

Wickham Society

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022

Date: Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7.30pm

Location: Wickham Community Centre

Apologies for absence

20 members and one visitor were present. Apologies were received from Geoff Phillpotts, Jane Gawne, Brian and Heather Oswald, Steve Spencer, Vanessa Burlingham, Chris Hoare, Debbie Brown, Mike Hollis.

The business required of the Society was preceded by a charming talk from Annette McHugh entitled 'On Court at Wimbledon'. She gave an enthralling insight into the role and responsibilities of being an umpire and linesman on court at Wimbledon.

She brought with her some fascinating documents, items of clothing and memorabilia, showing the changes that had occurred during her 40 years in the role. She explained how and why the uniform of the umpires had evolved over the years and the challenges of looking smart in an environment of varying temperatures! Her mementoes included copies of the score sheets of matches she had umpired showing the custom that at the end of each match those players would sign the score sheet. She held signatures of well-known players over the decades that are now historical records as this tradition no longer occurs because the scores are now all recorded electronically. She also described the responsibilities of the linesman and how Wimbledon remains the only international championship where this role is still carried out with trained people and not relying solely on technology. It gave members present a far better understanding of the meticulous planning and arrangements that are undertaken for the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament.

Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes of the 2021 AGM which had been circulated to members in advance were adopted. Proposed by John Steeples and seconded by Jane Turner.

Chairman's address

For the Society 2021 was a year of two halves, our spring season of meetings held virtually and finally the opportunity last October to see each other face to face as we became more confident that the vaccination programme would enable us to return to a more normal way of living.

As you may recall, we started the year under the ice in a submarine, hearing how it works and what life would be like on board, in March we learnt more about the work of the CPRE and in April received an update about Welborne. These meetings all took place online.

With some trepidation, the committee took the decision to proceed with our usual Autumn meetings here at the Community Centre, inviting our new Chairman of the Parish Council, Alistair Hayes, and his wife and fellow councillor, Lorrae to come and meet members of the Society and answer questions about their intentions and aspirations in their new roles. In November, we heard from Geoff Phillpotts about the role that the Wickham Community Land Trust plays in our community.

However, covid was determined to play a part in our schedule, and we took the difficult decision to postpone our December meeting until next month. However, every cloud has a silver lining and it many respects for this particular meeting, to be held at Park Place Pastoral Centre, this will enable us to really get a sense of the place and its purpose, on what we hope will be a sunny May evening.

Based on feedback from members, the committee concluded that holding meetings online does have some advantages – the opportunity to invite speakers from further afield and no necessity for members to go out in the dark and cold. Consequently, we foresee that in future, we will continue to hold our February meeting online. This year, we heard all about the development of the Petersfield Museum via zoom, but I think you will agree that our meeting last month when we heard from two Falkland Veterans and this evening, were examples of how hearing from our speakers in person adds an additional element that cannot be achieved via a screen.

I thank you for your continuing support to the Society. I also particularly want to thank my fellow members of the committee for their assistance during these different and sometimes challenging times. Thanks also go to Steve Brown, husband of Debbie Brown our secretary, who kindly upgraded and improved the Wickham Society website. The great thing now is that you can find it easily on the web! It holds information about the Society and its meetings and also includes correspondence and statements that are in the public domain made on behalf of the Society in recent years to various organisations predominantly about planning issues and will be added to as further issues and documents arise.

My thanks to all those who responded to the licencing application for the Tea Rooms in the Square to take over 6 car parking spaces for further open-air dining. Whilst the concept of continental café culture has an appeal, it cannot be at the expense of parking facilities in an already constrained space and following 72 letters of objection, this application was turned down.

The aspirations and proposals put forward by the parish council last summer to create a football hub at the new Mill Lane development were viewed with significant misgiving by many in the community. Anton Hanney, the then leader of the WRA, decided that pre-emptive action needed to be taken to find out what sports facilities local residents did want to see in this village. Following a meeting he held in August last year, he recruited further people to his committee who carried out an online survey seeking this information. He has now stepped down and handed over the reins to Robert Broad. A very thorough review of their findings was submitted to the Parish council and forms the basis of the continuing pressure they are bringing to this project.

A further meeting organised by the Parish Council was held last Tuesday and from the statements made, I think the Parish Council has listened and heard the message that, although residents can see the merits of improved and additional facilities, they do not share the Parish Council's ambition to make Wickham a football mecca, and while we would all wish to see facilities of a high quality, it needs to be affordable and predominantly for the use of local residents and sporting organisations.

I continue to represent the Society on the Welborne Liaison Group. As you may recall, funding for the Junction 10 upgrade has finally been found and agreed last year. Hampshire County Council (HCC), who will lead on this project are currently selecting contractors for this project. The timescale for completion of this junction is between 2023 and 2025. There will also be peripheral activity on the site north of Knowle Road, some of it repeat surveys due to previous delays. The barns at Hellyers Farm are to be dismantled this year but this will not affect the public footpath nearby. Buckland Development Ltd are in final discussion with 3 regional building companies to take forward the first phase of the development. Information about the design codes they intend to use will be made public very soon. We will make sure that you are notified of this development as soon as we know more. They foresee that approximately 300 houses will be built each year starting in late 2023.

As you will also be aware, a planning application has been made to HCC to use a site on Titchfield Lane for the disposal of inert waste. Whilst this site has been used for this purpose in the past, in the intervening years the road has become a much-used commuter route – sufficient to justify traffic lights at this end of the

road. It also has a weight limit of 7.5 tons. Following alerts from both Wickham Society and Wickham Residents Association, there have been over 120 objections made to this proposal. However, regretfully not from Hampshire Highways. This application is now on the radar of our local County councillor, Patricia Stallard, who recognises its detrimental consequences. We are closely monitoring this application as, in conjunction with the Sandy Lane extraction proposal in Waltham Chase, it could have very adverse consequences for traffic conditions in this village.

As well as these planning issues that have an impact on our community, there is also the matter of the Winchester City Council Local Plan 2039, for which I will go into more detail following the formal part of our AGM. However, at this point in the proceedings, I wish to acknowledge that one of the sites under serious consideration is located behind my garden at the proposed Mayles Lane development and thus there is a risk of a conflict of interest. I have discussed this matter with the committee and they believe that there are adequate checks and audit trails in place within the committee to ensure that a balanced approach will be taken on behalf of the Society in any future dealings on this matter and wish me to continue in my role as Chairman of the Society. However, we all agreed that I should formally bring this to your attention before we proceed with the election of officers and committee members.

Election of committee members

The current 6 members of the committee were willing to continue in post. There was no objection to this proposal. There was no objection to the appointment of David Peters to the committee.

Treasurer's report

A decision was made in the autumn of 2020 not to collect subscriptions for the forthcoming year as we were not sure when, or if, we would be able to meet because of the COVID virus. Instead, we agreed to ask members for their subscriptions in the New Year 2021 and these are shown on the accounts sheet. We will continue to ask for subscriptions in January/February in future years as this is easier for accounting and also aligns with our meetings.

The main item of expenditure was the purchase of a new projector for use by us and other Wickham community groups. We were successful in obtaining a grant from the Asda Foundation which covered the cost of the projector and some refreshments for our Christmas meeting. Unfortunately, that meeting did not take place as planned in December but the money will be put towards our rescheduled meeting in May 2022.

Other expenses were for Speakers' fees, the room hire for two meetings in the autumn, the cost of zoom for the other three meetings and the renewal of the Society's website.

Income was £991.76 and expenditure £727.22, creating a surplus of £264.54. We now have a total of £755.54 in the Bank and cash to take forward to January 2022.

Membership has slightly increased as follows:

2018/19	67
2019/20	65
2021	70

The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Duncan Phelps and seconded by Gerry Banks.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Funds as at 1 st January 2021		
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>
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions (2019/20 session)	-	30.00
Membership subscriptions (2020/21 session)	-	18.00
Membership subscriptions (2021 session)	402.00	
Visitors	<u>18.00</u>	<u>32.00</u>
	<u>420.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>
Donation for Projector & meeting costs	549.00	-
Donation from member	4.00	-
Donations for Tea & Coffee	-	18.76
From cash	18.76	
Refund from Wickham Switch-on: St Nicholas 900	-	25.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>991.76</u>	<u>123.76</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Hire of Houghton Room, Wickham Community Centre: <i>12th Oct & 9th Nov 2021 @ £27.00</i>	54.00	52.00
Speaker's Fees and Expenses	109.99	60.00
Shared Expenses for <i>Dec2020</i> meeting - Speaker	-	25.00
Stationery and Postage	-	11.32
Zoom charges	43.17	28.78
Renewal of <i>wickham.org.uk</i>	60.07	17.99
Purchase of Projector	459.99	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>727.22</u>	<u>195.09</u>
Profit / loss for the year	<u>264.54</u>	<u>(71.33)</u>
Funds as at 31st December 2021		
Lloyds TSB account	747.54	491.00
Cash in Hand	<u>8.00</u>	<u>18.76</u>
	<u>755.54</u>	<u>509.76</u>

The formal part of the meeting closed at 8.50 pm