

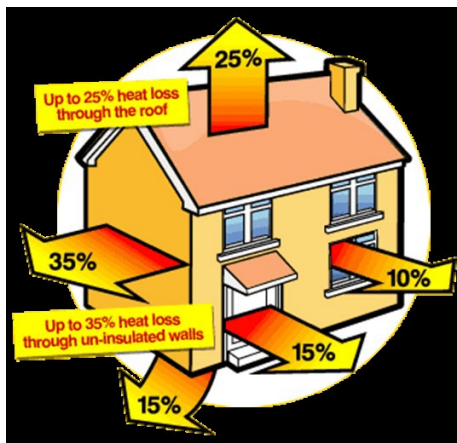
Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Spring bulbs are starting to appear, and if you're walking past the cemetery, you'll see that the Cherry Trees planted two years ago now have their first blossom appearing. It's still cold though, so don't forget the Warm Winter Wednesdays being put on at the Women's Institute Hall on:

- 19th and 26th February

Pop in for free tea, biscuits and soup etc and spend time in company at card games, board games jigsaws etc (between 12 noon and 3 pm). I try to pop in too, so if you see me and have any queries or issues you want to raise, please do have a chat!

Did you know that The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, which is made up of all the Local Authorities in Suffolk, have purchased several thermal imaging cameras which they are loaning out to community groups to carry out surveys in their areas for free. Wickhambrook has booked a camera between 13th and 25th March.



The aim of the project is to raise awareness about insulation, and if possible, help you to improve the energy efficiency of your house. This could mean a reduction in fuel bills, better health and also reducing the total amount of carbon dioxide that we emit into the atmosphere which is important for stopping climate change. If you would like more information about the project [follow this link](#). To participate as a volunteer or have your property included in the survey, [please contact the clerk](#), or scan this QR code



SCAN ME

At its January meeting, the parish council:

- Agreed the budget for the next financial year (beginning in April '24), and the precept **£55,404 based on its agreed 3 year work plan**
- Reviewed and updated its Risk Management Policy and supporting General Risk Assessment
- Appointed Suffolk Association of Local Council's as Internal Auditor for the current financial year and confirmed that the clerk continue to act as its Responsible Financial Officer
- Considered nominations for the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel Award to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2024. Noting the reach that the volunteer run events have and funds raised for other local charities, Members agreed to award the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel Award to the volunteer team who organise the Warm Winter Wednesday events

The public forum session in the meeting focussed on concerns and questions raised by residents about the footpath and highways issues, and Cllr Bobby Bennet was able to answer many questions. The parish council is working hard to advocate on behalf of residents to address a number of issues, including a reduction in the speed limit on the A143 at Wickham Street from 40mph to 30mph and improvements to drainage and surface issues on the Byeway and carriageway at Coltsfoot Green. Don't forget to check out our [report a problem page](#). If you have any highways or drainage/flooding issues, please report them directly to [Suffolk County Council Highways](#). Issues are prioritised, so the more that are reported, the higher the priority for addressing them.

Bird Nesting season starts soon – if you are a land owner and have hedges running along Public Rights of Way or Highways, there is still time to trim them back.

Our next scheduled parish council meeting is on 27th February 2024. At this meeting the parish council will be considering the following matters:

- Appointment of Sole operator at Wickhambrook Cemetery
- Renewal of Insurance Cover in accordance with the Long Term Agreement and Asset Register
- Authorising Due Payments for 2024-25 and Direct Debits
- Donations to Charities and Local Organisations (if you are aware of any local charities which may benefit from some parish support, please ask them to contact the clerk by 20th February)

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public so why not come along? If you would like to get more involved there are lots of ways to contribute, by:

- attending meetings and asking questions
- joining in with volunteer events (tidying the cemetery, cleaning play equipment) – our first parish tidy day will take place on Wednesday 5th February
- joining the Road Safety Working Group
- becoming a Councillor!

If you would like to find out more, please do call me or one of our councillors, or come along to one of our meetings. If you would like to be considered as a councillor, please take a look at the [website](#), and complete and return a co-option application and eligibility form to Hilary. We look forward to hearing from you!

If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider at a future meeting, [please do get in touch with me](#).

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!

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the parish council in its work this year. Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year, keep safe and well.

Hilary Workman

Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council