

WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (WRA)

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2024



Date: Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.00pm

Location: Wickham Community Centre

Note: please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation displayed during the evening for more details, particularly on Finance and Committee Reports.

1. Welcome & Introductions (see slides 3 & 4)

The Chairman, Robert Broad, welcomed members who were attending and introduced the current committee: Kathryn Holladay (Secretary), Steve Brown (Membership Secretary), Wendy House (Treasurer), Nic Holladay (committee member), Susie Broad (committee member) Geoff Burton (committee member), Mike Perkins (committee member) and Darren Johnson (committee member).

2. Apologies for absence:

27 members were present. There were 7 apologies. These were:-

Steve Brown
Darren Smith
Brian & Heather Oswald
Ted Kemp
Tim McClement
Darren Johnson
Leah Greenbank
John Ridge

3. Receive and approve the minutes of the last AGM of 4.4.23.

No objections. Proposer – Nic Holladay, Seconder – Geoff Burton. Minutes approved.

4. Elections to the Committee.

The Chairman, Robert Broad, mentioned that he would be standing down and not seeking re-election as Chairman or as a member of the Committee, and Kathryn Holladay would also be standing down but was seeking re-election. In accordance with the Constitution, two members stand down at each AGM, so that the committee is continually refreshed.

The Chair therefore decided to postpone Agenda item 4, Election of Officers, until the end of the meeting so that Robert Broad, as current Chair, could review the year. (note: this item re-numbered in these minutes as item 10.)

5. Approval of Financial Statement and report. (slides 6 & 7)

Wendy House, Treasurer, talked to the financial statement stating that two recent donations had been received since the statement was published. She thanked members for their donations because the organisation relied on them entirely, and she highlighted methods of donation via the WRA website.

6. Receive resolutions/proposals presented by the committee – there were none.
7. Receive resolutions/proposals put forward by the members – there were none received.
8. **Committee's report including significant activities 2023/2024**
 - a. Titchfield Solar Farm proposal – Mike Perkins (slides 9-12)
 - b. Traffic in and around Wickham – Problems & Solutions? – Geoff Burton & Kathryn Holladay (slides 13 -22)
 - c. Community Speed Watch initiative. – Robert Broad (slides 23 26)
 - d. Wickham Sports & Recreation Developments (Mill Lane, Recreation Ground) – Nic Holladay (slide 27)
 - e. Welborne & Wickham Surgery. – Nic Holladay (slide 28)

9. Wickham Residents' Association: Members' Open Forum

Members were asked to present their questions in the order in which the Committee reports had been presented.

a. Titchfield Solar Farm proposal

Q - David Wilson – there seem to be more trucks than ever using Titchfield Lane – where are they all going? Was there a connection with the battery storage plant and landfill there?

Response – another member, Phil Jackman, stated that the battery farm has planning permission, but that the landfill at the site had been stopped because it did not have permission. He explained that the battery farm stored surplus, cheap electricity during low demand, and exported it to the grid when demand was high. The site was not related to the Funtley tip proposed solar farm. Robert Broad mentioned that Laveys Lane had had many unplanned extensions with WCC apparently incapable of monitoring or enforcement. There was no enforcement of the 7.5 tonne limit in Titchfield Lane. Vehicles of this weight and higher are only legally allowed to enter the weight limited zone if they were making deliveries to sites within the zone – they are not permitted to drive through the zone using Titchfield lane as a short cut, for example, to travel from Winchester Road to Laveys lane. There is no weight limit restriction in the stretch of road from the south to Lavey's Lane. David Wilson mentioned how the heavy vehicles were damaging the verges and Mike Perkins mentioned that the trucks were 3m wide when in many places, the lane is only 5m wide.

b. Traffic in and around Wickham – Problems & Solutions?

Q - Phillip Greenish congratulated the committee on the range of topics which had been researched and the improvements suggested but, without resources, the WRA would need to generate more evidence, and that the Speed Watch scheme was providing such evidence. He went on to suggest that the improvement list was prioritised.

Response - Geoff Burton replied that he felt that the 20mph speed limit was the most significant proposal as it would help to solve many of the other traffic problems. It was suggested that if proposed, Hampshire Highways would need to know that there was support from residents since 20mph schemes trialled in other areas had been unpopular.

Geoff Burton went on to emphasise why it was important for members to complete the online traffic questionnaire on the WRA website to gauge opinion on the various options.

Q - Philip Greenish asked if traffic calming solutions had been considered such as pinch points and if cycle lanes might be provided on Hoad's Hill if the road was re-marked.

Response - Geoff Burton: at the present time pinch points had not been considered. Hoads Hill was certainly wide enough for cycle lanes to be incorporated (if the road configuration is changed) but it was pointed out that at both ends of Hoads Hill cyclists would then face the problem that they would have to continue on roads without dedicated cycle lanes and that represented danger in itself.

Q - Pat Matthews commented on how dangerous is the junction at St Nicolas Church and even if she wishes to turn right onto the A32 she always turns left and doubles back at the Shell roundabout.

Response – Robert Broad: the Southwark Road junction is a particularly bad problem and there have been numerous accidents there. None have been fatal – and until there is a fatality HCC will not consider any action

Q - Phil Gadd mentioned the current danger for homeowners on Hoad's Hill turning right into their drives and asked if hatched lines in the centre would make this more difficult.

Response - it was confirmed by a member, John Farrow, that if the hatched lines have a broken line border, they can be crossed but if they have a solid border they cannot. Geoff Burton stated that of there were hatched lines in the middle of Hoads Hill with broken line borders opposite entrances to residential drives this may increase safety for those crossing the carriageway.

Q - concern was mentioned about lorries parking in the centre of the Square.

Response - Geoff Burton mentioned that on his plan for the Square, there were dedicated lorry bays for unloading. It was also thought that routine deliveries should have a time limit so that deliveries are only made before, for example, 8.00am.

Q - Phil Gadd mentioned the problems of turning out of Tanfield Lane as traffic volumes and speeds increased on Fareham Road .

c. Community Speed Watch initiative

Q- have the static speed warning indicators been purchased by WRA?

Response – Robert Broad: they have been purchased and are owned by the Parish Council and have been sited in positions approved by the police - in Winchester Rd and School Rd. They are put up for about 2 weeks at a time and then removed because motorists simply get used to them and begin to take no notice of them. The speed warning indicators had been in use for some years and collected a huge number of data points but, until the new Council was elected in May 2023, none of this data was collected or analysed. The data is now proving to be very informative both as to volumes and speeds. It was thought that the data collected on School Rd would be particularly useful to compare traffic volumes pre and post Welborne.

Q - Phil Gadd thanked the Parish Council for purchasing the camera for the speed watch team and asked if a more sophisticated camera be used to record number plates instead of it being done manually.

Response - Robert Broad endorsed the expression of thanks to the Parish Council and showed members a new camera just received. The current hand-held cameras cost about £175 each whereas a more sophisticated version, linked to a mobile phone which would record number plates automatically, including those of motorcyclists, would be £4.5k. The Chair of the Parish Council, who was attending, said that purchase of the more advanced camera could be considered if the scheme showed itself over a period of, say, six months, to be sustained at current levels of energy and commitment.

d. Wickham Sports & Recreation Developments (Mill Lane, Recreation Ground)

There were no questions on this topic.

e.Welborne & Wickham Surgery

Q - Pat Matthews thanked the committee for its research into this issue.

10. Elections to the Committee. (slide 30)

The profile of the one committee member standing for re-election, Kathryn Holladay, was presented for voting. She was proposed by Susie Broad, seconded by Geoff Burton. Her re-election was approved with none against and no abstentions .

Darren Johnson, who had been co-opted into the Committee during the year, was standing for election. Robert Broad stated that Darren was co-ordination the Speed Watch scheme. He was proposed by Mike Perkins and seconded by Nic Holladay. His election was approved with none against and no abstentions.

Profiles of the 2 committee members were included in the slide presentation.

There are now 8 committee members. The Chairman appealed for interested members to come forward to be co-opted onto the committee, especially if they had specific areas of expertise such as planning, traffic, legal etc.

11. Closing Address.

The Chair reiterated that he was standing down as WRA Chair and Committee member and thanked the Committee for their time, knowledge, dedication, and support over his three years in post.

He reflected upon the fact that membership of WRA had grown considerably and raised its profile. WRA now had 280 members (a 194% increase on October 2021 when he has started at Chair). In addition, social media presence had increased with 931 followers on Facebook, regular emails being sent to members and monthly exposure in the parish magazine. He expressed his thanks to John Landaw, the parish magazine editor, for his support in this respect.

Robert also thanked the members for attending the AGM and for their ongoing support.

Nic Holladay thanked the outgoing chairman for bringing a new lease of life to WRA under his leadership and reflected on the impact that WRA can wield on behalf of the Community. He cited by way of example, that the failure of the planning application for landfill at the Funtley tip site would not have been achieved without the evidence gathering and tenacity of the WRA Committee and supportive members. WRA, under Robert’s leadership, acted and delivered while others just talked. He presented the outgoing Chairman with a gift of appreciation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Name **Signed**

Date

DRAFT