

**Minutes of Wickhambrook Annual Parish Meeting
10 May 2018 in the MSC Pavilion**

The meeting was opened at 7.30 p.m. by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr P Couzens.

Present Cllrs J Barton, J. Claydon, M. Jolland, K Merritt, J Midwood and J Wilson

Borough Councillor C Pollington

Clerk S Thorburn

6 members of the public were present - signature list to be filed with the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr K Sammons,

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

With the approval of the meeting these were taken as read and signed.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

4. Annual presentation of the Alf Hicks Crystal Biscuit Barrel.

The Parish Council had unanimously agreed that the Biscuit Barrel be awarded to Mr Roger Medley.

The Chairman made the presentation and Mr Medley thanked the Parish Council for the award.

5. Report from Police representative.

No report had been submitted.

6. Report by Chairman of the Parish Council

The annual parish meeting gives an opportunity to look over the previous 12 months activities.

Donations

- Have been made to various charitable organisations, the Over 60's Christmas Party and the First Aid in attendance at the Carnival.

Meetings

The Parish Council has:

- held 11 full Council meetings and 6 Estates Committee meetings.
- considered 26 planning applications
- signed 110 cheques for services to the village
- transferred £2046.32 to MSC for recycling bottles and paper

Ongoing Issues from the previous report:

- Flooding in the village is a regular agenda topic with conditions at Nunnery Green being inspected by the County Councillor and Highway Department representatives. After the difficulties this winter the roads approaching the surgery are now on the gritting rota. It is hoped that remedial action will take place.
- The addition of another VAS machine for exclusive use in the village has meant the presence of Police camera vans at different times which has resulted in 22 prosecutions. Further sites for poles have been identified near Nunnery Green and in Cemetery Road and the installation is being planned for later this year.

The most important achievement this year has been the installation of two Public Access Devices in the village – one at the Fire Station, Giffords Lane the other at the MSC hall. Mr Peter Vince worked tirelessly to achieve this co-ordinating with the Parish Council and MSC Trustees. Thanks to everyone involved. Mrs Julia Walker resigned from the Parish Council due to family commitments and the Parish Council thanked her for many years of service and Mrs Mary Jolland was co-opted to the Parish Council.

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Chairman

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Date

7. Report by Chairman of the Estates Committee

This report was given by the Chairman of the Parish Council due to the apologies received from the Chairman of the Estates Committee.

The Completion of the Memorial Garden – this took place in the autumn although the benches have been over-wintered in the chapel and the Lay Members have coated them in teak oil. These are now ready to be placed outside.

Cableway – this was installed at the beginning of the year and has proved a great success with young and old. It is a good addition to the existing provision of play equipment.

Planned skate park refurbishment now taken place – due to the popularity of the skate park the skins on the ramps have needed replacement so the young people of the village can continue to enjoy this facility. Further funding will be needed in 2018/2019 to update other aspects of the skate park.

This year saw the resignation of Lay Member Andy Harris and the Parish Council thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Estates Committee. John Norton joined as a Lay Member as has taken responsibility for health and safety inspections of the cemetery.

8. Parish Council Financial Report.

The Clerk stated that the budget for the year had been carefully monitored against spending resulting in an underspend over the year of £2000, this would support the previous year's unplanned spend for safety improvements at the Bury Road playground.

Income and expenditure figures were given for 2017/18.

9. Reports by County and Borough Councillors

The report from Borough Councillor C. Pollington stated that £300 had been given to the village school to add to the outside play bark fund. There was no further news on the Kelly's Meadow situation to date. A contact email was given to the Clerk for enquiries regarding the new Data Protection regulations. The plans for a merging of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury to one council were progressing. The boundary changes were also progressing. The old Post Office building in Bury St Edmunds had been converted at a cost of £8 million but good returns on leases were foreseen.

County Councillor M. Evans would send a report that would be published and a hardcopy filed with the minutes..

10. Report from village clubs and societies.

Reports were presented by representatives from the History Society, Wickhambrook W.I., Wickhambrook Youth Football Club, Wickhambrook Horticultural Society and Wickhambrook United Charities regarding the stewardship of the two Alms houses by All Saints Church. A written report on behalf of the MSC Trustees regarding the Farmers Market was handed to all who attended the meeting and referred to by the Chairman. All hardcopy reports presented or submitted attached in the minutes file.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm. I confirm the above to be a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2018.

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Chairman

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Date