

**WICKWAR PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**AGENDA
2019**

The Annual Parish Meeting for the above Council was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 8th
May 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman – M Summers

Clerk – R Davis

Apologies:

Ward Councillor M Lewis

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th May 2018, were duly signed by the Chairman.
2. Presentation of painting of Wickwar Care Home by Reverend David Russell
The painting was presented and hung on the wall of the Town Hall meeting room.
3. Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council
Attached.
4. Annual Report from the District Ward Councillor
No report as apologies given.
5. Financial Report to the 31st March 2019
See item 3 attached.
6. Report from Wickwar Youth Club (grant recipient)
Attached.
7. Report from Wickwar out of School Club (grant recipient)
Attached.
8. Report from Wickwar Baby and Toddler Group (grant recipient)
Attached.
9. Report from Alexander Hosea School LEA Governor
No report as not in attendance.
10. Report from Wickwar Educational Foundation
No report as not in attendance.
11. Report from Wickwar Playing Fields Association
Attached.

12. Report from Wickwar Wanderers Football Club
Attached.
13. Report from Wickwar 1st Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
Attached.
14. Report from Police Neighbourhood Beat Team
Report provided. Attached.
15. Report from Neighbourhood Watch
Attached.
16. Report from Wickwar Community Speed Watch
Attached.
17. Report from King George V Playing Fields working party
Attached.
18. Report from Wickwar Parish Open & Closed Cemetery
Attached.
19. Report from Wickwar PROW (Public Rights of Way) working party
Attached.
20. Report from the Community Centre Management Committee
Attached.
21. Village organisations invited to attend this meeting.
Report on Lower Woods provided – attached.

Chairman of Wickwar Parish Council's report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May 2019.

At the risk of getting moaned at, I'll repeat a couple of things I've said before. 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?!! What I've also said before is that there's a song by one of my favourite groups, Mike and the Mechanics, which includes the lyrics 'No-one is perfect all of the time, no-one is perfect, we are what we are'. Also, I'm still a fan of the television series C.S.I., particularly the Miami version, but in one of the New York episodes a character said 'We know everything about some things, and some things about everything, but we don't know everything about everything'. We are not paid for what we do, except for some travel expenses now and then, and do not even get honorariums. 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. I've put the thought before that if we're doing alright and/or there are no problems I could count on one hand the number of parishioners who attend our monthly meetings. On the other hand.....

Some subjects to comment on, in no particular order:

The Town Hall

As I made comment on last year about heaters, they are now installed. Everyone seems to be happy with them, though there is a need to be aware of not being that close in proximity sometimes! The refurbishing and decorating is complete, which included the fitting of picture rails. The aim is for a good number of historic and significant pictures to be hung around the walls for anyone to look at with, perhaps, curiosity. It is still good to know that the bric-a-brac and items on the ground floor continue to be sold for the benefit of various charitable organisations. With the loss of the Spar shop and Post Office facility there has been talk about that area being converted to provide those requirements, if only modestly. There's still the possibility but, as usual, the topical issue of where passing trade can park has to be considered. There has also been talk of refurbishing the ground floor so that it will be suitable for the type of meetings and events that presently happen in this upper room. This is because we are aware we are not D.D.A. compliant by using this room. Having said that there doesn't appear to have been an issue so far but, if it does, we'll have to go down below and create room to hold the meeting there. The clock, which is the oldest mechanically working one in the country, is presently with the Cumbria Clock Company for refurbishment. As an irreplaceable piece of history the Council will do all that's needed to continue its workable existence.

King George V Playing Fields

The maintenance and updating of the play equipment continues to be an almost on-going requirement; surfacing erosion, wooden framework deterioration, RoSPA. inspections and recommendations and - moles! Much of the play equipment has been upgraded or changed but there is still some more that is currently being considered. These include play items for very young children and benches, some with tables. The fencing is complete, after a couple of hiccups, and so the whole of the play area is enclosed, with access by gates. A lot of the money from the sale of the portion of land in the Buthay has enabled the Council to do these works, which we are very pleased to have done and happy with the outcome. It would not be right of me to fail to mention Angie Carroll, who has been the lead in what has been achieved and who has a passion with such matters. The area is to be dog (or other animals)

free as we don't want children getting poo on their clothing or shoes. We now have a person to lock/unlock the gate each day and signage has been installed to let people know the the times. There may be issues as the days get longer and monitoring of whether vehicle drivers adhere to those times.

Youth Centre

So pleased it is not only surviving but the number of people has expanded. We continue to do our best to support financial requests.

The Buthay

As mentioned earlier, a small parcel of land fronting The Old Chapel has been sold and the Council has had the funds, some of which has been used at the Playing Fields. In conjunction with this we are still finalising the paperwork regarding a ten year lease to Merlin. We seem to have to 'nudge' Merlin now-and-again about some maintenance matters and there have been queries about parking.

The quarry on the Downs Road operated by Cemex

Again, 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 continues to move away from our 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, with meetings now being held at Charfield Village Hall as Charfield P.C. are now, principally, becoming the local authority more affected by the operations.

Planning Applications

And still it 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 still see as a down-beat financial climate. When I look at the regular lists of applications issued by South Gloucestershire Council it amuses me how many include the phrase 'to form additional living accommodation'. Could that be the cheaper option than moving to a larger property? Obviously, the big issues are the two sites on the Sodbury Road, referred to as the Horwood Lane and Pincots Lane developments. Both now have Planning Permission and so there should be 170 more housing units. A lot of progress can be seen on the Bellway site and work has started on the Linden Homes site. Soon now the Council will have the very pleasant problem of how to use the Section 106 monies to make enhancements around the village as allowed by the agreement made with the developers by South Gloucestershire Council.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

I said a fair bit last year about this in connection with the two housing developments. Our Parish Plan is old now and there ought to be an up-date. Without something our parish will have nominal affect or impact on future happenings that we would like but, this is not a Council initiative, although it can provide funds to help. Any brave souls out there who would like to have a go?

Public footpaths and bridleways

I repeat what I said last year: 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 and approaches

In connection with the two housing developments here, more at Brimsham Park and Charfield (where, I expect, you know there is an application for another 900 odd houses) the additional traffic that they will add to the volumes now seen prompted the Council to get South Gloucestershire Council's Highways Department to do a survey to introduce some controls. The Council has seen some plans, which involve the installation of some raised road platforms to restrict speeding, particularly. There is also an increasing need for a controlled crossing point, which is also included, but greater detail and proposals are awaited for the Council to look at.

The Beacon

It was, despite the weather, lit on 11th November last year to commemorate the end of conflict in the First World War. It remains in good condition and after the basket had previously been upgraded the main pole is no longer getting seriously charred.

Ward Councillor

Thank you, once again, to Marian Gilpin (formerly 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. Following the Local Council Elections last week Marian is unlikely to be visiting us in her official capacity, but I'll say a little about that a bit later.

Accounts

I 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 will truly show the financial activities throughout the last financial year ending 31st March 2019.

Councillors

My fellow Councillors have all, in their own different ways, been tremendous at providing the varied requirements of their office. What has also been very good is the camaraderie there has been and very little indifference that have hindered the decision making process. We had co-opted Andy Pennington at the start of our four year term and, last year Colin Maidment replaced Michael Cowley who, eventually, moved up to the Midlands. What is so pleasing is that they, together with Angie Carroll, Gareth Fielding and Stephen Isaac re-applied for the elections last week and were all successful. It is good to know none of them were put off by being Councillors and want to continue the superb work they have been involved with up to now. My grateful thanks for all they have done. We welcome Mike

Harris and so that leaves one more for co-option. Anyone you know who could be a likely candidate?

Our Clerks

After almost 17 years of dedicated and first class work Pat Trull resigned, effective from the end of January. For me Pat was exceptional, being efficient and dedicated and, at times, going beyond what her job description required her to do. Such was her desire to do the very best she could for our Parish. We've had a lot of changes during her years as Clerk, administratively and environmentally, and Pat took it all on board and guided us Councillors to make the right decisions. Thank you so much, Pat. So, now we'll be seeing Pat with a different hat on, that of a South Gloucestershire Council Councillor for the revised Ward of Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge, our Parish having moved from Ladden Brook, following a review by the Boundaries Commission. So, she'll be at future meetings, but in a different capacity.

So, back at the end of last year the Council set about appointing a new Clerk. How could we find someone to provide something like what Pat had done? We weren't that optimistic and the number of people interested went from 10 to start with (which, in itself, was very encouraging) to, eventually, by the closing date, just two. One of those pulled out because of another more local job offer and we were left with one. Rachel Davis. I'd said to her prior to being appointed that, for me, she was the one and only. One expects a steep learning curve from the outset and Rachel embraced what was required with complete enthusiasm. Such is the case that she is already starting to tell us Councillors what to and how to do it! I like to think the Council has struck gold and Rachel will prove to be a valuable asset and be up there with the attributes that Pat achieved. I wish Rachel all the very best as Clerk and that her relationship with the Council will be long-lasting.

Me

I'm following in the footsteps of my predecessor, Terry Proffitt. He decided that, at his age, he should give way to people younger and, maybe, more attune with the modern workings of local council administration. Similarly, my thinking is that if I went for another term of office I will be towards the top end of the 70's age range and my credulity might start to wane. I've been through six terms of office and have been pleased and honoured to have served the parish. As I said above I have enjoyed working with amicable fellow Councillors and assist in making decisions I considered best and I don't have any regrets. Anyway that's too late now! I wish all good fortune for the years to come and will assume/expect that all will continue to work just as well, if not better.

So, it's goodbye from me.....

Martin Summers

(Chairman – for a few more minutes)

Report from Wickwar Youth Centre 01.04.2018 – 31.03.2019

Attendance figures-

	01.04.18 - 30.09.18	01.10.18 – 31.03.19	Total for year
No. of sessions	32	44	76
Attendances	579	976	1,555

We are pleased to report that the number of young people attending the centre has increased over the year giving an average of 18 per session for the first 6 months and 22 per session for the second 6 months, an overall average of 20 per session for the year.

We have worked with 110 different young people over the year.

Funding

In addition to the money from the Parish Council, the final year of PAS money from South Gloucestershire Council and the first year of the Lottery Fund, the Trustees have worked hard to gain funding from a number of sources:-

£1,000.00 from Merlin Housing

£1,000.0 from Inspyre Plus

£354.64 Gift Aid refund from HMRC Charities

£650.00 from REMR Community Resilience Fund

£500.00 from room hire

£380.98 from Creative Youth Network

£385.16 from Community Engagement project Fund

This has allowed us to buy a lap top for the centre, to replace 2 of the outside lights and the sensor, fix a leak in the roof, fix the tiling in both sets of toilets, repoint some of the stonework, replace the rear fire door, fix the picnic table and benches into a concrete base, replace the fans in the 2 heating units and buy additional sports equipment and art materials.

We are currently completing negotiations to be a subcontractor for Learning Partnership West, the lead partner for Lot 2 of South Gloucestershire's new funding contract for youth provision starting 01.04.2019.

The Centre has benefitted this year from 800 hours of Trustees' time in running it, the equivalent of at least £8,000 if those hours were not free.

Activities and comments

At the beginning of the year we had an independent evaluation of the centre carried out by an evaluator from CVS, who attended both a senior and a junior session to run a survey and discussion group with the young people to find out their opinions about how the centre was run and what it offered to them.

Here are some of the comments-

'The staff are very caring'

'Fun, friendly place and very welcoming'

'You can do lots of activities'

'You can learn a lot of skills when you're here'

'It's fun and I look forward to coming'

'You can talk over any issues you have and the staff are not judgemental'

Parents of juniors have said how great it is to have a well lit, supervised space where their children can enjoy lots of physical activities, especially in the dark winter nights when they do not allow them to play outside after school.

Seniors have told us how pressured they feel with the amount of homework they get, and the stress of having to gain lots of qualifications, so they appreciate a space where they can meet up with their friends and join in with the activities as a release from that pressure.

A programme of activities is delivered to members before the start of a new term and examples of the activities are photographed and put on the Facebook Wickwar Village Forum.

WOOSC Manager's Report to Paris Council – May 2019

General Overview

Wickwar Out of School Club (WOOSC) are a not for profit organisation that continues to provide before and after school care for up to 40 children every morning and afternoon on each school day.

Staffing

Wickwar Out of School Club are overseen by a Management Committee made up of parents whose children attend WOOSC and the Club Managers. At the present date a team of 11 staff members work at Club during the school term or provide Holiday Club cover during school holidays. WOOSC complies with Ofsted's requirements for Out of School Clubs by having at least 1 member of staff at each session with Level 3 experience or above. We very fortunate to have the people that we do in place as the majority of our staff have qualifications over and above the Ofsted requirement.

Attendance Numbers

Regular bookings since September are consistently high and the club has approximately 100 children on our registration list in the 2018/19 academic year. WOOSC work very hard to ensure that our sessions each week run at an optimum staff:child ratio and have a varied selection of games and activities on offer.

Funding

Wickwar Out of School Club have been raising money to upgrade our Electronic and outside play equipment. The staff have worked hard to gain funding from a number of sources. In addition to the £500.00 gratefully received from the Parish Council, WOOSC have also received; £800.00 from South Gloucestershire Council MAF Fund; £300.00 from Renishaw

These donations have allowed us to buy electronic equipment as recommended in our Ofsted Inspection report (Karaoke machine; Bluetooth Speaker; 2 x Nintendo DS Handheld consoles & a coding robot). In addition we will shortly be taking delivery of outside break-out area which will provide much needed space for our older children and additional storage for the Club.

We continue to fundraise to provide additional outside play equipment for the club and to renew the outside play space.

Report for Wickwar Parish Council

Background

The group has been in the village for over 25 years and provides a friendly and vital support network for local parents and carers with babies and pre-school aged children. We open on Tuesday and Friday mornings and our sessions provide free play, a healthy snack for the children, craft activities, singing and story time. Due to low funds last year we had to close our Tuesday session for a brief period, but with funding support and the hard work of our committee members we have been able to re-open and run both groups since September 2018.

Events

To give a better service to our attendees we arranged for a number of local businesses to visit our sessions. These included;

- The Bristol Sling Lady
- Cloth Connections
- Eye Health in Children
- Nutrition in Children
- Jazzy Jamboree
- The Yoga Bird

We look forward to welcoming Music with Mummy in June and Fit Mum's in September.

Fundraising

Fundraising is vital to keep our doors open as we cannot operate on subscriptions alone. This year has seen real creativity and commitment from our committee members in the planning and organisation of our activities and also the generosity from our members and the local community in supporting us.

- Father's Day gift box: This containing Wickwar Beers, tankard and bottle opener sold for £10. These were a great success as we sold out and made £120 profit.
- Wickwar Games: we ran a sweet stall, Ice Cream van and the raffle. The profits of the raffle were split with the Playing Fields Association and combined with the sweets made £232.92.
- The Wickwar BIG Rock Hunt: The painted rocks looked fantastic and trail maps sold for 50p for 2 weeks over the holidays which made £36. The rock auction at the September Village Fair made an additional £45 and a further £50 on the sweet stall.
- Concept Photography: We received £106 in commission and the cake sale over the course of the day made £74
- Christmas Raffle: We had great prizes and the hard selling rewarded us with a £210.50 profit
- We have also held several cake sales, had a visit from Creation Station and Inspiration Ceramics which have all boosted our funds.

Funding

In September 2018 we applied for the grant from the Wickwar Parish Council. We were awarded money for new toys and resources for the group which gave a real moral boost and enabled us to improve the provision of toys to our children, especially the babies. We have spent roughly half of this on craft supplies and new toys.

- For the babies we bought sensory toys such as textured blankets, chiffon scarves and sensory balls; as well as new playmats and baby gyms.
- We bought a variety of different craft items for our 'craft time' which takes place each group. This included new paints and paint pots/paint brushes, sticker rolls, chalk, coloured card, pipe cleaners, various shaped stencils and a new play-doh set with accompanying accessories.
- We also purchased a tuff tray with different scenic inserts which can be used with the new cars/dinosaurs. The tuff tray is also used for 'messy-play'.
- We also spent money on much needed new storage boxes for our toys.

Report for Wickwar Parish Council

- We have started to push promotion (posters around the village and surrounding areas) in order to raise awareness and boost our numbers of attendees for the future.

We are very grateful for the grant funding provided as it has helped us to improve the service we provide for our community.

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WICKWAR PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

Mr J Broad

[REDACTED]

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr J McAleese

[REDACTED]

TREASURER

Mr K Ashworth

[REDACTED]

Wednesday, 08 May 2019

Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting 2019

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 are maintaining the allotments in great condition and the plots remain fully subscribed with a healthy waiting list. The Apiary currently contains eight hives which are producing good quantities of honey whilst pollenating the orchard and allotments. The orchard has had its best year to date and the trees are producing good crops of apples, pears, nuts, plums and quince. The Run England 3-2-1 Trim Trail continues to get 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 and 5K Fun Run was held in July and although clashing with England's fixture in the World Cup was once again a great success. On behalf of the Games Organising Committee I would like to thank Wickwar Wunners, Friends of Alexander Hosea School, Friends of Wickwar Church, Wickwar Toddlers, KLB staff 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 13th July.

This year has seen the WPFA Trustees implement a number of significant improvements on the groundsmans store and the orchard.

At last year's meeting we discussed the excavation behind the pavilion. The work progressed by digging a trench across the fields, ducting and power cable was installed, the trench was back filled; an electrical meter was fitted and then internal electrics installed in the groundsmans store. The quality of the installation is first rate and this is very much due to the excellent work carried out by Chris Mcgettigan (Excavation and installation of the ducting) and Grant Dyer (Active Electrical Contractors), we are especially pleased as they both live on the High Street. We must thank the Big Lottery fund for financing this project and making the store usable all year around.

We also asked last year if the village were considering installing Public Access Defibrillators. The resulting discussion identified that both the WPFA and Wickwar Social Club were researching this. The good news is that both parties have successfully completed their projects. We would like to thank Morrisons Foundation for funding our defibrillator which is situated on the groundsmans store.

Registered Charity No: 1114514



WICKWAR PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Last summer we completed a review of the Community Orchard and what improvements we could make to ensure the maximum community benefit. The outcome was that both maintenance and fruit processing equipment was needed. As a result of this a funding application was submitted to TESCO's for their customers to vote on. The public support the application received exceeded our wildest expectations and we received the most votes. We are now purchasing orchard ladders, fruit scratting and fruit pressing equipment in time for this year's harvest.

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 we think this should be accentuated and celebrated.

Finally, our Trustees would like to thank Martin Summers for the support, advice and vision he has provided to us over the last fifteen years. We wish him and his family the very best of health and happiness for the future.

If there are any questions please feel free to ask?

Kind regards,

John

John Broad
Chairman
Wickwar Playing Fields Association

Report from Wickwar Wanderers Football Club 01.05.2018 – 30.04.2019

Teams

- Under-10's (Cotswold Youth League)
- Under-12's (Mid-Gloucestershire League)
- Under-14's (Severn Valley League)
- Under-18's (Bristol Combination League)
- Senior Team (Stroud and District League)

Team Information

- All teams competed strongly, with the Under-18's winning their league without losing a match, and the Under-10's due to play in the CYL Cup Final on May 4th.
- We have lost a number of youth teams over the past few years and a campaign is underway to recruit more players for the current teams. Managers and players are also being sought to create teams for the missing age groups.
- It should also be noted that, although a couple of games were lost due to heavy snow, no matches were cancelled because of waterlogged pitches. Many visiting teams have commented on the excellent condition of our pitches throughout the season.

Annual Events

- The end of season Awards Ceremony took place at Wickwar Playing fields in May. All players received a trophy for their participation over the season and additional trophies were presented for Player of the Year, Player's Player and Manager's Player of the Year.
- Our annual football tournament, 'Football Frolics', was held at the Playing Fields in June and proved to be its usual success. A total of 39 teams and 240 players took part, and over £2000 was raised for the club.
- The annual WWFC Comedy Night was held in November at the Wickwar Community Rooms and tickets sold out many weeks in advance. A total of £2000 was raised for the club.

Committee

- The last season has seen a number of changes to the committee, with the previous Chairman and Secretary both moving on in the summer of 2018. Also, our Child Welfare Officer (Ginny Thompson) leaves us soon after many years of loyal service and will be greatly missed.
- An excellent working relationship has been maintained with the Parish Council, which itself has seen a number of changes to its committee. The Council have been

keen to assist us whenever possible, including making contributions to WWFC such as the recent donation for a tactics board for the Under-10's team.

- Work continues (in conjunction with the Parish Council) to move the main pitch and to provide improved signage on the Pavilion.

~~XXXX~~ ~~XX~~

1st Wickwar Scout Group - Annual Update for Wickwar Parish Council

1 May 2019

Overview of Activities

We continue to develop our Skills for Life programme, where we focus on teaching our Young People life skills such as team building, leadership skills, survival skills, navigation, and safe outdoor skills.

Our Young People range from Beavers aged 6-8, Cubs aged 8-10 and Scouts aged 10-14. We have a full Beaver Group with a small waiting list, which we see as quite an achievement given we are less than 3 years old. Numbers tend to fall off after Beavers and so we have c. 10 Cubs and 12 Scouts at present so we do have capacity in those Groups. We will be trying to encourage more of the local older children to join and we also need to attract more girls as we often lose them after Beavers.

In total we are currently providing Scouting to 39 Young People living in the Wickwar area.

Developments in the Past Year

We were delighted to award our first ever Silver Chief Scout award to one of our Cubs recently who started with us when the Group was set up three years ago. These awards are achieved by completing a wide range of badge driven tasks and challenges. We hope to keep working towards more Young People gaining their Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Scout Awards and our programme of activities is built around achieving this.

We have had a few Leader changes. Gail and Joanna are now formally Joint Group Scout Leaders with responsibility for running 1st Wickwar. We have a fantastic group of committed leaders in place, delivering the Scouting experience, but of course we could always do with more!

Planned activities

We intend to be out in the local community as much as we can this term, making the most of our great outdoors and the longer summer hours.

We have a camp planned in Gloucestershire on 19-20 July and would be delighted if any of the Parish Councillors would like to join us for tea and a camp fire experience on the evening of Saturday 20th July. The Young People will be cooking! The camp will be c. half an hour away from Wickwar.

Fundraising

In order to take all our Young People away camping we will need to buy more tents and will be in touch with a grant application in the next few weeks in the hope that you might be able to help us.

We have managed to raise funds towards a variety of camping equipment and have a raffle underway with the chance to win a balloon ride at the International Balloon Fiesta, which is an incredible prize. If anyone wants tickets please contact 1stwickwarscouts@gmail.com - tickets cost £5. This fundraising activity will help fund camp equipment, such as tables, chairs, cutlery, washing up bowls, etc etc and a trailer to transport items.

If the Parish Councillors would like to come and see what we do, we would be delighted to welcome you at either our camp or one of our weekly meetings.

1st Wickwar Scout Group

Update Wickwar AGM

Beat update 2019

Anti - Poaching Operations.

3 x Anti - Poaching operations have taken place in relation to Hare coursing and Deer hunting this was done with the assistance of Badminton game keepers and Durham park officers across the top end of the A46 two separate teams were identified but no criminal offences were identified. The operations will continue later this year.

Licensed Premises

ASB and Disorder is low around the licensed premises- Licensing checks have been completed and have been satisfactory with only 1. Establishment failing on low level breaches these have since been rectified. The local Team continue to monitor and are planning further checks in partnership with South Glos Licensing department.

Schools

Local team have continued to deal with cyber crimes /assaults and Knife crime within schools, education is offered to prevent such incidents. Schools have supported Police action in relation to Knife crime and a strong message is sent to students when these incidents take place (usually possession of a bladed article).

Community Speed watch

Several Speed watches have invited local team to participate and assist with their Speedwatch sessions- these have been successful and have also been reinforced with the Camera van/Bike when possible. Local Team would encourage parishioners to contact local speed watch if interested, I am sure they would be grateful for the assistance.

Upcoming Beat Surgeries

Friday 24th May 1000-1100 hrs (previously 25th)

Monday 24th June 1530-1630 hrs

Wednesday 24th July 1730-1830 hrs

Break down of crime for Beat CN 208 Jan 19 till Present.

Violence Against The Person 23

Arson and Criminal Damage 19

Burglary 10

Theft 9

Public Order Offences 8

Vehicle Offences 6

Sexual Offences 3

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society 2

15. Wickwar Neighbourhood Watch Report – May 2019

“The Watch is still technically in existence but is inactive. The level of support when a village meeting was held in May 2017 proved insufficient to re-establish a network of street contacts and I have had insufficient energy to do anything more about this. However, I have continued with NhW articles in the Parish News, although the time lag between the date for their submission and the distribution of the next issue means that anything urgent or immediate is not being circulated to residents. Fortunately there has been little of this nature, as we are a “low crime area”. If the Parish Council wishes I will have one more attempt to recruit enough volunteers to run a more effective Watch, but then will have to retire from active involvement myself.”

Philip Revill

16. Wickwar Speedwatch Report – May 2019

We have an excellent contingent of Speedwatchers in Wickwar. We aim to speedwatch at least three times a week, including the occasional Sunday morning which can be very busy. We have been concentrating on The Downs Road recently, with some quite shocking speed results in the 30mph zone. With our concentration on this area and continual presence we have managed to reduce the amount of speeders on this road. Thank you very much to the Wickwar Speedwatchers. We would like some more volunteers. The training is online. If anybody would like to volunteer, please contact Ward Councillor Pat Trull.

Pat Trull

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD 2018/19

2018 was 100yrs since the end of WW1 and the Beacon was lit at our allotted time and the Church Bells rang a Peel at the same time.. Lots of villagers gathered to watch and to listen and commemorate the ending of the war on that special Sunday 11th day of the 11th month...

We served hot Chocolates with the monies going to the HELP FOR HEROES CHARITY.. A good evening had by all..

Well finally we have the play area fenced off to let the children and families have a safe area to play.. There were an increasing number of dogs running up to children in the play area and fouling the area which in turn made it a very unfriendly place to be.. Now though is the complete opposite..!

We have also put temporary fencing against the hedge as there were a few large holes in it. Whips will be planted this Autumn..

The fencing and more so the gates into the play area have caused a few problems.

We have had closers fitted but had to have them refitted as the mounting bolts were not strong enough.. Hopefully now though it will be alright, and these gates and closers will not cause more problems..

This year we will be placing 3 extra Benches outside the play area along with some extra litter bins..

We also want to purchase 4 items of new play equipment inside the play area.

A seesaw for all ages, a spinner bowl, playhouse for toddlers and a Tango swing seat.. The last three are for smaller children who don't have many pieces to play on up there at present....

We also want to place a couple of picnic tables in there too but we need to get the equipment in first to see what space and where for the picnic tables.. Finally at the end some tree planting to give future shade in there..

The football clubs new committee are arranging to move the goal posts on the pitch closest to play area this year so they will have a new pitch for next season..

With the 106 monies expected later from the building of the new houses there will be money spent on the Pavilion as well as other items still under discussion at this time..

We have a new person closing the gates now John Clements.. He is having a bit of a problem closing the gates some nights with empty cars in the car park, mainly youngsters. We have changed the gate times for winter time and had new signs made, but the problem is ongoing and I have asked PC Ken Hill for advice on this matter..

Chris Marshall is to replace broken stile next to safety gate into field as well..

Angie Carroll

CEMETERY REPORT 2018/19

It has been quite busy getting ready for 100yr Anniversary of WW1.. Not quite so many burials and all in all not too bad up there..

As this year marked the 100 yrs since WW1 ended
We had to repair some of our 1st WW graves in the closed churchyard as not tended anymore in readiness for our marking 100yrs since the war ended..

Arthur Threlfell Searson stepped up and took the reigns for getting the graves marked and sorted,, He also did a very nice commemoration with wooden crosses for all village troops lost near the church door.. We also managed to get a couple of silhouettes for the bench there.. Remembrance Sunday was a great affair with everyone assembling at the Town Hall, We followed The vicar our veterans and our Brownies Guides Cubs and Scouts up to the church all holding their banners high.. As the men of the village did when they went for their Blessing before they set off to war..

It was a very special ceremony with the Vicar Blessing the Banners then we all filed outside for the Last post and reading of the names of villagers lost.

A truly lovely ceremony made all the nicer by the efforts of so many villagers with decorating the gates, church and churchyards with Poppies, but also by our young generations taking such a key roll in the decoration and commemoration .

We also had some tree work done in the closed churchyard.. We had self seeded Horse Chestnut and Ash trees that were growing in the wall by the stank removed as they were breaking the wall out.. Also the Laurels as they were so overgrown and also damaging the wall.. It has let so much light back into that side of the churchyard again.

The grass cutting caused us a few problems last year which was not like Mr Howse and his team.. We found out the problem and got it sorted and had all the grass cut up until the week before Remembrance Sunday..

Pat Trull, Councillor Andy Pennington's son and myself had a good effort to remove the ivy that is swamping the walls up there as well in our effort to have it looking nice for Nov 11th..

This year already we have had 2 grass cuts up there this year and they have been excellent cuts again with all grass picked up and graves blown off of grass cuttings.. Back to how it should and was except for last year 2018.

Councillor Gareth Fielding has also now very kindly donated a portion of his professional gardeners time to tackle the ivy problem for us and a couple of overgrown corners of the churchyard. This will be a great help as the amount of ivy is quite astounding now.. I feel I should be able to keep the ivy down that is around graves and maybe we will have a working party day this year..

The grass in the closed area will now be mown all over again, after the wild flowers have finished. As although the path cut through to the bench was nice it has led to an overgrowth that has damaged graves and we have actually lost some of the wildflowers up there so hopefully this coupled with the tree works will bring it back to how it used to look a little I hope..

I have also mentioned to David Russell about the fact that some of the trees around the church which is the area the PC don't care for need serious attention and I know Councillor Gareth Fielding was going to talk to the PCC about it as well..

Councillor Angie Carroll.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY 2018/19

Most of our paths, stiles and gates are all in good repair.. I had one fixed last week on LWR 25/20 the farmer of that land likes to do his own repairs and does so very quickly and well..

South Glos have all the village paths on their cutting list now so they are cut each year..

We try to walk as many paths around the village every year.

We usually have Parish walks once a month in Summer where we cut back overgrowth etc on the paths and villagers are more than welcome in these walks which we do advertise are on the forum and poster on the Town Hall noticeboard.. Feel free to come along and familiarise yourself with the paths around the village..

We sadly didn't get to do many walks last year but I did have South Glos PROW come and cut a couple of fallen trees and clear overgrowth on a couple of paths but otherwise they were all good..

This year's Parish walks start on May 12th 2.30 pm, weather permitting.. We welcome families and people with well behaved dogs on leads though, as not everyone likes dogs running around them..

We thought we would try going in the afternoons for a change this year as a lot of people have other commitments on Sunday mornings...

Looking forward to some nice walks again..

Angie Carroll

Report by Hon. Treasurer of Wickwar Community Centre for the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 8th May 2019.

The Centre has been struggling. Not as far as bookings are concerned, nor financially, but as regards the management. I quote from Section 3.1. in the Lease document dated 1st October 1996:

'...the Committee shall consist of three elected members (who shall take the offices of Treasurer, Secretary and Booking Secretary), at least four representative members and co-opted members to a maximum of fifteen members in total'.

The representative members have to be two Councillors, one Governor and the Headteacher. Besides myself, Ian Aldous has been a Council representative, but he's also been taking notes at meetings because there has been no Secretary. As a result most queries have been for either Ian or myself to resolve (when not beyond our current Booking Secretary, Pat, to handle), which has not been a problem, but it may become so in the near future. Ian is not continuing and I will be handing over the financial management later this year (most likely just after the financial year end of 30th September). We have managed to 'cajole' a couple of people to take on the roles of Booking Secretary and Treasurer, so there will be a kind of 'status quo' but it would be very useful to have someone who could oversee or undertake repairs, improvements, etc. As the Parish Council knows the default situation is that it will be responsible for the above functions.

As far as hirings are concerned it is very pleasing to have W.O.O.S.C. and Tiddlypeeps continuing to use the Centre during the day on all school operational days and also some holiday days as well. We also have four other regular hirers and then there's the Friends of A.H.P.S. plus the Football Club. There has also been some parties and meetings. Their usage has provided funds to do some upgrades, particularly in the toilets and support the cost of replacement lighting in the Hall.

There are a few things still to be settled. The revised outside shared usage area has still to be finalised and then the legal side can be done. I have (very slowly) been working on an extension by the main entrance, which will comprise a toilet for those with disabilities and babies and also a dedicated caretaker's storeroom. This has the approval of the Governors.

Mrs. June Collins was our cleaner/caretaker until early into 2017 and then, fortunately, Pat was able to get her son Michael and Vanessa Gregory to continue, with her help as well. Then June returned towards the end of last year, and long may she continue her good work. Our grateful thanks go to Vanessa, Michael, Pat and June for keeping the Centre fully acceptable to the hirers.

I also thanks the School and Governors for their co-operation and input.

Martin Summers
Hon. Treasurer

REPORT ON LOWER WOODS FOR WICKWAR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2019

Coppicing has as usual continued throughout last Autumn/Winter at various locations. This year work has focussed on new coupes in Qakhall, Crews and Sturt carried out mainly by the Thursday Volunteers. The work chiefly involves cutting down areas of derelict coppice to bring them back into rotation which will improve the quality and number of new stems which regrow. The produce is used for stakes, binders, spars, beanpoles, hurdles, fascines, firewood and charcoal. Opportunity is taken to selectively fell overstorey trees on the areas being coppiced, particularly the non-native poplars. The coppicing and felling also greatly improves wildlife habitats by creating diversity and allowing more light to reach the woodland floor.

The local coppice group has continued work in South Moons and this area has now been completed.

Ride widening also involves coppicing and selective felling with the major work concentrating on Abrahams Walk by the river. The appearance of this area has been transformed and as well as greatly improving habitat the increased attractiveness of the ride for walkers is obvious.

Fencing of the coppiced coupes is carried out by the volunteers to keep the areas free of deer which would otherwise extensively graze the new growth on the stools (as well as the wildflowers). You only have to compare the growth on the fenced areas with that outside the fences to see what a difference it makes.

Even to casual observers walking in the woods dead and dying Ash trees of all sizes are now becoming more noticeable. This is **Ash Dieback disease** which is now countrywide and is likely to result in the eventual death of perhaps 97% of the Ash population. Around half of all high forest trees in Lower Woods are Ash so in the years to come the woods will undergo major change. There is no cure or remedy to the disease but scientists are busy working on the breeding of disease tolerant Ash, involving seed from trees which are progressively identified as showing some resistance. So in the long term there is hope that the Ash may be able to be successfully reintroduced to our woodlands. In the meantime we have to keep a close watch on affected Ash and fell any which may cause a safety hazard.

Trees of other species will over time naturally fill the gaps left by the Ash but to speed this process up a tree nursery has been installed next to the woodyard at the Lodge. Volunteers have collected seed and seedlings from Lower Woods from species such as Oak, Wild service, Beech and Hornbeam so far. These have been grown on and planted out in the nursery. A potting shed has been constructed and a water supply installed.

Dormouse boxes are being put up in suitable places in the woods again, instigated by Charlotte Targett from Avon Wildlife Trust. Fifty have been installed so far with hopefully another fifty to follow.

Fallen trees provide a near constant workload, as they need to be cleared where they fall across rides and paths, or into the river. Trees on the south bank of the Little Avon seem particularly prone to storm damage, perhaps because the steep banking here is unstable and subject to gradual intermittent movement. Some branchwood in the river is good for life in the stream and provision of different habitats but some fallen trees can virtually dam the river and have to be dealt with.

The river bank here has slipped in places and overhung the path alongside the river, needing some extensive repair work by the volunteers.

Deer and Grey squirrel populations in Lower Woods are too high and are damaging to young tree growth, wild flora and also woodland birds. A closely controlled deer management programme has commenced but has now been halted temporarily until further information and education as to the reasons for the programme have been effectively put across. Squirrels are even more of a challenge but something effective and safe will be needed to keep them in check if extensive future damage to the woodland is to be avoided.

With the help of funding from Network Rail a **felling programme and contract** has been prepared for Western Red Cedar plantations in the southern woods. These are non-native conifers which will be replaced by natural regeneration of native broadleaf species and where necessary by supplementary planting, mainly with young Oak from our tree nursery. Some of the trees are to be used in Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's new headquarters building and this timber has been felled and extracted already for conversion into planking in our woodyard. This work will be an important demonstration of how sustainable woodland management in our own woodlands can produce a valuable resource and save money whilst benefitting nature conservation.

A new **Tuesday Group** has been formed for volunteers to work in the woods, on a similar basis to the popular Thursday group which regularly has around 16 volunteers each week. Already Tuesday numbers are up to 8.

Problems are occurring again with **unauthorised access by motor bikes**, mainly into the southern woods. They are using the grass rides as green lanes illegally. Neil Lodge is doing what he can to apprehend them and/or try to read number plates and report to the police. Some horse riders are going off designated bridle paths in the woods, churning up rides unnecessarily when the ground is damp and soft.

The Lodge track has been successfully reconstructed and so far has stood up well to all the traffic. A close watch is being made to spot and deal with any potholes as soon as they begin to form.

The Trust has been liaising with **S. Glos Council Commons officers** to ensure cooperation on commons management including the woodland common in Lower Woods. This can be a complicated issue and close liaison is necessary to ensure

that we do not infringe commons law and where necessary take mitigating measures.

The importance of **funding** to the continuance of conservation work in Lower Woods cannot be over-stated. Wildlife Trust officers are working continuously to work up projects and locate new sources of funding whether this be charitable trusts, corporate or from Government. So far this has been successfully achieved over many years but the funding environment continues to become more challenging, especially when and if we leave the European Union.

Bill Heslegrave

On behalf of the Lower Woods Advisory Group, Neil Lodge and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust