

Wicklewood News

~ MAY 2014 ~

Website: <http://wicklewoodpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

PARISH COUNCILLORS			
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Alan Goodings [Highways]	Tel: 01953 603340	County Councillor: Margaret Dewsbury	Tel: 01603 759693. Email: Margaret.dewsbury@norfolk.gov.uk
Richard Goodings	Tel: 01953 605864	Village Hall Booking Clerk: Karen Bush	47 High Street, Wicklewood. Tel: 01953 603395 Mob: 07887 772207
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Peter Campbell McBride [Vice Chairman]	Tel: 01953 604029		

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 2013/14.

The Council has met on a regular monthly basis throughout the year and once again our Clerk Anne Panella has given us sound advice and carried out her duties very diligently. She is an asset to the Council and has helped to raise the profile of the Parish Council throughout the year.

At the end of 2013 Simon Moore resigned as a Councillor as he is now living away from the village. Having advertised the vacancy there was no request for a by-election but two applicants put themselves forward and the Council agreed to co-opt Peter Campbell-McBride, who sat for the first time at the February meeting.

Karen Bush continues with her twin roles of Caretaker and Booking Clerk to the Village Hall, and I would like to thank her for all the hard work that she has done during the year. We are very fortunate in having the services of Nicola Goodings who organises the licensed bar at the Hall and is also responsible as the Licensed Premises Manager. Thanks, as ever, must go to Nicola for all her hard work in providing the bar for the various functions. Les Whitehead continues to carry out small repairs on a purely voluntary basis and I would once again like to thank him for all that he has done during the last twelve months.

In April 2013 the Hall was re-roofed with a metal profile material incorporating insulation. It has certainly been noticeable that the Hall has been warmer this winter and the heating system working more efficiently. As part of the re-roofing exercise the Hall was completely re-decorated which has been appreciated by all those that hire the premises. The Council is now investigating the acoustics now that the false ceiling has been removed.

As in previous years, the Council organised the verge cutting on behalf of the County Council which has meant that this has been carried out at a timely basis. I would like to thank Alan Goodings for his efforts in organising and overseeing the verge and grass cutting.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work during the year. Jack Hipperson for his work as Financial Officer, Richard Goodings as Playing Field Officer, Alan Goodings as member responsible for highway matters. Andrew Goodings, as Vice Chairman supported me in addition to being the responsible officer for the Village Hall and car park and also taking the meetings when I was unable to attend. Lorraine Long, Simon Moore and latterly Peter Campbell-McBride have all contributed to the work of the Council.

Many parishioners may not appreciate the time councillors give voluntarily during the year carrying out repairs and maintenance to the hall and playing field and also delivering newsletters. I would like to formally record our gratitude for this work.

M J W Gamble, Chairman

New Parish Councillor: In February this year the Parish Council welcomed Peter Campbell McBride as the new co-opted councillor. He and his wife moved from Cambridgeshire to Wicklewood 18 months ago and run their own business from the village. He has a wealth of experience as both a parish councillor and school governor and we welcome him both to our village and the parish council.

WICKLEWOOD OLD VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

The Trust was formed in 1976 using the proceeds from the sale of the former village hall in Church Lane. A charity was established and has been administered by five trustees - two nominative trustees from the Parish Council, two co-opted trustees and an ex-officio trustee representing the benefice of High Oak. The Charity has funds invested in long term Government Stock which yields an income of approximately £270.00 each year. This income has to be distributed by way of grants ...'for the charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Wicklewood and the neighbourhood thereof for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes or other public funds'. Over the years many village organisations have been given small grants to help with projects. The Charity Trustees usually meets 4 times each year on the second Monday of March, June, September and December and are always willing to consider applications. Applications should be made by letter or email to the clerk of the Trustees at peterwoodrow235@btinternet.com.

Acoustics at the Village Hall

Many thanks to those residents and users of the Village Hall for keeping the Parish Council informed of the problem with the acoustics at the Village Hall since the new roof was installed and we are currently investigating solutions that can be employed. Although the Parish Council has some cash reserves for such projects we may also have to consider making an application for a grant from a local or national agency which may, unfortunately, delay the implementation of any remedy. However, we will keep you informed and hopefully it won't be too long before we have a solution in place.

Windmill Cottages

The continuing vacancy of the Windmill Cottages was raised at the Annual Parish Meeting on 7th April. As a result the Parish Council has written to the Trust requesting an update on progress to date for restoring the cottages that may then allow them to be rented. We are aware that the Trust has approached some other organisations seeking support and funding to renovate the cottages but, so far, that has not proved successful.

Users of the Bottle and Clothes Bank at the Village Hall

The Parish Council receives a small 'adopter' payment each year from South Norfolk Council to host the Mini Recycling facilities at the Village Hall. Whilst the payment is quite small it does help the Parish Council to pay the numerous bills associated with running a facility like the Village Hall. As part of this adopter agreement it is expected that no fly-tipping will occur and that access will be maintained at all times for vehicles and pedestrians.

It would be much appreciated if you could please place all your recyclable items **into** the Banks and not leave them, even in bags, beside the Banks. It is very rare that the Banks are completely full as they are monitored regularly so please assist in keeping the area clear and safe, in particular with regard to any glass that could be picked up by children playing in the area.

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about the amount of litter in the village; please help to keep a pleasant village and take your litter home. Many thanks

'No Cold Callers' Stickers

Our PCSO, Marie Albinagorta has reminded us that anyone who wishes to obtain these stickers to put in their window or on their front door can get them free by emailing SNTWYMONDHAM@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask to be put through to Wymondham Police Station; the stickers will be posted or delivered to you. The stickers have proved successful in other areas of the city by uniting residents to say No to suspicious callers who often prey on vulnerable residents to sell their services and are an important element in the drive to stop rogue traders ripping off consumers. Anyone experiencing problems with traders/bogus officials, or needing further advice, can call the national consumer helpline - Consumer Direct on **08454 040506** or alternatively contact Norfolk Constabulary on **0845 456 4567**. In an emergency always dial **999**.

Allotments

The Parish Council has a number of allotments available; the plots are 20m x 6 m and rent is only £20 per annum – fantastic value for money – payable each October. If you'd like to start growing your own fruit and veg – or perhaps two people would like to share – please contact the Clerk.

Wicklewood Bowling Club

Our summer season is now under way and as well as a programme of fixtures in three leagues we are organising 'Trial and Instruction' sessions for beginners. If you would like to join please contact Richard Goodings on 01953 605864