

## **A Century of the Wix Parish Council**

Wix Parish Council has been in existence for 114yrs. The Local Government Act of 1894 decreed that every rural parish in England with 300 or more inhabitant must elect a Parish Council.

The initial meeting to elect councillors was held on the 4th Dec. 1894 at which Charles James Eagle of Park Hall was elected Chairman and those elected as Councillors were Procter Benwell (Vicar), Edward Clay Eagle(Spring Farm), Arthur Webb(Dairy House), Herbert Brunwin (The Waggon), William Paskell(The Post Officer) and Thomas Smith (Ramsey Road). The first official meeting was held on the 14th February 1895 in the National School Room (opposite the bus stop in Harwich Road) when Procter Benwell was elected Chairman. The council's first action was to increase the salary of the Parish Assistant Overseer of The Poor to £30 per year in consequence of his additional duties as Clerk to the Council.

At the June 1902 meeting the bad condition of the village well on Wix Green was discussed but it was decided that nothing should be done about it! In 1905 a telegraph office at the Wix Post Office was proposed and this was accepted. April 1911 discussed the celebrations for King George VI coronation which were to be a united service at the church after which dinner, sports and a concert were to be held.

The Waggon and White Hart pubs were put up for sale by the Stour Brewery in 1928 and the Parish Council asked the County Council to buy the Waggon in order to demolish it due to the bad corner [obviously this didn't take place!].

In May 1930 the Colchester Electrical Authority wrote to the Council giving details of their proposed lighting scheme - and so Wix got electric lighting.

Consent for the building of 6 council houses, in Colchester Road, was given in 1930 and in 1934 the Council asked the TDC to provide a weekly service of refuse collection ; this was agreed. By 1936 the Council were expressing alarm at the number of Scarlet Fever cases in Wix during July.

War broke out in 1939 and at the August 1940 meeting only Mr. Cooper and Mr. Fred Clarke turned up saying 'we are in abnormal times' and the other members of the Council were on work of national importance.

The American servicemen, stationed in Wix in March 1944, were in trouble because of 'nuisance in The Grove' [we are not told exactly what the nuisance was!]

June 1952; The Council called a public meeting to ascertain the form of celebration for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In March 1958 the Council wrote to Daniells brewery asking that the Waggon urinal be moved because it offended the laws of common decency.

The proposed Wix bypass was discussed in June 1967 when it was hoped that it would pass to the south of the village, but this was not to be and the northern bypass was in use in 1974. And so on.

Don Budds