



©Image by Jim and Gwen Ashling



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

It's been a busy month for meetings, with the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and an Extraordinary Meeting to consider a planning matter. You can view the draft minutes on the [parish website](#).

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public so why not come along? We hope that you will find it interesting and we would like to increase our community engagement. This helps to ensure that the decisions that are reached have the support of local residents. You never know, you may wish to get more involved – there are lots of ways to contribute, from attending meetings and asking questions, to joining in with volunteer events, becoming a lay member on our Estates Committee, or becoming a Councillor!

Wickhambrook is allocated 8 Parish Councillors who are elected for a period of four years or co-opted to fill vacancies as necessary. The most recent Parish and District Elections took place on 4th May this year. Cllr Sarah Pugh was re-elected as our District Councillor to West Suffolk Council, and four of our Councillors stood and were returned uncontested:

Cllr Paul Couzens – Vice-Chair of Parish Council and Chair of Estates Committee

Cllr Mike Lavelle – Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr Sandy Thwaite – Road Safety Working Group and

Cllr Tracey Turner – Chair – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

This means that we have four vacancies which need to be filled for the parish council. Because the vacancies were previously notified, there is no need for a further period of notice, and the parish council may move to co-opt. We would like to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, you could become a councillor.

Local (town and parish) councils are led by democratically elected councillors from the local community. Local councillors decide on what services and projects the council will deliver. To find out more about the work of Wickhambrook Parish Council, take a look at the Chairman's report from the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting, and the clerk's financial report.

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!

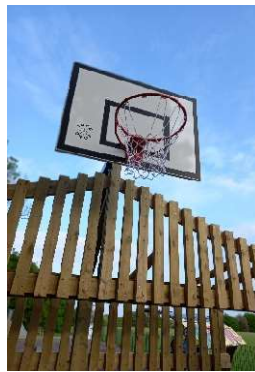
At the Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr Lavelle was pleased to award the [Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel](#) to Mr Kevin Grimes, who was the unanimous choice by the Parish Council for the award this year.



Kevin has supported the parish council over many years through his regular inspections of the children's play equipment in the pocket park at Bury Road.

The photograph shows Chairman Mike Lavelle with Kevin who will hold the Biscuit Barrel for twelve months and have his name added to the list of previous worthy holders of the award.

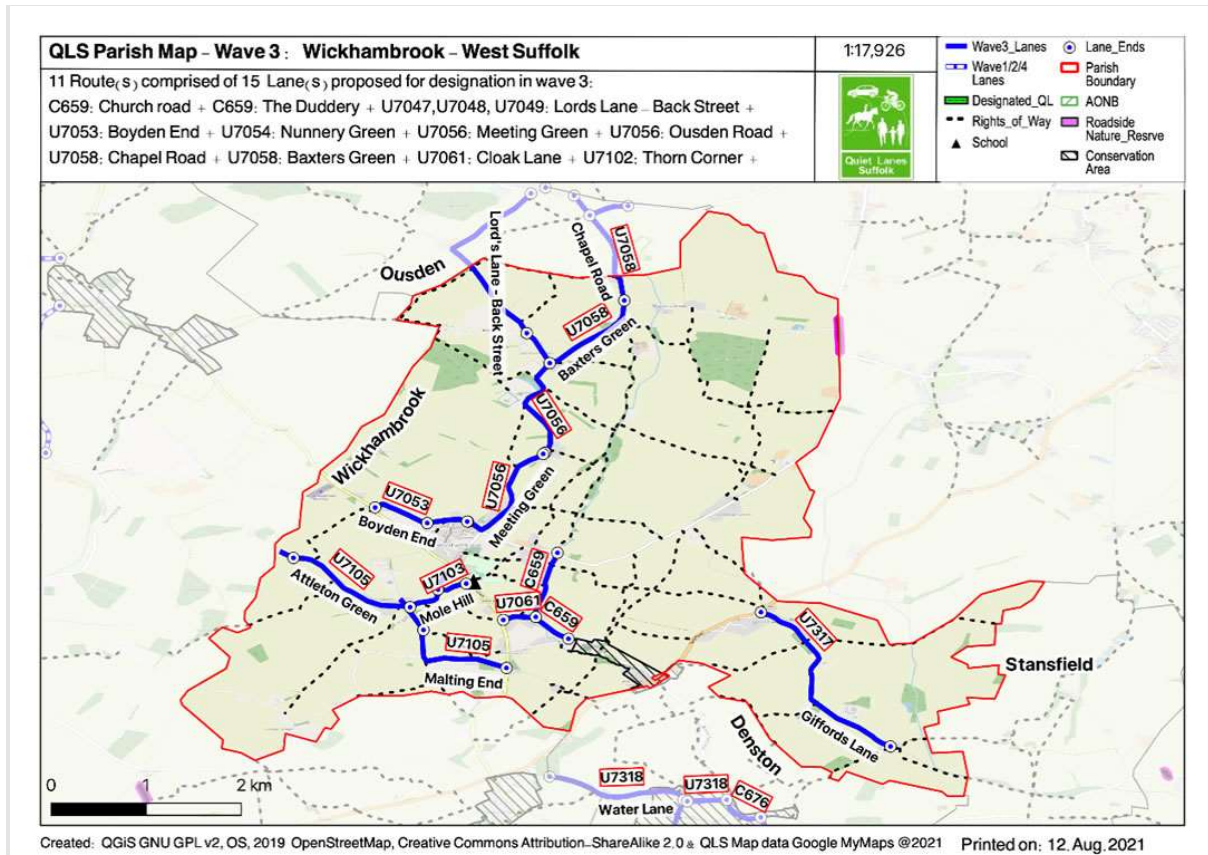
We were also pleased to be able to open the new Senior Wooden Goal End and Basket Ball Hoop at Six Acres that evening, and the images below show Kevin, who kindly cut the ribbon.



We've now held four volunteer mornings tidying in the Cemetery. Thanks go out to Mary Jolland, our Environment and Sustainability Lay Member on the Estates Committee for leading these events. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month (between 10am and 1pm) – please do check out the events calendar on the website and sign up if you would like to come along. We've got a lot of tidying done and we're getting a lot of wild flowers in the cemetery too. You may have noticed that some parts haven't been cut through May. This is to allow the wildflower seeds to set, so that we'll get another lovely display next spring.



With thanks to our Chairman, Mike Lavelle, and his volunteers Gary and Mel, I'm really pleased to be able to tell you that we have now completed installation of the Quiet Lanes signage. Thanks also go out to Roger Medley and the Quiet Lanes Volunteers at Suffolk County Council who kept me on track with this project. Quiet Lanes extend from the northern boundary of the parish with Ousden, down to Attleton Green, with a further lane in the east of the parish at Clopton Green.



Quiet Lanes are routes where visitors and locals can enjoy the natural surroundings and use them for activities such as cycling, horse-riding, jogging and walking. The idea is not to restrict motor vehicles on these rural routes, but to encourage considerate use of the road, so they can be shared and enjoyed by all.



The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

- Reviewed delegations and [policy documents](#) and parish assets
- Confirmed portfolios, officers of the council and appointed members to Committee
- Confirmed memberships to organisations and subscriptions
- Confirmed meeting dates for the parish council to the next Annual Meeting

2023/2024 Parish Council Meetings:

Thursday 27th July (Wickhambrook Primary Academy), 28th September, 30th November 2023 and 11th January, 29th February, 25th April & 30th May '24

2023/2024 Estates Committee Meetings:

Thursday 6th July, 28th September and 2nd November '23 and 1st February & 4th April 2024

- Confirmed Option 2 as the proposal AECOM continues to work on for inclusion into the [Neighbourhood Plan](#)
- Authorised a contribution towards the upgrade of Footpath 25 (from Coltsfoot Green to Wickhambrook Primary Academy)
- Acknowledged receipt of the Internal Audit Report and approved the Risk Assessments and Annual Governance and Accountability Returns for the previous financial year.
- Appointed a contractor to undertake ad hoc work within the parish for the current financial year.

Our July Estates Committee meeting (6th July @7:00pm, Pavilion, MSC) will be looking at:

- Appointment of a contractor to clean out the pond at Coltsfoot Green
- A proposal to replace the parish noticeboard at Shop Hill
- Replacement of six wooden posts at Six Acres

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!

Wishing you all the best, keep safe and well

Hilary Workman
Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council