

Wickham Society



Annual General Meeting Minutes 2025

Date: Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Location: Wickham Community Centre

Apologies for absence

21 members and 2 visitors were present. Apologies were received from Paul and Vanessa Burlingham, David and Heather Peters, Sue Pittam, Rosemary Crane, Robert Goulson, David Evans, Steve and Margaret Spencer, Chris Hoare, Melissa and Chris Judd, Heather Oswald, Ted Kemp, Nic and Kathryn Holladay, Sue Eyley, Andrew and Alison Forbes, John Steeples, Peter O'Neil, Rosemary O'Leary and Gerry Banks. It was noted that a high number of apologies had been received as the meeting had regrettably clashed with the welcoming ceremony at Shedfield Church for Fiona Groves, our new rector.

Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes of the 2024 AGM which had been circulated to members in advance were adopted. Proposed by Martin Rogers and seconded by Sylvia Wells. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's address

Prior to the meeting the Chairman and Treasurer's reports had been circulated to members – as detailed below.

Chairman's Report for 2024

In 2024, the committee comprised of:

Chair: Wendy Greenish

Vice Chair: Paul Burlingham

Treasurer: Rosemary O'Leary until April 2024 then Brian Oswald

Secretary: Deborah Brown (Standing down at 2025 AGM)

Committee members: Jane Turner, David Peters

During the year, the committee has met both in person and virtually to consider future meeting arrangements and programmes, significant planning concerns and issues and feedback from committee members from any external meetings or events attended relating to the Society's purpose and activities.

Society meetings

A variety of topics were presented to members at our meetings during 2024. In March, we enjoyed an enthusiastic and enlightening talk from Caitlin Coombes, of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, about a crucial, new, nature-based recovery project to restore some of the Solent's most imperilled habitats. In April, Wendy, in her capacity as a Trustee of Rowans Hospice, gave a talk about the challenges, post covid, faced by Rowans Hospice and many other charities and in May, Fiona Gray, Director of Place at Buckland Developments, gave an update on events at Welborne.

Our Autumn programme started with a presentation by Mark Porter, who proved to be a far more eminent person than previously realised as not only is he the Hampshire County Organiser and a Trustee of the National Gardens Scheme, but he is also a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society and more recently has become Chairman of Britian in Bloom – a true supporter of all things horticultural! In November, we welcomed representatives from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance service, who gave an insight into the work and ambitions for this charity that can be a real lifeline for some people in an emergency. In December we joined members of the History Society to hear of tales from the 'Ministering Angel' who worked at Netley Hospital, known as Nursing Superintendent Shaw (aka Jane Glennie), a good friend and colleague of Florence Nightingale. A wide variety of topics covered over the year!

Planning issues

1. **Titchfield Lane** – While the original planning application in December 2021 submitted to HCC to transport inert waste to a site in Titchfield Lane was withdrawn just before it was scheduled to be heard by the HCC planning committee in the autumn of 2023, a further application has been submitted to WCC to install solar panels and supporting infrastructure at various locations on Titchfield Lane. The Parish Councils of Wickham and Shedfield and several residents have expressed significant concerns about the proposals and its impact on local amenities - whilst at the same time recognising the positive contribution the proposal would make to the detrimental effects of climate change. Whilst information about this planning proposal was circulated to members, a letter on behalf of the Society was not forwarded to WCC as it was not a matter where the committee felt able to confidently reflect members' opinion.
2. **WCC Local Plan 2020 – 2040 (emerging)** – The Local Plan sets out how it is intended to accommodate the growth we need to plan for in the district, outside the South Downs National Park, for the period up to 2040. This plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in November 2024, and she is currently undertaking her review. 200 homes on land north of Ravenswood at Knowle, 60 homes east of Wykeham Vale and 40 homes north of Houghton Gardens in Mill Lane were included within the Plan for the housing allocation for this parish.

Current key dates:

- Examination of the current Local Plan – April to June 2025
- TBC – consultation on the proposed modifications to the Local Plan April to Sept 2025
- Commence work on a review of the next Local Plan – July to September 2025
- Adoption of the current Local Plan – October to December 2025
- First consultation of the review of the Local Plan – July to September 2026
- Second consultation of the review of the Local Plan – October to December 2027
- Examination of the review of the Local Plan – January to March 2028
- Adoption of the revised Local Plan – late 2020's *assuming that there is no delay in the secondary legislation to be published in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act*

On behalf of the Society, a letter was forwarded to the Inspector, welcoming the proposal that any further development in Wickham should not take place before 2030, but asking if the intervening period could be used to consult with residents more widely and robustly about the future locations of any further housing projects.

3. **Croudace planning application** – a premature planning application was submitted late last year to build 60 homes beyond Wykeham Vale. Whilst this site has been included in the WCC Local Plan as a site for development, this is not intended to happen before 2030. A letter of objection for the above reasons was submitted by the Society. The application was turned down.
4. **The Glebe** – the Society, through Paul Burlingham, continues to have representation on the working group that was formed in 2022 under the leadership of Mark Ashton to support the development of the north part of the Glebe into an open space for the community. There are still outstanding steps needed to enable the transfer of ownership of the Glebe to the Parish Council, however the team have not been idle and anticipate being in position to share their plans for the area with residents next month during a series of public consultation events.
5. **Mill Lane open ground** – the options for the use of this piece of land donated to the Parish as part of the Section 106 agreement for Bishopsgate have been reviewed and considered by the Parish Council during the past year, particularly through the Recreation Committee. These revised proposals include a change of use for the site from predominantly sports facilities to one that while including exercise and games use takes advantage of its location alongside the boundary to

South Downs Park. Along with the proposals for the Glebe, they will be put out for consultation to residents.

6. **Welborne** – members of the committee have continued to represent the Society on the Welborne Stakeholder Liaison Group and on the Fareham Borough Council (FBC) Welborne Community Forum. Agreement has been reached to enable health provision at Welborne after the first phase of the development. Plans for the first village centre with its community hall, cafes, shops pub and houses have been submitted with a view to start construction in the next year. The first houses on the site are now up for sale, while the reconfiguration of junction 10 on the M27 is beginning to be realised. More information can be found on: [M27 schemes - National Highways](#)
To receive updates on the Junction 10 road closures etc. register at [M27 Junction 10 sign-up form](#)
To view the latest news about Welborne go to: [Welborne Garden Village](#)

Other issues

Late last year, following consultation within the committee, a letter was sent on behalf of the Society to the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairs of each subcommittee to raise concern about the lack of information on their website, both prior and post Parish Council meetings. Our request for a timelier display of supporting documents and minutes of meetings was responded to very positively and we are very grateful to the new Parish Clerk for overcoming previous technical problems so promptly.

Steps have been taken to set up a Neighbourhood Planning group. Philip Greenish has been appointed as Chair with Kim Donald as Vice Chair, with representation from both Knowle and Wickham.

There were no questions raised about the items and topics covered in the report, and therefore Wendy handed over to Brian for his report as detailed below:

Treasurer's Report for 2024

It is a privilege to be back as Treasurer, after an absence of 12 years. My sincere thanks go to Rosemary O'Leary, who not only kept the finances in good order, but provided a very well-prepared handover in April 2024, continued to help during the year, and inspected the 2024 Annual Accounts.

OVERVIEW

- The accounts closed with just short of £700 at the end of the year. This represents a “profit” of about £33 over the year.
- Although the Society remains fully solvent, the numbers don't tell the whole story. We had two items of unexpected income which can be regarded as “windfall”:
 - An *ex-gratia* payment of £30 from Lloyds Bank, to compensate for a lot of extra hassle that arose during the handover process.
 - Around £45 of extra income in the form of Visitors' fees at our successful “Welborne Update” meeting in May.
- Without this £75, we would have seen an overall loss during the year of around £40, which is a little more than the £33 loss that arose in 2023.

2024 INCOME

- Membership income rose by £72, as Membership numbers increased from 68 to 80. Visitor income rose by £57, but the majority of this was at the May Welborne meeting, possibly a one-off.

2024 EXPENDITURE

- Expenditure for the year increased by a little under £62

- This was due mainly to increased fees/donations to Speakers, and additional costs associated with the December meeting (shared with Wickham History Society)
- Web-hosting cost increased by £5, and we incurred a very small cost in the form of transaction fees (1.69%) for the use of the Sum-Up Credit Card facility.

2025 FORECAST

- Our overall financial position remains solid, but our 2025 financial year will see some key increases:
 - Lloyds Bank has abandoned free-to-operate “Community Accounts” with effect from January 2025, and ours is now classed as a “Business Account”, attracting monthly Bank Charges which depend on the level of usage. These charges are likely to total around £55 in 2025. Many other local Community Groups have seen similar changes, and some have identified alternative “free” banking services, but their experiences have seldom been positive. Some alternative accounts have turned out not to be free after all, and in some cases the process of changing away from Lloyds has been far from straightforward. It is also quite likely that other bank account providers will ‘follow the pack’ and introduce charges. We continue to keep the matter under review, but plan to stay with Lloyds for the time being.
 - Community Centre Room Hire charges increased in November 2024, incurring an additional £2 per meeting.
 - We expect the cost of website hosting to increase in line with inflation.
 - It is unclear whether we will see any increase in the “going rate” for good-quality Speakers.
 - Membership numbers could fall back to their historical average of about 70.
 - The Society last increased the Membership Subscription in 2011 (from £5 to £6 per Member).
 - Our Membership Year runs from January to December, so any increase in subscriptions agreed at the 2025 AGM will not impact the 2025 Accounts in any case. If we achieve 75 paid-up Members in 2025, at the current subscription rate of £6, we could expect our assets to fall by around £200 during the year.

Brian Oswald (Hon. Treasurer) 6th May 2025

PROPOSALS

- The proposal to increase the current membership fee from £6-per-head to £8 from January 2026 and visitor charge from £2-per-person to £2.50 from September 2025 was proposed by Mike Hollis and seconded by Philip Greenish and carried by those present.
- The proposal to adopt the 2024 Audited Accounts was proposed by Jane Gawne and seconded by Martin Rogers, supported by all members present. (Statement overleaf)

Election of officers and committee members

Wendy thanked all the committee members for their continuing support and welcomed Brian’s return to the committee and thanked him and Rosemary for their continuing financial input to the Society. She informed members that Debbie Brown had stood down at the AGM from the committee following a change of job that was taking her away from the area more frequently.

Wendy then formally asked that as all remaining committee members were willing to continue in office in their current roles, she asked if there are any objections to the remaining committee members being collectively appointed? There were no objections to this proposal. She reminded members that if anyone else would like to join the committee to contact her.

This concluded the formal part of the AGM at 7.55pm. The meeting then resumed with a talk from Philip Greenish about Universities and their role in the UK.

**WICKHAM SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Funds as at 1st January	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Lloyds Bank Business Account	665.43	698.61
Cash in Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>665.43</u>	<u>698.61</u>
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions (80 Members in 2024 session, 68 in 2023)	480.00	408.00
Visitors (26 at the Welborne meeting, 2 or 3 at each of the others)	<u>73.00</u>	<u>16.00</u>
	<u>553.00</u>	<u>424.00</u>
Donations from members	5.00	4.00
Donations for Tea & Coffee	32.46	41.83
Refund from Wickham History Society (Christmas)	-	22.91
Ex gratia compensation payment, Lloyds Bank transfer delay	30.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>620.46</u>	<u>492.74</u>
EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
Hire of Houghton Room, Wickham Community Centre: (4 eves)	126.00	150.00
Hire of Woodford Suite, W.C.C. (May 2024, Dec 2023)	49.00	58.75
Speaker's Fees, Expenses (5 meetings excluding shared Christmas mtg)	220.95	176.90
Refreshments for shared December meeting	75.80	78.08
<i>To Wickham History Society for shared December meeting. Includes half share of Woodford Suite hire, food, Speaker's fee, and Visitors, minus half share of Refreshments.</i>	58.40	
Tea & coffee expenses	-	10.20
Renewal of <i>wickham.org.uk</i> website hosting service	56.99	51.99
SumUp Credit Card payment fees (1.69% of £35 - <i>comprising £20 part Subscription fees, £14 visitors, and £1 ex gratia test-payment donation</i>)	0.60	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>587.74</u>	<u>525.92</u>
Profit / loss for the year, Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>32.72</u>	<u>(33.18)</u>
Funds as at 31st December 2024		
Lloyds Bank account	607.09	665.43
Cash in Hand	91.06	0.00
	<u>698.15</u>	<u>665.43</u>
Accounts inspected by Rosemary O'Leary	Brian Oswald (Treasurer)	