

WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (WRA)

Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes 2022

Date: Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.00pm

Location: The Woodford Suite, Wickham Community Centre

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the Acting Chair.

2. Apologies for absence:

44 members were present. There were nine apologies. Four members had submitted proxies.

3. Background to current organisation & aims, means of communication.

The Chairman, Robert Broad, sent his apologies due to illness. Nic Holladay, as a committee member, stood in as Acting Chairman. He welcomed members mentioning that since the WRA's survey last autumn, membership, with a valid postcode and address, had doubled to nearly 200. He introduced the current committee: Kathryn Holladay (Secretary), Wendy House (Treasurer), Steve Brown (Membership secretary).

The Acting Chair outlined the background of the organisation. Anton Hanney, former Chairman, had stood down and recruited the current committee as a steering group last year. The WRA communicates with members via email update, the website, Facebook and by hand. A monthly article is featured in the Parish Magazine. All members' personal data is held under GDPR regulations that are available on the website.

4. Chairman's report

The steering group's first survey to assess residents' response to the **Mill Lane sports plan** had 653 replies, approximately 30% of the local population of various ages. 91% of respondents did not want a Wessex League football pitch on the site. A Need Assessment, revised Need Assessment and Masterplan has been produced by Wickham Parish Council (WPC) but it still seems to feature a Wessex League standard football pitch although some of the WRA survey suggestions have been included.

Plans have been submitted for a **solar farm** on the former Funtley tip on Titchfield Lane. This will involve 1.4m tonnes of landfill waste being dumped at the site to raise it by 3-5m. requiring approximately 88 HGV trips per day for 5 years. Nic Holladay and 2 members have met with HCC councillor, Patricia Stallard and the planning case officer on the site and challenges to the application raised.

Some residents were caused considerable concern by receiving letters from **Southern Water** regarding a pipeline proposal through the village. WRA raised the issue and letters of apology have been sent out by Southern Water.

Flooding problems for residents resulting from the clearing of topsoil as part of the Bewley homes development are still being tackled with the local MP and the builder's management.

The extension of **Wickham Surgery** last year, continues to be pursued with the Care Commissioning Group. There is no clear confirmation yet that Welborne patients will not be using the surgery.

Traffic, parking and safety issues are still being addressed with respect to Wickham Square and the village in general. Traffic and parking were major concerns mentioned in the 2019 Parish Plan survey. A member's proposition this evening relates to Traffic and Parking.

The Winchester City Council 2039 Local Plan requires that 90-100 **new houses** are needed in Wickham. 6 of 25 possible sites have been proposed by the Parish Clerk for evaluation of suitability and responses are needed by the end of the month.

Nic Holladay concluded by summarising that we are a small committee with a lot of issues to tackle on behalf of residents and it is important to find the facts and evidence through detailed research.

5. Treasurer's report

Wendy House, Treasurer summarised the financial report. Total income in 2021 was £27.00, and after £598 donations, the assets at 1.4.22 were £479.03.

Wickham Residents Association
Annual Financial Report 1st April 2022

TOTAL INCOME 2021 Treasurers report = £27.00

EXPENDITURE this financial year

Amount	Source	Date
£90.00	AGM room hire	10.01.22
£48.07	Website hosting	24.11.21
£7.90	AGM face masks	10.01.22
£0.00	meeting room hire fee – donated by Chair	09.08.21
£0.00	Village wide questionnaire, legal advice etc	01.09.21

TOTAL EXPENDITURE = £145.97

INCOME this financial year

£10.00	donation	23.08.21
£20.00	"	"
£3.00	"	"
£15.00	"	"
£10.00	"	09.09.21
£10.00	"	"
£10.00	"	"
£20.00	"	"
£500.00	"	01.11.21
TOTAL INCOME = £598.00		

TOTAL ASSETS on 1.4.22 = £479.03

Wickham Residents Association
Projected running costs for 2022-23 – without further surveys etc

Webpage yearly fee	£48.07
AGM room hire, PPE	£98.00
Printing costs for AGM	£20.00
Public Liability insurance – to be discussed if needed by committee still	£120.00 ?
Extra/emergency meeting room hire, PPE	£98.00
ANNUAL PROJECTED RUNNING COSTS FOR WRA 2022-23	= £384.07

The estimated running costs for next year are £384. We are running on a meagre budget with many members giving up time, covering printing costs and doing delivery for free. It is currently free to join the organisation, but we may need to appeal for funds (for a specific purpose) in the future. A donation box

was available on leaving the meeting, and details of cheque and BACS payment methods would be sent to members.

6. Approval of the Constitution

The WRA previously operated in a fairly informal way but to be taken seriously by decision-making bodies it needs to be able to demonstrate that it is founded on formal principles of good and democratic governance. It needs policies and a constitution to deliver this goal. The draft Constitution had been delivered to all members and had been adapted from a standard Residents' Association template document. If members vote for the draft, any changes needed can be made at the next AGM. The Constitution will be an agenda item at all AGMs. The WRA covers the Civil Parish of Wickham.

Vote: carried unanimously, no abstentions, no votes against.

The Acting Chairman signed and dated the Constitution

7. Election of officers

The list and information about the potential committee members, together with nominees and seconders, had been circulated to members. The results of the vote by show of hands were:-

Robert Broad: Chairman	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none
Wendy House: Treasurer	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none
Kathryn Holladay: Secretary	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none
Steve Brown: Membership	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none,
Nic Holladay: Committee	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none,
Susan Broad: Committee	For – 44 + 4 Proxies	Against – none	Abstentions – none,

All of those standing were unanimously voted onto the Committee. Members were reminded that the Constitution states a minimum of 5 committee members which we have, but this can go up to 8 if there are more volunteers.

8. Approval of the appointment of Honorary President, Anton Hanney

Nic Holladay commended Anton Hanney, joint founder, and former Secretary of WRA, for his passionate interest and energy in pursuing local issues. Although occasionally a thorn in the side of officialdom, his expertise in media and press made him a formidable proponent of local democracy. The proposal was put to a vote by show of hands.

Result of the vote: unanimous, by acclamation. There were no votes against or abstentions.

Anton was unanimously confirmed as Honorary President and said that when he decided to stand down, he had fortuitously recruited a talented and enthusiastic steering group who were now the WRA's elected Committee. He wishes to keep in touch, help when asked but would not to interfere.

9. Propositions from the committee - none

10. Propositions from members

John Ridge had presented 4 propositions and was given 5 minutes to outline each, during which he used a PowerPoint presentation. He mentioned that these propositions could stand alone or go together.

Proposition 1. Enhanced Traffic Management

Through both the 2019 Parish Plan survey (48% transport and 65% traffic issues) and from his own analysis, John had realised that these were important issues in the village. John's concerns in Wickham were to reduce speed in the streets and Square, to improve poor driving behaviour, reduce noise and traffic pollution in line with Climate Change concerns (Portsmouth has a 5% death rate from air pollution), to improve parking, not necessarily by more car parks, but by better parking practice.

Questions/points from the floor:-

- 20mph in Square and Bridge Street? Reply, this would be considered by the working party.
- Less parking in the Square as it ruins the Square?
- Speed control must be policed/enforced
- Parking for residents has been problematic since free parking had been taken away and businesses were parking in the Square rather than the free peripheral car parks
- Should we work with and get a report directly from Hampshire County council?
- Need for more public transport to encourage less car use
- Traffic will get much worse with 200 new homes in Wickham and 6,000 nearby in Welborne

It was mentioned that there has been some action on traffic recently with Patricia Stallard (HCC) and the Chair of Wickham Parish Council having discussions, so the timing was right for WRA to get involved.

The proposition was put to a vote by show of hands.

Proposition: ‘WRA to form a working group of members to consider the merits, feasibility and options for enhanced traffic management in the village and make recommendations to Wickham Parish Council.’ Voting was by show of hands

Votes: For - 42 + 3 proxies = 45 Against – 1 Abstentions - 1 + 1 proxy = 2

The proposition was duly passed and John asked for volunteers to join him in a working group. (*post meeting note. There were 4 volunteers, and their names were forwarded to John*).

Proposition 2. Car share scheme/club

John emphasized that this was not a lift share scheme and could be commercially organised or led. This would decrease car ownership and be especially useful for those who cannot afford a car or due to home working, no longer need a car to commute. A Consultancy, CoMoUk states that an average of 9 cars can be taken off the road for each former car owner signing up this scheme. The cars used for share are nearly new, and efficient with low emissions, so helping air quality. He mentioned a scheme called ‘Enterprise’ and a project in Hook Norton where a community car club was operating. An example of cost was 9 – 5pm hire of a Renault Zoe for £11 favourably compares with car rental rates.

Questions from the floor:-

- How many car share vehicles do you envisage being in the village, there might not be enough for the demand. – reply, this would be gauged in a survey to find interest.

Proposition 2: ‘WRA to form a working group of members to consider the merits, feasibility and options for either a commercial or community owned car share scheme in the village and to and make recommendations to Wickham Parish Council.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and after John asked for an exact count it was retaken

Votes: For – 8 + 1 proxy = 9 Against – 15 Abstentions – 21 + 3 proxies = 24

The proposition was not carried.

Proposition 3. Periodic Farmers Market

A periodic market was supported in the 2019 Parish Survey and historically there was a weekly market. It would attract more visitors and so could benefit local shops. Wider benefits would be less packaging and

plastic as well as shorter supply chain using local traders, so less air pollution. Location – in Square or elsewhere or reroute traffic to create more space?

Questions from the floor:-

- One member suggested It could be located on the cobbles outside the Square Cow

The proposition was put to a vote by show of hands

Proposition 3: ‘WRA to form a working group of members to consider the merits, feasibility and options for a periodic farmers market in the village and to make recommendations to Wickham Parish Council.’

Votes: For – 39 + 3 proxies= 42

Against – 1

Abstentions – 4 +1 Proxy = 5

The proposition was carried.

Proposition 4. Data Sharing via Surveys

Data is vital today and analysis. There have been low response rates to recent surveys WPC Mill Lane sport and rec survey had only 3% response rate; others have done better eg. WRA Mill Lane survey 29%; WLTC (Wickham Lawn Tennis Club) 44% (of a small respondent base of a common interest group). Need to raise these response rates. John regretted the presentation of the recent WPC survey re. Mill Lane is only Yes/No on draft Masterplan with no detailed choice and then free text which is very difficult to analyse. The suggestion is to have a common survey processes between WPC, WRA, Wickham Society etc. via local bodies working together and so be stronger together. WPC needs the value of local groups to work together with them to get results.

Questions/points raised from the floor:-

- The Parish Plan survey was not allowed by WPC to follow up to make recommendations.
- There is no substitute for evidence based on facts.
- You may be able to get 4 voluntary groups (WRA, Wickham Society, Knowle Residents Association and Wickham History Society) to co-ordinate on surveys, but WPC was unlikely.

The proposition was put to the vote by show of hands

Proposition 4: ‘ WRA to form a working group of members to consider the merits, feasibility and options for a joint stakeholder agreement on community surveys.

Votes: For – 35 + 1 proxy = 36

Against – 2

Abstentions – 7 + 3 proxies = 10

The proposition was carried.

Volunteers who were interested in joining working groups with John for the successful propositions were encouraged to sign up at the back of the room.

11. Appeal for volunteers and thanks to current volunteers

The Acting Chairman stressed that none of the work of the Association could proceed without the efforts of volunteers. Most of the work is done by the Committee and there is always room for other members to help. It was pointed out that there are 8 places on the Committee, so members were encouraged to step forward to fill the two vacancies. The work of volunteers, for example those who delivered door-to-door the Mill Lane survey, was particularly praised and thanks were given to them all for their help.

12. Wickham Residents Open Forum

Discussion

One member was concerned that there was little time left to discuss important issues but that the main ones were the Mill Lane sports site, the Funtley tip, and additional housing. It was decided to focus on these.

a) Mill Lane recreation

The following were raised by members:-

- Wickham is a village not a town and Wessex League teams are represented by towns. Wickham Dynamos have only 50 spectators.
- We have got to consider the future population of the village in 10 – 20 years' time and the pitch proposal is typical of rural settlements in France.
- It was pointed out that there have been questions asked over the involvement of Infinity FC in the development of the proposed Masterplan. Issues that this involvement raise would be put to the WPC Mill Lane forum meeting the following evening.
- The Acting Chair gave a detailed summary of research done by the committee into pitch specifications, and particularly the Winchester and Fareham Playing Pitch Strategies. Both of these demonstrate that there is forecast in the current plan periods to be no shortage of 3G adult size football turf pitches in either local Authority area. The provision in Winchester District does not include Wickham and indeed the Winchester strategy states that 3G pitches should be located in urban and not village/rural locations.
- Were the WRA aware that Infinity had tried to get a home in Knowle and was now in Sidlesham, near Chichester. The Committee was aware.
- The Parish Clerk had told one member that Infinity women's' side were interested in Mill Lane site.
- The decision on the site was urgent as once the lease was received and signed, planning permission must be submitted within 6 months.
- 3G pitches can only be used for football and possibly rugby training yet it is called a multi-use pitch
- Football foundation money for the site is available for a 3G pitch
- One member suggested that the WRA should put forward an alternative plan for the site. The WPC plan for a 3G pitch put forward in the first plans was rejected but it is still there.
- The traffic issue for the site is very important.
- After attending the Mill Lane meeting tomorrow, what do we do if there is no change? The question was left open

b) Funtley Tip solar farm

The Acting Chair reported that a meeting had taken place with local councillor (Patricia Stallard) and the case officer for the planning application to landfill over 5 years on the tip prior to installation of the solar farm. Two main issues were raised at the meeting by the Acting Chair and WRA members Mike Perkins and Philip Jackman. These were to highlight misleading information contained in the application regarding volumes of HGV traffic on Titchfield Lane and the need for evidence to be produced that landfill is necessary to make the site viable for solar installations. The case officer undertook to write to the applicant's agent seeking answers to these (and other) questions.

c) SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Assessment)

The WRA was informing members of the choices of location for 90-100 homes for Wickham allocated as part of Winchester City Council 2039 Local Plan, of which the Clerk to the Council had proposed 6 sites to WPC for further investigation. WRA would be trying to get WRA members views on the most suitable site/s.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed..... Date.....