

**Minutes of Wickhambrook Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 25th April 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: Cllrs Paul Couzens, Andrea Grimes, Mel Karunaratne, Linda Smith,
Clerk Hilary Workman
SC Cllr Bobby Bennett
Mr Kevin Grimes, 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence:

Were received from Cllr Mike Lavelle, Cllr Tracey Turner and WS Cllr Sarah Pugh

2. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Couzens on behalf of Cllr Lavelle

3. Minutes of 2023 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

At its January meeting the Parish Council had unanimously agreed that the Biscuit Barrel be awarded to the Late George Woods, who brought so much joy to families with his Christmas Decorations. A certificate to mark the award will be forwarded on to the family.



5. Parish Council Annual Report(s)

Cllr Couzens summarised the activities and successes of the year (previously circulated) and thanked all those who have donated their time, resources and enthusiasm to help improve the parish.

A summary of the 2023-24 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.

These Minutes are in draft form only. They have not been approved and are not a matter of formal record.

They will be put before the next Annual Parish Meeting (2024`) for approval.

Queries should be directed to: the **Parish Clerk**, Hilary Workman

E-mail: parishclerk@wickhambrook.org Telephone: **07508 039810**

7. District Councillor's Report (previously circulated)

8. Reports from village clubs, organisations and societies

- **Horticultural society** (published)

An oral report from Jackie Merry summarising the society's activities over the past year. The Society enjoyed an active and productive year with meetings and visits, and held both a very successful annual plant sale in May, and the Annual Summer Show in July.

- **Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre** (previously circulated)

Steve Thwaite, chair of the Trustees, thanked the talented and committed team of trustees without whom the social centre could not function. The Hall is in a good financial position, and the team is working to modernise (replacing lighting with energy efficient LEDs). Challenges for the future include finding a cost effective and climate friendly way to heat the building, and succession planning for the future.

- **History Society** (published)

An oral report from Gillian Cooper noting that the society had had an excellent year with many interesting meetings and visits, and an enjoyable Christmas supper at the WI hall in December, with thanks to all the committee members.

- **Women's Institute (WI)** (previously circulated)

An oral report from Dorothy Anderson summarising the society's activities over the past year. Wickhambrook WI has welcomed many new members over the year. The group enjoyed a wide range of meetings, activities and visits, some of them challenging, and also participated in The Big Help Out, sprucing up the village phone box which is home to the free lending library.

- **1st Wickhambrook scout group**

An oral report from the Wickhambrook Group Scout Leader () who liaises between the Scout trustee board and the Beaver and Cub unit leaders. Wickhambrook now has both Beavers and Cubs (each pack enjoying healthy numbers). The children learn a lot of soft and hard skills for life and the groups are inclusive, drawing from a wide area of outlying villages. A tenderfoot camp is planned for this summer.

9. Questions from Residents 18:40 - none

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 18:41