

## ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm

### Minutes of meeting

**Present:** Councillors B Dwyer, (Chair), R Collins, J deGraft-Johnson, M Downes, K Richards, K Tatman, Mrs G Wyant, Mrs P Heath (clerk).

**Apologies:** There were none.

**Public:** 9, including City Councillor Brian Staley.

#### **2014/104 Declaration of interest**

Cllr Kate Richards declared that she lived next door to The Post Office House as planning applications for an extension of the property were to be discussed later in the meeting. It was agreed that she could remain in order to make her comments and that this would not constitute a conflict of interest.

#### **2014/105 Minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The minutes were agreed. Cllr deGraft-Johnson proposed and Cllr Richards seconded.

#### **2014/106 Matters arising**

##### **Ref: 96/2014 Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Dwyer had spoken to Mick Giles, who organised Neighbourhood Watch in Littlebourne, and had discussed their organisation, including use of stickers. It was agreed that these could be useful, and could also be used to list emergency and other contact numbers on the back, and *stickers will be ordered in due course*. Someone, not necessarily on the Council, is needed to organise Neighbourhood Watch and *Cllr Tatman will ask Jacquie to send an email around the village*. The security of properties in The Street which were accessible from the fields off Drill Lane was also discussed. Security lights at the back were a good idea but up to individuals to organise but the members agreed that locked gates barring entry other than on foot to the fields would be useful. Martin Twyman had been asked and had had no objection to this and the combination of the lock could be given to properties who had a right to access and, maybe, to regular horse riders. The footpath is not a public right of way and can be closed. Cllr Dwyer will liaise with Mr Twyman to effect the closure.

##### **Ref: 97/2014 Finance**

The meeting was told that the Environment Agency was currently working on the Seaton Weir and that the Council would not have to bear the cost.

##### **Ref: 99/2014 Election publicity**

Cllr Dwyer produced a publicity flyer encouraging residents to stand for election. *This will be circulated once all have agreed.*

##### **Ref: 101/2014 Parish Council website**

Cllr Downes had obtained a quotation from Hayward Design and Print to set up and maintain the website. With discount, the development cost would be £1,135 and annual maintenance charge £290. The members agreed that it was too costly and that it would be best to defer any decision until after the election, maybe then finding someone local to undertake the task. *Cllr Downes agreed to inform Mr Hayward.*

#### **2014/107 Finance**

There had been no reaction from council tax payers to the 10% increase in precept. It was pointed out that this increase could not be stopped under the current system but that this might change in the future.

#### **2014/108 Planning**

Two similar applications, (CA/15/00453/FUL and CA/15/00454/LB), had been submitted for the erection of an orangery / rear extension at The Post Office, The Street, Ickham. Cllr Richards expressed her concern, as a neighbour, of the amount of additional noise that people renting the property might cause. The owners of the property, who were in the audience, assured her that the house was not going to be rented out again in the future. There were no objections to the applications.

#### **2014/109 Highways**

Cllr Tatman said that there would be an internal meeting at Southern Water on 1<sup>st</sup> April to discuss the mains replacement, which was still high on the agenda and that he hoped to be able to report on the outcome of this at the next meeting. During installation, a large area including Littlebourne, Bramling and Bridge, will be affected when water supply is switched off as the pipes are connected.

The Environment Agency had agreed to widen the egress of water from Drill Lane, but *this needs to be chased up*. Plywood and sandbags had been placed in the ditch, possibly by the landowner or the Environment Agency, as a temporary measure to prevent the water flowing into Black Hole Dyke and causing problems, but the water was running high. It was pointed out that, due to the direction of the flow now and the deepening of the ditch, Ickham rather than Wickhambreaux could be in danger of flooding.

#### **2014/110 Polytunnels**

Cllr Dwyer reported that he had sent an email to Canterbury City Council informing them that the caravans off School Lane had already been occupied, ahead of the permitted time. As it was only a few weeks until they could be used, he only requested that this be noted but that in future years, the occupation rule should be enforced if necessary. He had asked Mansfield to arrange a discussion but, so far, no-one from the Council nor Mansfield had yet replied and *this should be chased up*. Cllr Wyant pointed out that Mansfield was generally helpful, for example, storing sandbags for the village on property that he was renting, and that she too had emailed him to remind him of the conditions relating to the caravans.

#### **2014/111 Friends of Ickham**

Mrs deGraft-Johnson had brought details of the proposed usage of a grant from 4VPO to restore the signpost by the pond. However, it was mentioned that English Heritage feel that village signposts should be maintained and it was suggested that a *letter be sent to Canterbury City Council asking if they would renovate it*. Cllr Tatman

pointed out that Highways, if asked, would probably want to replace the post and that the letter should clearly stipulate that renovation, not replacement, was required.

There was also discussion of how wood from the uprooted cedar tree at the Old Rectory could be used. A local sculptor, Dan, who had already created a mermaid statue from the timber, had been given the wood pending a decision on how to erect some sort of memorial to the tree in the village and was liaising with Alan Jones. Cllr Dwyer had received quotations from the sculptor, ranging from £5,000 for a love seat to £750 for a bench – and these costs were thought excessive and that *other quotations should be sought*. There was concern that the distinctive colour of the wood was not in keeping with the traditional appearance of the village green in front of the church, and any construction might be more suitable elsewhere. Mrs deGraft-Johnson, Cllrs Dwyer and deGraft-Johnson and Alan Jones would meet to discuss options and *Mrs deGraft-Johnson would present details at the next parish meeting*.

#### **2014/112 Elections**

Cllr Dwyer showed the members a draft poster inviting new applicants to fill the vacancies caused by the fact that he himself was not standing for re-election and nor were Cllrs Mark Downes and Richard Collins. He reminded the meeting that, if there were more than 7 applicants, an election would have to be held. *Nominations should be taken to the electoral office in Canterbury by 4pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April at the latest*.

#### **2014/113 Correspondence**

There was none to discuss.

**Meeting opened for any public comments**

#### **2014/114 AOB**

It was reported that Wickhambreaux School had been awarded outstanding status in all categories during a recent Ofsted inspection, (Sturry being the only other school in Kent to achieve this). *A letter will be sent to congratulate them on their achievement*.

Cllr Tatman reported that he was unable to go to the KALC meeting in April.

All agreed that new councillors should attend the initiation courses held at various locations including Ashford.

Cllr Dwyer mentioned that the handover of the Chairman's role would take place at the AGM or APM, although he might be required to assist the new chairman.

Cllr deGraft-Johnson reported the concern of the Ickham Court Farm Management Committee about the worsening visibility when entering The Street, partly caused by the large gas van, which could not park in Forge House where the van owner lived. It was felt that an accident would be caused one day, both by the visibility issues caused by parking and also the speed of some vehicles through the village. Mirrors placed on Forge House would improve the former and *Cllrs Dwyer and deGraft-Johnson will*

*draft a letter to the City Council and to residents of Forge House about placing such mirrors.* It was suggested that ‘sleeping policemen’ could be installed to slow traffic but Cllr Downes pointed out that these were generally unpopular with residents due to the noise caused by vehicles accelerating away afterwards.

City Councillor Brian Staley reported that he would not be standing for re-election in May and introduced the Lib-Dem candidate, Graham Duplock. Cllr Staley will speak at the AGM about his eight years in office including the fight for full concurrent funding, lower speed limits on the A257, (although more work needs to be done urgently to improve safety at the corners in Bramling where there are two road junctions) and how he has achieved a good working relationship re the A257 with MP Laura Sandys. Mr Duplock then told the meeting that he had been a Parish Councillor in Bokesbourne for 30 years prior to moving to Littlebourne. Due to recent boundary changes, he was now part of this electoral district and was keen to represent the community.

**Date of next meeting: There is a planning meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April, if required.**

**The next parish meeting is at 6.30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, followed by the AGM at 7.30pm and APM**