



Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I've enjoyed some lovely weekends working in the garden and it really seems that spring is around the corner, with daffodils starting to peep through.

March signals year end in the clerk's calendar, with preparation of accounts for the past financial year, and gathering together all the documents for the annual audit which takes place in April.

It's already been a busy few months. Thank you to everyone who came along on a cold February morning and helped with the hedge planting on Cemetery Road – a fantastic turnout!



Thanks also go out to our Suffolk County Councillor, Bobby Bennett, for funding the cost of the hedging, and to the lovely ladies at Warm Winter Wednesday in the WI Hall, for the lovely refreshments afterwards. Our thanks go out to the team of lovely ladies who have been running the Warm Winter Wednesdays from the WI Hall through January and February. The events have been a great success. We start back with our Cemetery Tidy mornings on 6th March (10am – 1pm) – do [drop me a line](#), or sign up through the individual events on the welcome page of the [website](#)

At its February meeting, the Estates Committee:

- Set dates for litter picks this year on Sunday 24th March, 2nd June and 3rd November
- Approved the purchase of a bench to be located at the inner banks of Six Acres
- Authorised a move to new cemetery software and appointed a contractor to undertake further memorial testing
- Authorised the purchase of a further WW2 Memorial Bench Seat

At an Extraordinary Meeting on the same day, the parish council listened to, and carefully considered concerns raised by residents attending the meeting with respect to Policy WHB11 – Buildings and Structures of Local Significance (Non-designated Heritage Assets). The parish council resolved it would ask its planning consultant to remove the draft list of proposed properties in WHB11 – you can find out more about this at <https://wickhambrook.org/neighbourhood-plan/>

At our ordinary meeting on February 29th, the parish council welcomed three new members of the Team. Andrea Grimes and Linda Smith were co-opted as councillors, and David Di Giulio was co-opted as a lay member of the Estates Committee. We still have two vacancies on the parish council. If you would like to find out more, or be considered for co-option, [please contact me](#).

The Clerk's report touched on diverse topics, from VAT claims to memorial testing. A key decision was made to appoint Mr. Gary Smith as the sole operator for gravedigging at Wickhambrook Cemetery and update the Cemetery Regulations. The meeting also saw updates on completed projects, such as the installation of a bus shelter and a bird-friendly hedge.

The meeting also looked at the consultation on the West Suffolk Local Plan (which runs until Tuesday 12th March). The meeting considered that West Suffolk had not taken enough account of views regarding traffic on Bunters Road and infrastructure issues and resolved to ask its neighbourhood plan consultant to advise on this and if necessary draft a response to West Suffolk.

The council decided to donate £100 to the Rural Coffee Caravan, in Memory of their late District and County Councillor, Mary Evans, who championed this cause and did so much for the parish. The session closed with a confirmation of the next meeting date on Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at the later time of 7:30pm (the Annual Parish Meeting will take place before at 6:00pm).

Do feel free to forward this message on to neighbours, friends and family in the parish and ask them to get in touch with me at parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Wishing you all the best, Keep safe and well

Hilary Workman
Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council