Pugh, Mr Paul Bevan

2. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Mike Lavelle

3. Minutes of 2022 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 – Mr Kevin Grimes

The Parish Council had unanimously agreed that the Biscuit Barrel be awarded to Mr Kevin Grimes, lay inspector of play equipment at Bury Road Pocket Park.

Cllr Lavelle presented the Biscuit Barrel to Mr Grimes and thanked him for all his time, experience and dedication to the pocket park and the wider community of the parish of Wickhambrook.



Mr Grimes responded, with thanks.

5. Parish Council Annual Report(s)

Cllr Lavelle summarised the activities and successes of the year and thanked all those who have donated their time, resources and enthusiasm to help improve the parish. A summary of the 2022-23 financial year (previously circulated) was presented by the clerk.

6. County Councillor's Report (previously circulated)

Cllr Bennett summarised the ambitions of Suffolk County Council, its priorities and how they underpin spending decisions. Over the past year Cllr Bennett had contributed to updating road signs and support of Rural Coffee Caravan across the county. The biggest issue from Wickhambrook over the past year had been work to bring about a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph at Wickham Street. Although so far unsuccessful, despite a detailed speed survey having been commissioned (the cost being funded from Cllr Bennetts Highways budget), Cllr Bennett had escalated this issue and recently met with the Cabinet Member for Highways, who had promised to consider the matter most thoroughly. Cllr Bennett summarised her current portfolio responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities (which includes Ukraine, community safety and the voluntary sector).

7. District Councillor's Report (previously circulated)

Signed: Paul Couzens

Dated: 25/04/2024

Report to next meeting

8. Reports from village clubs, organisations and societies

• **Horticultural society**

An oral report from Jackie Merry summarising the society's activities over the past year and recording the sad loss of society members Michael Medcalf, Steve Coe, Don Nelson and Tony Day and thanking outgoing committee members (Audrey, Ann, Linda and President Joyce) for all their hard work and support during the year.

• **Summer fete**

An oral report from Dierdre Smith. Originally called Wickhambrook Carnival Committee, the group had put on a very successful and well supported day last July, which included vintage cars, barbeque, childrens and adults sports. The aim each year is to organise a fun day and raise money for local organisations. In 2022 funds supported the gift of coronation mugs to each child in the parish and a contribution to childrens' entertainment put on at the event organised by The Greyhound in celebration of HM The King Charles III coronation. Preparations for the Summer Fete on 8th July were well underway and the committee look forward to seeing many residents of the parish at the event (between 1pm and 5pm – Recreation Ground, Wickhambrook).

• **Tennis Club** – previously circulated

• **History Society**

An oral report from Gillian Cooper noting that despite the sad loss of Steven Coe and Sue Britnell, membership over the past year had increased (Annual membership £10). Gill summarised meetings and activities, including participation in Lost Gardens of Suffolk and thanking Dorothy Anderson as an excellent Village Recorder.

• **Womens Institute (WI)**

An oral report from Dorothy Anderson, thanking committee members and summarising meetings and activities over the past year. The Farmer's Market and Friday Tea Parties are popular as ever.

9. Questions from Residents

When invited, there were no questions and concerns raised by those attending the meeting.

10. Date of the next meeting – to be advised (but between 1st March and 1st June 2024.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at **18:38pm**.