

Wickham Society

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2023

Date: Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.30pm

Location: Wickham Community Centre

Apologies for absence

32 members and one visitor were present. Apologies were received from Chris and Melissa Judd, Ted Kemp, Tony Johnson, Chris Dore, Jane Turner and Chris Hoare.

Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes of the 2022 AGM which had been circulated to members in advance were adopted. Proposed by Philip Greenish and seconded by Pete Burke.

Chairman's address

As I reflect on the past year, it was a busy one on a number of planning fronts but at least covid did not disrupt our programme of meetings any further.

In February, we welcomed Ryan Watts from Petersfield Museum, who gave a detailed account of the redevelopment of the Museum and invited us to drop in, if only for a coffee, when next visiting Petersfield. In March, to coincide with the 40th anniversary, we heard very moving first-hand accounts from Ian Young and Alan Baxter, Falklands Veterans of their experiences on sea and land during that war and the impact it had on them afterwards. In April, Annette McHugh brought a wide variety of memorabilia from her time as a Wimbledon umpire and in May we held our delayed Christmas 2021 meeting at Park Place, where Sister Evelyn gave us a fascinating insight into the history and role of Park Place in our community – followed by the opportunity to purchase delightful Indian food and gifts.

Last October, Simon Warnick, told us about the benefits and challenges of living alongside Wickham Common – which despite living here for many decades I was completely unaware of! In November, we learned about the role of the Independent Monitoring Board in the prison from Angus Sommerville, a longstanding member of the Board and in December we were able to take a trip down memory lane as Stephen Hoadley reminded us of domestic appliances of yesteryear.

It proved to be a busy year regarding planning issues. In late December 2021, we became aware of a planning application to transport inert waste to a site in Titchfield Lane, with the suggestion that 12 large lorries per hour would be manoeuvring along the lane and potentially travelling on through Wickham. On behalf of the Society, we submitted a letter of objection along with many other concerned residents and organisations. The applicant has submitted a further report to Hampshire County Council claiming that with a little cutting back of foliage, the proposal is safe. We continue to monitor the situation and local councillors are now very aware of the community's concerns. At one point a claim was made that this application was necessary to support Welborne. I was able to advise HCC that this was not the intention for Welborne and the claim was rescinded. We hope the outcome will prevent lorries travelling to and from the north of the site at the very least. I understand from the case officer that there is still further information from the applicant awaited but it should be going to the planning committee in the near future.

Early last year, I raised concerns with the Parish Clerk about the future maintenance of the Glebe, which is due to be transferred to the parish on a 125-year lease once all the houses at Wykeham Vale are sold. In May, I submitted a proposal to the Parish Council suggesting that a working group should be set up to look into this matter, which the Parish Council finally agreed to in October. I am delighted that representatives from a number of village organisations expressed interest in being involved – including the Wickham History Society and ourselves. The group is being led by Mark Ashton, who has a strong interest in the environment and the group has already sought advice and gained support from a number of relevant organisations including the South Downs National Park. The archaeology under the Glebe is of such importance that the open space has been placed under the protection of the Council Archaeologist. Over the last century, we have lost 98% of our wild flower meadows, so to have the potential for a wild flower meadow to regenerate in our own community is a wonderful opportunity and the working group are undertaking great steps to enable this piece of land to be a benefit to the environment and community.

In the weeks preceding the deadline for feedback regarding the District Local Plan, we successfully made representation to the Parish Council and District Council about why the parish should not accept more housing beyond that already planned for land north of Ravenswood. At the final hour, our argument was accepted!

While welcoming the redevelopment of Buddens Yard, we raised concerns to Winchester City Council about the impact on already overstretched parking facilities and risks to neighbours – and to Hampshire County Council we wrote in support of residents in the Meon Valley asking for action to prevent the River Meon being used by motor bikes and 4-wheel drive cars as a splash route.

As you may be aware, the Wickham Residents' Association has been active and vocal in their opposition to the original proposals by the Parish Council for the development of Mill Lane as a football hub. Last summer they also raised concerns regarding the governance of the proposed stakeholder forum. When they brought these to our attention, we too shared their concerns. Following a frank discussion with leading parish councillors on these matters, agreement was reached to enable the forum to be led by an experienced project manager who was independent of the council. The forum has been meeting regularly over the winter months. At the latest meeting the members have been concentrating on the financial viability of the site depending on what facilities are provided. It is anticipated that options for site plans are to be presented at the Parish Assembly in May for residents to comment on. In the meantime, the Parish Council has started negotiations for the lease for the site and pre-planning discussions have commenced. The next MLSGM will be on 30th March and members of the public are more than welcome to attend. Through our representation on this forum, we continue to be vigilant in trying to ensure that any proposals, while providing improved and additional facilities, need 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. Fareham Borough Council has set up their own Welborne Community Forum, chaired by Sean Woodward, which I have also been invited to attend. Buckland Developments Ltd held an open day to introduce details of their chosen builders who will be developing the site. They have updated their website at www.welborne.co.uk. I do recommend that you review it and register with them for future updates. Activity on the land is now beginning in a limited way – regretfully already with consequences on the A32 overnight for which I did raise concerns about the lack of access to services at Queen Alexandra Hospital overnight coinciding with the continuing closure of Southwick Road.

I remind you that all the correspondence from the Society in the public domain regarding the issues mentioned can be found on our website. www.wickhamsociety.org.uk

I thank you for your continuing support to the Society and also particularly want to thank my fellow members of the committee for their assistance to me during the last year, particularly David Peters for representing the Society at the Mill Lane Forum and Paul Burlingham for representing the Society in the Glebe working group.

Election of committee members

The current 7 members of the committee were willing to continue in post. There were no objections to this proposal.

Treasurer's report

We started the year with £747.54 in the bank and £8.00 cash.

Membership subscriptions for 2022 were collected at the beginning of the calendar year rather than in the Autumn. This has worked really well, making it easier for accounting and also aligns with our meetings. There was an increase in membership which was really pleasing. Also, we had an increase in the number of visitors last year, but this was mainly at the joint Park Place meeting in May and their contributions were shared with the Wickham History Society.

The main item of expenditure in 2022 was the cost of the additional May meeting that was carried over from December 2021 with a payment to Park Place for the Speaker and use of their premises. The refreshments for that event were paid for out of a donation from Asda in 2021. Other expenses were for room hire for four meetings in the Community Centre, the February meeting being held on Zoom, speakers' fees, and the renewal of the website. We also purchased a cable mat to be shared by other community groups who made a contribution.

Income was £653.58 and expenditure £710.51. We had £698.61 in the Bank and Cash at the end of 2022 to take forward to January 2023. As we made a loss this year it may be time to review our annual subscription. This has been £6.00 per person for at least 10 years and costs and expenses are rising. I will therefore be recommending a small increase to the committee for 2024.

Membership has increased as follows:

2019/20	65	
2021	70	
2022	74	
2023	50	To date

The accounts were proposed by David Peters and seconded by Vanessa Burlingham.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Funds as at 1st January 2022		
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>
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions (2022 session)	444.00	402.00
Membership subscriptions (2023 session)	18.00	-
Visitors	<u>74.00</u>	<u>18.00</u>
	<u>536.00</u>	<u>420.00</u>

Contribution towards Cable Mat – Men’s Breakfast	12.00	-
Contribution towards Cable Mat – Wickham History Soc.	13.00	-
Donation for Projector & meeting costs	-	549.00
Donations from members	15.00	4.00
Donations for Tea & Coffee (<i>11th Oct & 8th Nov</i>)	12.21	-
Payment from Wickham History Society (May meeting)	61.12	-
Refund from Wickham History Society (Christmas)	4.25	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>653.58</u>	<u>973.00</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Hire of Houghton Room, Wickham Community Centre: <i>8th Mar, 12th Apr, 11th Oct, 8th Nov @ £14.50 per hour</i>	123.25	54.00
Speaker’s Fees and Expenses	176.94	109.99
Shared Expenses for May meeting (<i>Park Place</i>)	170.25	-
To Wickham History Society for shared December meeting	85.37	-
Purchase of Cable Mat	34.79	-
Purchase of Projector	-	459.99
Renewal of <i>wickham.org.uk</i>	71.99	60.07
Zoom charges	-	43.17
Local Plan training fee	35.00	-
Tea & coffee expenses	12.92	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>710.51</u>	<u>727.22</u>
Profit / loss for the year	<u>(56.93)</u>	<u>245.78</u>
Funds as at 31st December 2022		
Lloyds TSB account	698.61	747.54
Cash in Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8.00</u>
	<u>698.61</u>	<u>755.54</u>

Please note that the above accounts have been amended to reflect the true profit/loss for the year i.e. £56.93 rather than the previously recorded £48.93.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 7.50 pm and was followed by a presentation from Sandy Phillips-Lee on the role of a Registrar in 21st century.