

# 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  
 Mrs R M Pink CBE  
 B F Sayers  
 I D Wardrop



*Parish Clerk:*

Mrs L J Rowland  
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<b>MINUTES</b>	
<b>Of Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Those Present and Apologies for Absence</b>  <b>In the chair:</b> Cllr MacGregor  <b>Present:</b> Cllrs Bass, Bates, Johnson, Mickelsen, Pink, Sayers and Wardrop; County Councillor R Bass; the Clerk  <b>Apologies for absence:</b> Mr. M. Letch, PC L. Keene, Mr. C. Hudson            9 members of the public were present.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b>  <b>Resolved.</b> The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were approved as a true record by all who had been present at the time.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>            The Chairman spoke of the councillor vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Jacob for personal reasons and asked the public to consider applying for the role. Cllr Jacob gave 6 years' service to the Parish, particularly on environmental matters, and the Parish Council is grateful for her contribution.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b>            Cllr MacGregor welcomed the Clerk to her role and Cllr Wardrop to his first annual Assembly. The Chairman acknowledged that the year had had its challenges and successes and thanked all councillors and especially Cllr Mickelsen for their hard work and dedication throughout.</p> <p>Cllr MacGregor explained that there would be updates to follow on two key areas of interest, these being the Snows Corner proposal and Speedwatch &amp; Traffic Calming, and a report from County Cllr Rodney Bass.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Snows Corner Planning Application Update</b>            Cllr Sayers reported that local feedback on the proposals regarding the fencing and wooded area to the north, traffic movement and the road layout had now been incorporated.            Maldon District Council is awaiting reports from ECC Highways and the Water and Electric Boards. The application is expected to go before MDC's 2<sup>nd</sup> June Planning Meeting for determination.            Cllr Sayers informed the Assembly that there had been a lot of interest in both the open-market</p>

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	and affordable-home properties with a number of names registered for potential purchase.
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Speedwatch and Traffic Calming Measures</b></p> <p>Cllr Wardrop reported the results of the Speedwatch project and progress of traffic calming measures in the village. It was noted that this will form part of the Parish Council's Annual Report. A question was asked about the speedwatch gun and Cllr Wardrop explained that it is the laser type, of evidential quality. Following a presentation on the successes of the Speedwatch initiative, Great Totham Parish Council is considering a similar project.</p> <p>Cllr Wardrop expressed his gratitude to the Speedwatch volunteers for their dedication.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Report from County Councillor Bass</b></p> <p>County Cllr Bass reflected on his re-election last year and subsequent re-appointment to the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. County Cllr Bass explained that, following completion of this four year term in 2017, he will have served local government continuously for 50 years and stated his intention that he would not seek re-election.</p> <p>County Cllr Bass reported that for the fourth consecutive year ECC has frozen the Council Tax and levied an unchanged precept for its services. Emergency provision of £1M was made in February for flood alleviation of the Essex road network. Essex Districts were asked to nominate their 5 worst hotspots and locally these included Maypole Road and Goldhanger Road, Heybridge. ECC will be addressing these as a matter of urgency and is still trying to address problems in Mope Lane.</p> <p>County Cllr Bass talked about additional road repairs and flood relief work being funded by ECC and extra capital works to address the backlog of potholes.</p> <p>The local District Highways Panel will continue to be supported with a budget for small improvement schemes of £400k. The Rangers budget of some £80k will be supplemented by up to £50k from ECC if matched by District Council funds, giving a potential £180k budget which would make an enormous difference to local verges, hedges and ditches.</p> <p>County Cllr Bass acknowledged the Speedwatch and traffic calming measures already done and planned, and concluded by expressing optimism for the local economy and future.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Public Speaking</b></p> <p>A resident expressed frustration that flooding in Wickham Hall Lane has not yet been addressed. County Cllr Bass responded by acknowledging that ECC has not yet met its responsibility to clear the blocked drains due to the unexpected workload created by extreme weather earlier in the year. County Cllr Bass stated that whilst the work would certainly be done he could not yet give a date until higher priority issues were overcome.</p> <p>A parishioner asked whether alleviation of regular flooding at the junction of Church Road and Blacksmiths Lane was also planned; Cllr MacGregor replied that he would ensure it was reported.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Close of Assembly</b></p> <p>Cllr MacGregor reminded the Assembly that the monthly surgery will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in the Village Hall.</p> <p>There being no further business the Assembly was closed at 8.10pm.</p>

**These minutes were approved at the Annual Parish Assembly on 12 May 2015.**