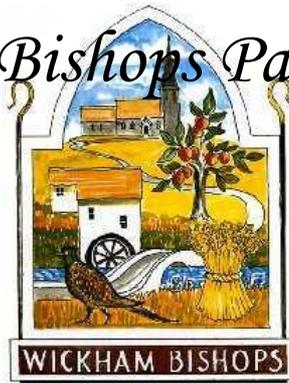


# Wickham Bishops Parish Council



*Parish Councillors:*

I S F MacGregor (Chairman)  
 Mrs A Mickelsen (Vice Chairman)  
 H M Bass  
 P J Bates  
 Mrs R Johnson  
 S J Nicholas  
 Mrs R M Pink CBE  
 B F Sayers  
 I D Wardrop

*Parish Clerk:*

Mrs L J Rowland  
 Wickham Bishops Parish Council  
 The Village Hall  
 Church Road  
 Wickham Bishops  
 Essex  
 CM8 3JZ

07542 190176

[info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org](mailto:info@wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org)

[www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org](http://www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org)

<b>MINUTES</b>	
<b>Of Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8.45 pm in the Village Hall Boardroom</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>A15/01</b>	<p><b>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p><b>In the chair:</b> Cllr MacGregor</p> <p><b>Present:</b> Cllrs Bates, Johnson, Mickelsen, Nicholas, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop; the Clerk.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr Bass.</p> <p>There were eighteen members of the public present including the Community Agent for Maldon Mrs Christine McDonald.</p>
<b>A15/02</b>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Johnson, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p>
<b>A15/03</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
<b>A15/04</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Remarks</b></p> <p>Cllr MacGregor reported that the Parish Council had a full complement of nine elected Councillors and welcomed Cllr Nicholas to his first annual Assembly. The Chairman acknowledged that the year had had its challenges with drainage issues and an increase in planning applications and spoke of the professionalism and enthusiasm that Councillors had brought in attending to these matters. The Chairman thanked all Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work and diligence throughout.</p> <p>The Chairman highlighted the introduction of monthly Parish Council Surgeries to which residents are invited to discuss any issues with a Parish or District Councillor. Cllr MacGregor gave the dates of the next two meetings, being Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, and explained that the latter date will also be attended by PCSO Victoria Hayden giving parishioners an opportunity to meet a local PCSO to raise crime and policing matters.</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor explained that there would be updates to follow on three key areas of interest – these being Maldon District Council's Local Development Plan, the Snows Corner development and Speedwatch &amp; Traffic Calming.</p>
<b>A15/05</b>	<p><b>The Maldon District Council Local Development Plan</b></p> <p>The Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Sayers read out that day's press release from Maldon District Council. The statement was a response to the 8<sup>th</sup> May Interim Findings of the Planning Inspectorate which deemed one policy of the LDP unsound. Whilst expressing shock and concern at the Interim Findings, MDC noted that the Planning Inspector made no reference to other policies in his Findings and therefore the District Council will continue to enforce and implement these policies in order to cater for future needs and provide for associated infrastructure. Cllr Sayers</p>

<b>MINUTES</b> <b>Of Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8.45 pm in the Village Hall Boardroom</b>	
	commented that taken together with recent appeal decisions, MDC has established a five-year land supply and so the location of future planning applications will be judged accordingly.
	The Chairman introduced to the Assembly Mrs Christine MacDonald, Maldon Community Agent. Mrs MacDonald explained her role representing an initiative that supports older people and their carers. A number of services were highlighted that were designed to help people to remain in their own homes.
<b>A15/06</b>	<p><b>The Snows Corner Development</b></p> <p>Cllr Sayers read out a statement prepared by Mr James Taylor of English Rural Housing Association which explained how the proposal was developed in consultation with the public and received final planning approval in March 2015. The range of private and affordable housing available was given along with the typical criteria interested parties would need to meet, to qualify for the discounted homes. English Rural HA's plans to hold a further Public Information Event later in the year, at which the projected rents and prices for the affordable homes would be revealed, were discussed and all interested local people were invited to attend.</p> <p>Cllr Sayers then highlighted the recently-elected Conservative Government's manifesto policy to extend the Right-To-Buy to Housing Association tenants. Previously Right-To-Buy was available only to Council tenants, and not in 'rural exception' areas – rural communities of fewer than 3,000 inhabitants – due to the limited amount of local housing available for Council tenancies. English Rural HA has written to Prime Minister Mr David Cameron seeking assurance that the 'rural exception' policy will also apply to Housing Association properties. A response from the Prime Minister advised that the details of the scheme extension were yet to be established.</p>
<b>A15/07</b>	<p><b>Speedwatch and Traffic Calming Measures</b></p> <p>Cllr Ian Wardrop explained that following last year's implementation of dragons' teeth and 30mph roundels Essex County Council had this year approved a moveable Speed Indicating Device and mounting poles for six locations for Wickham Bishops. ECC's Local Highways Panel has recommended a Pedestrian Conflict Survey following the SID installation to establish if a coloured road surface on The Street near The Mitre would be beneficial. Cllr Wardrop added that other measures including white village gateways with road narrowing and extending the 30mph zone in Church Road towards Mope Lane are being validated for suitability by the LHP. Further reports will be available following the June LHP meeting, at which it is hoped that requests for additional footways around the village and a sign for the bus stop at Snows Corner will also be progressed.</p> <p>A total of 970 vehicles had been recorded exceeding speed limits in the year. Numbers of speeding vehicles are thought to be reducing giving hope that Speedwatch is having a positive effect on driver behaviour. Speeds observed on Witham Road continue to be of concern to the Speedwatch team and to the Police; due to Speedwatch data the Police now carry out frequent checks in this area. Cllr Wardrop concluded by thanking the volunteers of the Speedwatch team.</p>
<b>A15/08</b>	<p><b>Questions from the Public</b></p> <p>A parishioner asked when the flooding on Witham Road would be resolved. The Chairman advised that it is one of four areas in the village that have outstanding flooding problems; all these issues are subject to frequent and on-going efforts by County Cllr Rodney Bass and District Cllr Henry Bass to have them fixed.</p> <p>A resident thanked the Parish Councillors for their work and acknowledged the voluntary capacity of the role. The Chairman in turn thanked the resident Mr David Pearl for his horticultural efforts at the library triangle, and concluded the meeting by welcoming Revd Hilary Le Sève to Wickham Bishops.</p>
<b>A15/09</b>	<b>Close of Assembly 9.25 pm</b>