

Wickham Society

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2021

Date: Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 7.30pm

Location: via zoom

Apologies for absence

42 members and one visitor were present. There were no apologies.

Adoption of previous minutes

Due to the cancellation of the AGM of 2020 because of pandemic restrictions, there were no minutes to review or adopt for 2020.

The business required of the Society was preceded by a presentation and update from Fiona Gray, Project Director of Buckland Developments Ltd (BDL). BDL is the Master Builder of the new garden village of Welborne to be built between Wickham and the M27, alongside Knowle over the next 25 years.

She described the journey for the project so far and the plans for Welborne. She explained that there are two conditions attached to the agreed planning permission, granted in October 2019, that must be met before any building works can begin. These are the signing of the Section 106 agreement, which covers 32 schedules including provision for infrastructure, and the securing of the necessary funding for the reconfiguration of Junction 10 on the M27 motorway. It is the latter condition that is causing further delay, as a key funder of the motorway withdrew their financial support last autumn. Whilst BDL has offered to make up this shortfall, there are still outstanding issues to be negotiated and agreed amongst the public sector funders regarding the final funding solution. Fiona then answered questions from society members.

This was followed by an update on the progress of the new housing developments in Wickham at Wykeham Vale at the Glebe and Bishop's Gardens on Winchester Road.

Chairman's address

Thank you for your continuing support and attendance both in person and virtually during 2020. A year that turned our lives upside down and that we will never forget.

This time last year, as we had to abandon our plans for our April meeting, the committee was uncertain of what would be possible to keep the Society going. We were so relieved that technology stepped into the breach and has enabled us to continue meeting virtually. As we look back over the year, I hope that you will agree that it has been an interesting and varied programme of speakers.

In February, Rear Admiral David Snelson gave a fascinating overview of those ships named Ark Royal – two of whom he had served on himself. This was followed in March by a talk from Mike Hall, a local resident, on the topic of the challenges facing UK food production – little did we realise that this issue would become such a priority only a few days later!

Nervous about how or what response there would be for virtual meetings, we used the October meeting to give you feedback regarding the Wickham Parish survey undertaken in 2019. We were delighted that so many of you showed continuing support for the Society and joined us for the meeting. This gave us confidence to invite Dan Oakley from South Downs National Park to join us and give a presentation on 'The Sky at Night' – which I hope you will all agree proved to be interesting and thought provoking and caused me to review my outside lights to make sure they were dipping downwards. As you may recall, our December

meeting proved a bit more challenging as we lost contact with our speaker halfway through his talk about the River Thames in winter – fortunately Christmas spirit saved the day!

It is always a challenge to find speakers to give interesting talks on matters of topical or local interest. However, one of the advantages of virtual meetings has meant that we can cast our net wider for possible speakers and enabled me to invite Ric Cheadle to join us from his home in Devon to explain how submarines dive below water – in a way that even I as a non-engineer could understand. It was also timely to hear about the role of the CPRE last month with the continuing development in our own and every nearby community.

During the course of last year, we continued to monitor progress with the outcome of the Parish survey, correspond with Rob Humby regarding the roundabout; raised concern about the suggestion that there needed to be an expansion of Wickham Surgery, in order to provide health facilities for residents of Welborne. We also wrote to HCC to object to the sandpit excavation in Waltham Chase and have responded to the Winchester District plan survey on behalf of the Society. Correspondence on these matters is available to view on our website.

I was also asked to speak on the behalf the Society on BBC South, to comment on the withdrawal of funding for the reconfigured M27 Junction 10. I continue to represent the Society on the stakeholder group for Welborne and monitor any developments and changes to proposals to assess their relevance to residents in Wickham and the immediate surrounding area.

Last month, I put forward a proposal to Sue Roger-Jones, Chairman of the Parish Council's Recreation Committee, that Wickham Society could take the lead on raising the funds and organising the painting of the bridge railings over the River Meon opposite Moles and at the entrance to the Water Meadows as it is looking very unsightly and unloved. However, I was advised that the matter is in hand to be sorted out. However, Sue did ask if I could put out a request to members, that it would be helpful in the community for residents to 'adopt a pavement' and keep it weeded and clear of obstacles and litter - so I leave that thought with you.

Election of committee members

John Ridge stood down from the committee in 2020 but was particularly thanked for his technical know-how which made it possible for our website to be set up. It was noted that Chris Hoare while remaining on the committee, wishes to stand down as Vice-Chairman; Paul Burlingham agreed to step into this role. Thus, the remaining 6 members of the committee were willing to continue in post. This proposal was agreed by Chris Cole and seconded by Duncan Phelps and the motion carried by all members.

Treasurer's report

The annual accounts run from Jan to December each year and yet subscription normally runs from Sept to August. The committee therefore decided to use the autumn period, when we were uncertain of how effective virtual meetings were going to be, as an opportunity to delay receipt of further subscription to January to bring the 2 events into tandem. This did cause a loss of funds over the year. However, we have been implementing a budget to enable a reserve of one year's expenditure and this enabled us to take this approach for 2020.

We were able to hold two meetings in the Community Centre in early 2020 and then it all changed. From then on, for the rest of the year, we were meeting via zoom. The accounts show that in 2020 income was very sparse, mainly a few subscriptions and donations for tea and coffee. The expenses were for the two Spring meetings and the cost of zoom and the renewal of the website.

Income was £123.76 and expenditure £195.09, meaning a small loss of £71.33. We still had £509.76 in the Bank and Cash to take forward to January 2021.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Funds as at 1 st January 2020		
Lloyds TSB account	581.09	497.58
Cash in Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>22.22</u>
	<u>581.09</u>	<u>519.80</u>
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions (2019/20 session)	30.00	54.00
Membership subscriptions (2020/21 session)	18.00	360.00
Visitors	<u>32.00</u>	<u>12.00</u>
	<u>80.00</u>	<u>426.00</u>
Donation	-	14.00
Donations for Tea & Coffee	18.76	30.09
Donations for AGM Refreshments	-	11.70
Refund from Wickham Switch-on: St Nicholas 900	25.00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>123.76</u>	<u>481.79</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Hire of Houghton Room, Wickham Community Centre: <i>11th Feb & 10th Mar 2020 @ £26.00</i>	52.00	126.00
Shared with Wickham History Society: <i>10th Dec 2019</i>	-	<u>29.03</u>
		155.03
Speaker's Fees & Expenses <i>11th Feb, 10th Mar 2020</i>	60.00	122.93
Shared Expenses for Dec meeting - Refreshments	-	34.24
- Speaker	25.00	30.00
Donation to Wickham Switch-on: St Nicholas 900	-	25.00
AGM Expenses	-	49.85
Tea & Coffee expenses	-	3.45
Stationery and Postage	11.32	-
Zoom charges (Autumn 2020)	28.78	-
Renewal of <i>wickham.org.uk</i>	17.99	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>195.09</u>	<u>420.50</u>
Profit / loss for the year	<u>(71.33)</u>	<u>61.29</u>
Funds as at 31st December 2019		
Lloyds TSB account	491.00	581.09
Cash in Hand	<u>18.76</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>509.76</u>	<u>581.09</u>

Membership has remained static as follows:

Memberships paid	
2017/18	72
2018/19	67
2019/20	65

An impending significant expenditure was noted if the Society returns to meetings at the community centre, as the shared community projector is beginning to show signs of wear and tear and will need to be replaced in the not-too-distant future.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by Duncan Phelps and seconded by Chris Cole and carried by the members present.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.