

Wimbish Parish Council
Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on 3rd April, 2019 7.30 p.m.
in the Sports Pavilion, Tye Green, Wimbish.

Present: Mike Young, Edward Browne, Ray Searle, Phil Northern Lynne Ward-Booth and Ian Porter.

In attendance: Tracy Coston (Clerk)

Public: 0

1. Apologies for Absence: Lindy Scanlan, Tina Knight, Simon Walsh.

2. Annual Report by Chairman:

Throughout the year I have been very grateful to have had the support of my fellow councillors and I would like to thank them for their efforts and contributions towards the various issues facing the council. I would particularly like to express my thanks to Ted Browne, our Vice Chairman, who continues to do numerous voluntary jobs around the village.

The Parish Council has continued to have had the strong and able support of our District Councillor, Tina Knight, and our County Councillor, Simon Walsh. But because of increased cabinet commitments, Simon has been unable to attend any meeting this year.

And, of course, we continue to benefit from the services of our extremely capable and professional Parish Clerk, Tracy Coston, who continually surprises us with her ability to discover and succeed in obtaining grants for various improvements in the village.

There follows below a brief summary of each of the main activities during the year.

Unfortunately, the problems with school transport from Carver Barracks still persist. Following a meeting at the barracks the army is attempting to draw up a full listing showing which addresses qualify for free transport to which school. A draft listing is still showing some apparent anomalies but once these are resolved it is hoped to present the listings to the County Council for confirmation.

For almost three years the council has been persistently chasing ECC to repair the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the parish. Three are now working but we still await news on what action will be taken on the others.

Concerns remain about activities on some common land within the parish. The council agreed a formal policy last year and there has been some correspondence on the issue in the current year. But it appears likely that the council will need to seek legal advice concerning future action.

Following problems with vehicles driving onto the recreation ground, a series of wooded "bollards" were installed last year. Some problems remained and a small number of additional "bollards" were installed to deter unauthorised access.

During the year the occupiers of Home Pasture Stud applied to have the agricultural restriction lifted on a proposed new build. The application was refused by the district council and a subsequent appeal was dismissed.

Investigations concerning council and the electoral roll revealed that, although the Parish Council appeared to be receiving the correct council tax, some properties were not on the correct electoral roll. This has now been rectified.

A competition was launched to find the best front garden in the parish and a small cash prize was offered. It was judged by a local horticulturalist, Liz Bicknell, and the winner was Joan Raynor of The Leys, Tye Green. It is hoped to make it an annual event.

A planning application has been made to extend the White Hart public house and a request made that it be registered as an Asset of Community Value. The Council agreed to this request and the matter is in hand.

The book on the history of Wimbish, "Wimbish through the Centuries" by Isobel Wiseman is now available from Amazon with profits from this new printing going to the Church. The book has therefore been taken down from the village website with just a small extract being shown.

Following a request for financial assistance a grant of £250 was made to the Wimbish Good Companions. The Parish Clerk was also able to assist the organisation to get a grant of £300 from the district council.

Some new climbing equipment has been ordered for the play area on the recreation ground. Half of the cost is being met from a grant from the district council.

One very welcome development is that the army are now planning to attend council meetings. A representative attended the February meeting and it is proposed that they attend every three of four months.

The Parish Council rate for 2019/20 was set in January and remains unchanged from the previous year. This is the eleventh year running that we have been able to set a rate at virtually the same level.

The last event of the year was the litter pick, now in its sixteenth year. It was encouraging that this year we had rather more helpers and the number of bags filled was 49, only just short of last year's record 51.

3. **Annual Report by Responsible Financial Officer:** The accounts were distributed; no questions were asked.
4. **Annual Report from District Councillor:** No report given.
5. **Annual Report from County Councillor:** Report held on file.
6. **Any other questions:** None

The meeting finished at 8pm

Signed

.....

Date

.....