

Wickwar Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

A meeting was held for the above Council on Wednesday 9th May 2018, at the Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm

Attended:

Councillor M Summers – Chairman
Councillor I Aldous
Councillor A Carroll
Councillor A Pennington
Councillor G Fielding
Councillor C Maidment

Clerk:

Mrs P Trull

Apologies:

Councillor S Isaac
Ward Councillor M Lewis

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
Minutes of the last meeting held on the 18th May 2017, were duly signed by the Chairman.
2. **Annual Report from the Chairman**
Attached
3. **Annual Report from the District Ward Councillor**
Attached
4. **Financial Report to the 31st March 2018**
See Chairman's report
5. **Report from the Alexander Hosea School LEA Governor**
Pending
6. **Report from representatives of Lower Woods.**
Attached
7. **Report from Neighbourhood Watch representative**
Attached
8. **Report from Wickwar Educational Foundation**
No report
9. **Report King George V Playing Fields**
Attached

- 10. Report from the Community Centre Management**
Attached
- 11. Report Wickwar PROW Committee**
Attached
- 12. Police Report**
Attached
- 13. Wickwar Parish open & Closed Cemetery**
Attached
- 14. Wickwar Village Hall**
No report
- 15. Wickwar Youth Club**
Attached
- 16. Wickwar Speed Watch**
Attached
- 17. Wickwar Playing Fields Association**
Attached
- 18. Wickwar out of School Club**
No Report
- 19. Wickwar Pre School**
No report
- 20. Wickwar 1st Beavers Cubs and Scouts**
Attached
- 21. Wickwar Social Club**
Attached
- 22. Wickwar Allotments Association**
Attached
- 23. Village organisations invited to attend this meeting.**
None at this meeting.

Wickwar Parish Council's Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May 2018.

I'm starting much the same as I have for the past couple of years. We Councillors and our Clerk are ordinary people from this Parish and do what we do to the best of our abilities, we like to think. O.K., we might err on the odd occasion but, to refer to the expression, isn't that human?!! We are not paid for what we do, not even honorariums, except for some travel expenses now and then. We like to think we put our hearts into what we do, because of our genuine interest in doing our best for the Parish. That's not necessarily the best. Why have I said this again? Because last Autumn e-mails were sent to the Council on the subject of Weak Financial Management. I'll accept the democratic right to ask questions, but what was being asked were seemingly pointed at one individual, and they became intimidatory and vexatious. I repeat, we are all human, but we hope we have the best interests of our Parish foremost in our thoughts and decision making. And that's the point. The decisions are made by the Council and acted upon by our Clerk. Councillors always have the opportunity to query at any time, not just at the monthly meetings. The financial section of each agenda is presented for approval by the Council and end up being minuted. In effect, if there are any issues then we are all culpable. In the case of the e-mails I have stated to the sender the Council had considered they had become vexatious, so no further correspondence would be answered and if the person was still not satisfied they must engage with the Monitoring Officer at South Gloucestershire Council. Although, obviously, things have gone quiet, we may still be obliged to answer to the Monitoring Officer, if that person considers there is a case to answer. We can only wait and see.

I'll now comment on other topics of interest:

Town Hall

Upstairs redecorated. New carpeting laid, so now, especially during the winter, we may save a bit on heating costs. In that respect, that is the next task. We have seen some very efficient halogen wall-fixed heating units and will be investigating in more depth with a view to installation in the Autumn. Also, some very necessary structural works completed that should see the building being robust for years to come. The downstairs has been used to sell books, bric-a-brac, etc., and very pleasing to know the proceeds are being donated to various charities and organisations. There is still a long-term thought of switching round the upper and lower usage as we are aware we are not D.D.A. compliant by using the upper room for meetings, etc.

King George V Playing Fields

The maintenance and updating of the play equipment is almost an on-going requirement; surfacing erosion, wooden framework deterioration, RoSPA. inspections and recommendations. The replacement swings have been an annoyance, with the contractor's supplier having to be changed. We hope installation will now happen by the next Bank Holiday. The other major works that is in hand will be the enclosure fencing of the children's play area. A fairly large expense, but the funds for that I'll mention a bit later. Oh, by the way, we could still do with someone to lock/unlock the gate each day.

Youth Centre

So pleased it is not only surviving but starting to thrive with an uplifting of attendees. We do our best to support financial requests.

The Buthay

A small parcel of land fronting The Old Chapel has been sold and the Council has the funds. Our solicitors have satisfied themselves and those necessary regarding the legal, regulatory and financial requirements and there is just a bit of paperwork still to be tied up. From the monies received the payment for the fencing at the Playing Fields (as I mentioned earlier) will be available. We wanted/needed to use those monies in a practical and positive way, which we think will be achieved. In conjunction with this we are also finalising a ten year lease to Merlin.

The quarry on the Downs Road operated by Cemex

What's to say? All seems to be fine, with very little issues to resolve. This could be because the daily operation of the actual quarrying is moving away from the village and West End, but that could eventually become something that will need to be managed as Cemex get nearer to Church End. We are pleased that the Liaison Group works so well for all concerned.

Planning Applications

It still surprises me how many we deal with in our Parish. I keep thinking they must, surely, taper off eventually, but no. And this is in what I would see as a depressed financial climate.

Obviously, the big issues are the two sites on the Sodbury Road, referred to as the Horwood Lane and Pincotts Lane developments. Both now have Planning Permission and so the potential is 170 more housing units. A lot of valid arguments were put against both applications being granted but, as I said last year, it appears to me that South Gloucestershire Council's five-year land bank deficit was the sole deciding factor. O.K., we ought to recognise that more housing is needed and should not have a NIMBY attitude but, now, enough is enough. There must be plenty of other parts of South Gloucestershire Council's administrative area they can now go to. Perhaps, on an up-beat note, we should look forward to the Section 106 monies to make enhancements around the village.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

This is, kind of, the up-dated version of a Village Plan. Ours is now almost thirteen years old and much has happened since then. A new Plan really needs to be created, but this is not a Parish Council initiative. It requires creation and implementation by parishioners. So far, we are aware of one person who has made inquiries. It will need upwards of ten people to be a practical working party. Referring back to the two developments, there were somewhere near 250 people who gave their views on each one on South Gloucestershire Council's Planning Portal web site. Looking at it from South Gloucestershire Council's viewpoint, whilst that is quite a few, it still only represents a minor portion of all residents in the village. That was, no doubt, another influence of the decisions. If a Neighbourhood Development Plan was now created it would be seen to be representative of all residents and have a significant impact of the views of the Planning Committee. I'm not saying it will be fool proof, but a lot more robust.

Public footpaths and bridleways

Weather permitting, we have walks one Sunday each month, except in the depths of winter. They have two main purposes. Firstly, to ensure they remain traversable by keeping them clear of undergrowth, etc. We take shears, secateurs, saws to achieve that. We attach/replace signage where needed. This acts as a means of showing the proper route and, hopefully, prevent trespassing. Secondly, to establish that pathways and bridleways are shown to be walked and prevent their cessation. It is important, especially in this day and age, for people to have as much opportunity as possible to walk/horse ride and experience the lovely countryside we have around us.

Check on the notice board here at the Town Hall and also the web site for the actual dates. The more who come the merrier.

High Street

The two housing developments will, undoubtedly, create even more through traffic, and then there's the extra housing planned for Brimsham Green, Charfield and Thornbury. So, some residents are now even more concerned at the ability to safely cross the road. This is particularly so for schoolchildren in the mornings, especially those needing to get the school coach. We are in the process of asking South Gloucestershire Council's Highways Department to again undertake a feasibility study as to where a pedestrian crossing could be sited. Personally, I have my doubts on anywhere that is suitable where the need is paramount. I, and others, have said that if the two developments were approved then South Gloucestershire Council should be seriously minded to revive and implement the idea of a by-pass that was muted last century. That, I think, is the only way to divert traffic from having to go through the centre of the village. You may have seen an on-line article in the Bristol Post, which might be worth following up.

The Beacon

It will be lit on 11th November this year to commemorate the end of conflict in the First World War. There is support for having a fireworks display; let us know what you think. Should there be other events?

Accounts

I will confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, our Clerk has undertaken the accounting responsibilities in accordance with regulations. I am, therefore, satisfied the accounts truly show the financial activities throughout the last financial year ending 31st March 2018.

Ward Councillor

Thank you to Marian Lewis for being our conduit and attending our meetings when able to. The building development applications, particularly, have instigated some trying debate at some meetings; also, the pedestrian crossing issue. It is helpful to be kept aware of happenings and decisions within South Gloucestershire Council, sometimes in advance of general publication, which means we can be ready for further debate.

Councillors

Due to a Councillor moving out of the Parish and resigning a co-option was needed to get a replacement. There was more than one applicant, but Colin Maidment was selected. Colin has taken on the role wholeheartedly and has given a lot of his time on particular issues, most notably the Horwood Lane planning application. He was very eloquent and summarized everybody's comments to speak at the South Gloucestershire Council Planning Committee meeting at Kingswood last Thursday. The fact that the vote was seven for and six against indicates how well he did, also bearing in mind what I said earlier.

I feel very fortunate to have Councillors with diverse knowledge and talents. This is so helpful to explore and investigate issues and provide a broad coverage of how to deal with them. I thank them all most sincerely for all their time and devotion. We are all now in our final year before the elections again, so if you have a desire to apply, keep your eye on the Parish News.

Our Clerk

For me, Pat seems to have been in the job for time immemorial. We all fully appreciate all she does, often exceeding the requirements of her position. She provides us Councillors with great support. I think she will be quite an inspiration for her successor. Thank you so much, Pat.

A personal note. My humble thanks for nominating me to attend the Queen's Garden Party. So much appreciated, even if your choice may have been somewhat limited!

And finally, I'll read something that was in my newspaper a few weeks back:

Martin Summers
Chairman
9th May 2018

Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting

9 May 2018

South Gloucestershire Councillor Report

The Chairman's report has covered all the activities of the Parish Council over the last year, and you will all be very familiar with the details of the housing developments which are coming to the village in the near future.

Here are some of the key points from South Gloucestershire Council.

In May last year, Cllr Tim Bowles from Winterbourne became the first West of England Mayor, and has set about appointing appropriate experts to deliver progress on Transport, Housing, Industrial Development and Training programmes across the region. These were the specific responsibilities devolved to the region when the new Regional authority was set up.

Joining the new West of England Combined Authority has brought £1 Billion of new infrastructure funding to the region to be spent over the next 20 years. (That's £50M per year)

These are still challenging times for the Government nationally, and we, as a Unitary Authority, are seeking to bring down public spending, as far as possible without cutting essential services, and to make changes to ensure that the Council lives within its means. Our aim is always to get value for money.

Waste and recycling: we have started collecting all recyclables every week, and continued to collect black bin general waste fortnightly. Our black bins have been replaced with smaller ones, and both of these measures are already helping to increase the recycling rates, reduce the amount sent to landfill, and save £1 million pounds a year in landfill tax. There is already a 13% increase in recycling since the introduction of these measures, but we can still do better. If all the recyclable waste in the black bin was recycled, then the savings would be £3 million a year.

New Bus Passes: We have introduced a new bus pass for those residents who are registered blind, so they can use their bus pass before 9 am.

Severn Bridge tolls: South Glos cannot take all the credit for the reduction in the bridge tolls (£6.70 down to £5.60) but, knowing that the management contract was coming to an end, pressure was liberally applied by MPs and Councils on both sides of the bridge, and the tolls are set to be abolished completely by the end of this year.

Library Services. There was general agreement that we would have to cut spending on our library services by £500,000. After some research, we have introduced a system whereby residents can use the libraries when they are unstaffed. No library will be closing and we are doubling the opening times. We are doing 'more for less' with our libraries.

Unfortunately the mobile library service to villages has had to be discontinued, but it is still possible for books to be delivered to the homes of vulnerable residents.

Cost of running the Council

Councils are often accused of using taxpayers' money on 'too much bureaucracy'.

So we have reduced the cost of running the Council by cutting out meetings, merging committees and returning to a Cabinet form of governance. This has not only saved time, and therefore money, but it has also gone a long way towards streamlining decision-making and speeding up the implementation of decisions once they have been made.

Surplus office space has been concentrated at Kingswood Civic Centre, and has been rented out, bringing in more money, without any reduction in services to the community in Kingswood, and leaving the Council Chamber and the very well-used Training Suite still intact. However, moving a lot of staff to Badminton Road has caused serious parking problems there, and the building of more car parking space by the Badminton Road offices is imminent.

Solar panels have been built on Council owned waste land, saving on energy costs.

We have joined the government's new Business Rate Retention pilot, which will increase the council's revenue by £18 Million over the 3 years of the pilot.

Health Scrutiny Committee

I was given a new responsibility during the year and became Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This means that my committee works with the North Bristol NHS Trust, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Health and Wellbeing Committee, and Social Services with the aim of improving health and welfare services to all of our communities. Our biggest challenges this year have been Delayed transfer of patients out of hospital, the Minor Injuries Service (which aims to keep patients from attending A & E unnecessarily) and the continued delays and deliberations over the promised facilities at the Frenchay and Thornbury hospital sites.

Housing, Transport, Education and Social Care

Housing is a major challenge. We are still some 750 houses short of the 5 year delivery plan, and this has made it possible for a lot of speculative building applications to be put forward and to be approved. While the numbers for the five-year plan are not met, legal grounds for refusing planning permission are much reduced. The cost to the council of facing an appeal by developers is very high, and if S Glos loses the case, then the developers' costs also must be paid.

Transport is as always, a major challenge for the council, but repairs to the Bromley Heath Viaduct on the Ring Road are now finished, within budget and almost on time, which should ease some of the peak time congestion.

There is now a Scrutiny Commission within the Council and one of the main issues under discussion is our relatively poor record in Secondary Education. Most of our secondary schools are Academies, which are run as independent businesses, making it hard for the local authority to intervene or influence the quality of education. We are looking at ways to challenge under-performing schools because as a council, we have a responsibility to ensure that our young people have the best possible opportunities.

By far the largest area of responsibility and expenditure is Social Care – providing for the vulnerable members of our communities, young and old, with many differing needs and frailties. Social Care in all its forms takes approximately 60% of the council's entire budget, and, as we are all aware, this is an area of increasing demand as our population lives longer and needs more help.

Thanks to the Parish Council and to all the community groups in Wickwar. You hold the village together in an incredibly positive way, and it has been a pleasure to work with you during this year.

Cllr Marian Gilpin

Ladden Brook

09 05 2018

Report on Lower Woods for
Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting May 2018

Coppicing has taken place throughout the winter focussing on Oakhall, Crews and South Moons areas of the woods. Much of the work has entailed the restoration of derelict areas of old coppice (mainly hazel) to rejuvenate them and bring them back 'in cycle' whereupon they will be regularly cut in the future for the many different products such as stakes, binders, spars, beanpoles, hurdles, fascines and charcoal and firewood. There are also major benefits for conservation as increased light reaching the woodland floor increases the quantity and variety of wildflowers, also butterflies, moths and other insects too. Birds and mammals benefit as the coppice regrowth provides important habitat.

The Thursday volunteers have cut over a hectare this winter led by warden Neil Lodge with assistance from other GWT staff as well. The regular contract firewood coppicers have been active too and we have also had help from the Avon and South Cotswolds Coppice Group, who are professional coppicers. They have worked on 'in cycle' coppice thus preventing it from becoming overstood and allowing the volunteers to concentrate on restoration.

Fencing the coppice coupes is a vital job undertaken by the volunteers during the spring and early summer. This encloses the cut areas with deer-proof wire netting and prevents the new growth from the coppice stools being browsed by deer and much delaying its establishment or even stopping it altogether.

Another major job started this winter and still ongoing is the establishment of a Tree Nursery to raise young trees, mainly Oak, from seed collected in Lower Woods for eventual planting out wherever needed in the woods in future. Such planting will unfortunately become more important in the years ahead as Ash Dieback becomes ever more prevalent in Lower Woods causing extensive tree deaths. The nursery area is situated next to the woodyard and has been cleared, roots removed and fences and gates constructed. Raised beds are being built and huge bags of leaf litter collected from the woods to provide leaf mould. Acorns collected over the last couple of autumns have been grown in pots ready for planting out in the nursery.

Hedges have been laid around the yard and at the eastern end of Plumbers Trench by the volunteers, using stakes and binders arising from the coppicing work.

Deer Management has been commenced by experts to start to bring the Lower Woods deer population under control and improve its health, reducing widespread browsing damage both to trees and wild flora. The work will be continually assessed and reviewed and it is hoped will eventually form part of a wider deer management group in the area.

Fallen trees came down throughout the woods during periods of high winds in the winter, blocking footpaths in many places. This is particularly noticeable along the riverside. The worst of the footpath obstructions have been cleared by the warden and volunteers but where trees fall within the woods they will usually be left untouched as a natural part of the woodland ecosystem.

Work is ongoing at the moment to relay the Lodge Track. Anyone driving along to the Lodge car park over the past few years cannot fail to have noticed extensive potholes which efforts to patch up from time to time have failed to produce a long-term solution. This became so bad that many events in the woods had to be cancelled. A major funding package has been put together and we all hope the result will be a good and lasting surface.

A new programme of events for the woods will follow in due course once the track is up and running. Some smaller events such as guided walks have taken place despite the track and will be refreshed and extended as appropriate.

Work has taken place to renovate the barn including new floor/ceiling and doors. This has had to be carried out very carefully to avoid disrupting the important bat roost on the upper level.

The Survey Group has continued its work in various parts of the woods, including work to assess areas of both trees and ground flora.

Corporate Groups, work experience pupils and school and guide groups have visited and worked in the woods from time to time, mostly very successfully and it is hoped these groups will continue to visit in the future.

Bill Heslegrave

On behalf of the Lower Woods Advisory Group and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

May 2018

Wickwar Neighbourhood Watch 2018

I have little to report. The May meeting last year was not well-attended, but my intention was to get together with the few people willing to help keep the Watch going. For various reasons I have not managed to do this yet but intend to try again. My email circulation has been undermined by a computer problem with group emails, but I have tried to keep the village informed through monthly articles in the Parish News. The problem with this is the time lag of about three weeks between the submission date for copy and the distribution of the magazine, but fortunately I have not had any matters of real urgency from the Police.

Any offers or suggestions of help to reorganise a distribution network for the village would be gratefully received.

Philip Revill

King George V Playing Fields Report

The main user of the field is Wickwar Football Club, and the cutting of the grass is under the umbrella of the Football Club during the football season and the cutting during the rest of the year is paid for by the Parish Council. The upkeep of the play area and equipment is undertaken by the Parish Council and the regular grass cuttings give a well-presented appearance. There have been issues with the wooden swing basket which had to be taken down due to the poor condition but that has recently been replaced by a new metal one at no cost to the Parish Council. The wooden swings have been found dangerous due to wooden support but the Parish Council are hoping to get them replaced IN THE NEAR FUTURE. All other equipment has passed its annual ROSPA inspection

Councillor Ian Aldous

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY 2018

All are in good order as far as is known when writing.

The Parish Council walk the public footpaths around the village on and off all year. Of which some are organised working walks where we make sure paths, gates and styles are clear and in good order and any Parishioners are most welcome to join us.

The footpaths are now all in relatively good repair after South Glos made a few repairs asked for.

We have only had one small tree down on our footpaths this year of which South Glos were notified.

It will be interesting to see how the public rights of way already in existence in the fields where the two new developments will fair and if they have to divert either of them.

As usual we ask parishioners to report any problems to us that need repairs, clearing etc.

A Carroll

Wickwar Community Centre Report 2018.

The Community Centre has had another busy year with its two main hirers being the Wickwar Pre-School and Wickwar Out of School Club with various other hirers during evenings and at weekends. Things have continued fairly smoothly although there are still issues about storage.

The Hall lighting system has been upgraded with assistance from Alexander Hosea School and the Community Centre in addition to a £1000 grant from Wickwar Parish Council and over £400 from South Gloucestershire Council. The gents toilets are being upgraded which will be

completed at the end of this month.

The planned extension for a disabled toilet near the entrance is still ongoing but is not forgotten.

The Community Centre believe that an agreement regarding the exact area outside where children can play has now been resolved with the School.

The Centre continues to be financially sound and looking forward to the future.

Ian Aldous, Chairman, Wickwar Community Centre Management Committee.

Police Report

Police are still receiving a small number of reports regarding sus vans in the area; however, this seems to have drop dramatically over the last month-6 weeks. It was thought these vehicles were looking for scrap metal.

*Please be aware that a theft of a motor vehicle over the bank holiday period has been reported in Charfield. We also received a report from a garage in Tortworth that they have had a vehicle stolen over the same period. Both vehicles were taken without keys. Vehicles were different makes and ages. Both are still outstanding currently.

Response officers have been regularly checking the church car park and the playfields on late shifts and night shifts. Two cannabis warnings have been issued to members of the public found in the church car park this year.

Officers will continue to patrol the areas, especially as the weather is getting better and closer to school holidays.

Police also had a bag of cannabis handed in to the front office. Item found by unhappy parent at home.

Due to the restriction on PCSO Bromley, PCSO's from the Yate beat are helping PC Bainbridge cover the area.

An abandoned vehicle has been reported in Poplar Lane. The keeper lives in Gloucestershire. Local officers within Gloucestershire have been making attempts to locate the owner; however, this has been unsuccessful at this time.

South Gloucestershire Council do take reports of abandoned vehicles (PCSO Bromley has reported it online, when it was first reported to her at the start of April, but no further response from SGC)

Police can only remove vehicles causing an obstruction the public highway.

We would still encourage residents to report suspicious vehicles via 101 in case they are stolen or have been involved in crime.

PCSO H Bromley

Cemetery Report 2017/18

Not a lot has happened in this last year. Mr Howse has got the contract to cut the grass in the Open and Closed Cemetery's and we have also taken on the grass in the small Memorial garden as well which the council are pleased about as his guys have done a very good job, sometimes under difficult

circumstances up there too. The first few cuts are always the most difficult as it is always long and wet, but they try to leave as tidy as possible. We have for the last two years cut the grass for two extra months which is needed now with the milder weather we experience.

In the open Cemetery we thank Sandra Cowley for very kindly re-touching her paintings and words on the bollards and they are really a pleasant greeting for all who go there.

We have also replaced a dying shrub and hope to put a couple more up there in the corners.

In the closed Cemetery we have had some tree works done. We had trees that had self-seeded into the wall by the stank as they were breaking the wall up and were also diseased, at the same time we had the very overgrown Cherry Laurels removed as they were also damaging the wall but also, slowly encroaching the cemetery area and taking light from other plants that we would like to keep.

This year as it is the anniversary of the end of WW1 Wickwar PC are concentrating in the Closed cemetery in finding the first world war graves of villagers lost in that war that have sadly declined over the years in readiness for the Commemoration on Nov 11th

We also plan to plant at least one tree in the closed area for our war heroes this coming year.

We are of course doing ongoing works of tidying both cemeteries of weeds, overgrown ivy and other needs as usual by volunteers.

A Carroll

Wickwar Youth Centre Report 2018.

The Wickwar Youth Centre Management Committee have now been running the Youth Centre five years and for the past three years have been a Registered Charity. We are now in a partnership with other Youth Organisations in the area to assist in raising funds and negotiating from a stronger base. The financial assistance from South Gloucestershire Council has been reducing over the years and we will be receiving £2000 from them in this current year. As our current cost of running the Centre is about £15000 it leaves us a lot to find. We are indebted to Wickwar Parish Council who gave us a grant of £5000 last year and it hoped we will receive the same in this coming year.

We would also like to thank parishioners who assist us on yearly basis and particular the Wickwar Social Club who have been financially assisting us since we have been independent.

We have seen an influx of attendees over recent months as we have been putting on activities provided by outside sources, such as keep fit classes and street dancing classes. This has help motivate the staff who are keen to arrange more such activities. The staff are fully officered.

Ian Aldous, Trustee.

Wickwar Speed Watch

Wickwar Speed Watch has been ongoing for nearly 15 years. Some of our members have been with us since the beginning. We have a thriving community speed watch team. But as always, we are looking for new members. It is our ambition to have a team out 7 days per week. As we stand at the present time, we are out for three sessions per week.

The presence of the speed watch team actually slows the traffic and helps to remind motorists we live in the most part a 30/40 mph speed zone. Due to the new developments we will (or should be) in a 30mph zone for the whole housed section of the village.

It has been proven that villages with speed watch have a lower base line of speeding traffic. We hope for the day when we will record zero speeders on our sessions.

Thank you to all those who give their time and effort to this worthwhile community cause.

P Trull

Wickwar Speed Watch

WICKWAR PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

**Mr J Broad
97 Inglestone Road
Wickwar
Wotton-Under-Edge
Gloucestershire
GL12 8PH
Tel: 01454 294051**

VICE-CHAIRMAN

**Mr J McAleese
47 High Street
Wickwar
Wotton-Under-Edge
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GL12 8NP
Tel: 01454 294539**

TREASURER

**Mr K Ashworth
15 Burleigh Way
Wickwar
Wotton –Under-Edge
Gloucestershire
GL12 8LR
Tel: 01454 299296**

**Wednesday, 09 May 2018
Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting 2018
Good evening,**

On behalf of the Trustees of Wickwar Playing Fields Association I would like to provide you with an update of the trusts activities this year.

As an overview the fields are in excellent condition and we are very pleased with the continuous increase in year on year activity. Wickwar Allotments Association plots remain fully subscribed with a healthy waiting list. The Apiary currently contains six hives which are producing good quantities of honey whilst pollenating the orchard and allotments. As the orchard is maturing the trees are displaying their best flowers so far, we are reaping the benefits of harvesting good crops

of apples, pears, nuts, plums and quince. The Run England 3-2-1 Trim Trail is getting regular use by runners, joggers and walkers.

Wickwar Wanderers FC continue to use both pitches for junior fixtures and regular training sessions. The feedback on the quality of the playing surfaces is very positive from players, coaches and visiting teams. There is a really positive relationship with the football club committee and we would like to thank them for their support.

The annual Wickwar Games, 5K Fun Run and new 1k Fun Run was held in July and was once again a roaring success. On behalf of the Games Organising Committee I would like to thank Wickwar Wunners, Friends of Alexander Hosea School, Wickwar Toddlers, Wickwar Pre-school and many individuals for their support and assistance in pulling it all together. A date for your diary: This year's Games will be held on Saturday 7th July.

The main progress this year has been on the internal finishes of the groundsmans store. At long last we have been able to recover the many items of maintenance equipment stored throughout the village and brought it under one roof. This will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all ongoing maintenance items.

Last year we identified the installation of a septic tank and power supplies as our next significant targets. I am very pleased to say with the installation of water and sewage services we now have working toilet and washing facilities; we have also completed internal and external painting, new storage, benches and tool racks have been fitted. With the very generous support of the National Lottery Awards for All scheme we are in the process of supplying power to the building and installing first and second fit electrics. In fact the ducting for the cable went in last weekend and the electrician will complete the internal wiring tomorrow.

The Trustees would like to thank the very many organisations and individuals whose funding, support and expertise have allowed the fields to prosper again this year. There is a great deal of good will in this village and I think this should be accentuated and celebrated.

If there are any questions please feel free to ask?

Kind regards,

John

John Broad
Chairman
Wickwar Playing Fields Association

1st Wickwar Scout Group

Parish Council Annual Meeting Update – Wednesday 9th May 2018

In our second year the 1st Wickwar Scout Group have been delighted to receive so much support from the Village, from our local Councillor, and from the Chipping Sodbury Lions, as well as some private donations, which has helped us to raise enough money to buy much needed camp stoves, eight tents, plus a large pile of second hand camping gear. We are very much looking forward to using our new camping gear at half term at the District Jamboree. Our next fundraising target is to raise money for tables, benches, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans etc etc.

In Scouting, we aim to involve as much outdoor adventure as possible – we joined 1st Little Stoke Scout Group for a four-day last summer in Shropshire for action packed days including a 9-mile hike, rifle shooting, climbing, camp fires and not much sleep. In September, the Cubs went on a camp at a Scout site owned by Tortworth Estate., an idyllic place with everything we could need – a fire pit, a field, a stream, an apple tree, woods and decent facilities! The Beavers enjoyed a science filled sleepover at We the Curious, formerly @Bristol. We hope to be able to do more camps soon, because some of our Leaders are being assessed for their nights away permits next month, which will enable us to run our own camps without relying on third party Scout Leaders. Watch out for us using our new equipment in the local fields!

Our Beaver Group is currently full but we will have spaces in September when some Beavers move up to Cubs. The Cub and Scout Groups have a few spaces. We try and provide an adventurous, fun and varied programme - we cater for local children aged from 6 to 14 and currently have 38 members. We also have a wonderful team of 16 adult volunteers and an invaluable support system provided by our members' parents.

We are so grateful to the Parish Council, the Church, and the residents of Wickwar for all their support in helping our Group.

We continue to be on the lookout for new adult volunteers and in particular need Leaders who can help run our Beavers Group between 5pm and 6pm on a Thursday. If anyone would like to find out more please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Joanna Hellen 07920 282587

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Wickwar Social Club Report 2018.

Wickwar Social Club is a member's club and has been in existence for over eighty-two years and has currently about 600 members. It is a busy club which televise all large sporting events and has a crib team, bingo night, a lady's book club. The club assist local charities such as the Wickwar Youth Centre and the Teenagers Cancer Trust. The also assist local teenagers in raising money for their World Challenges.

Regular functions are held in the club and it is one of the centres of the village.

Ian Aldous, Committee Member.

Wickwar Allotment Association Report 2018.

The Wickwar Allotment Association, situated on the Wickwar Playing Fields Association Playing Field, have had another successful year. We have now been in existence for eleven years and all the plots continue to be fully occupied. We have had our largest turnover of allotment holders this year but continue to have a waiting list. We continue to let half an allotment to new applicants and our rent has not been put up this last year, we in fact have one of the cheapest in the area.

We still have a number of holders who were original members when the Allotments started.

The hedge surrounding the allotments continues to be trimmed each year and is now very well established and gives us some protection from the strong winds we are susceptible to up at the Playing Fields.

I am amazed by the enthusiasm shown by the Allotment Holders each year considering the inclement weather they continue in.

Ian Aldous, Chairman Wickwar Allotment Association.