

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Meeting – 19th October 2015 at 6.30pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors J deGraft-Johnson (Chair), K Tatman, L Shouls, K Richards, (part), P Heath (clerk).

Public: 2 members of the public

2015/82: Apologies:

Councillors P Hodges, S Hipkin and G Wyant were unable to attend. Councillor Richards informed the clerk that she would be unable to make the 6.30pm start time.

2015/83 Declarations of interest

As at the previous meeting, Councillors J deGraft-Johnson declared his interest in Carpenters Lodge, as the owner was a supplier to his business. Councillor Tatman declared an ongoing interest in the mains replacement as his property was at risk from flooding.

2015/84 Minutes of meeting on 21st September 2015

The minutes were signed as a true record and they will be placed on the web. A notice informing parishioners that copies may be obtained from the parish clerk will be circulated and placed on the notice boards at Ickham and Bramling

2015/85 Matters arising

85/01: 69/01 – Councillor deGraft-Johnson has informed residents of Ickham Court Farm, who were not at the meeting, about East Kent Housing's decision not to install a mirror on the wall of Forge House, which would have improved visibility for cars exiting onto The Street.

85/02: 69/03 – Councillor deGraft-Johnson had talked to Simon Mount about the trees on the new village green and had been told that a few needed some staking, pruning and feeding. He suggested asking for volunteers via the village email.

85/03: 69/05 - The Parish Plan had not yet been uploaded onto the web site, nor had the balance of funds been transferred to the parish council.

85/04: 69/10 – The property agents, Strutt and Parker, have written to the manager of The Duke public house reminding them that there is no

public right of way from the back exit of the pub garden across land which is owned by the Church Commissioners and leased to a local farmer and, furthermore, that permission has not been given to have a gate allowing access to and egress from the pub via the field.

85/05: Councillor Tatman had informed Fred Bennett's son of the Council's decision not to allow the planting of an oak tree on the village green as a memorial to his father, due to problems of finding a suitable site for the tree.

2015/86 Carpenters Lodge

The owners had been in touch with Councillor Tatman and with Canterbury City Council and the current position was that they would be submitting revised plans to the City Council by the end of October in order to overcome the three breaches of the permission granted in 2011. The work currently being done should be completed by the end of the week. The matter is now solely between the owners, who have offered to keep the Parish Council informed, and the City Council and no longer a concern of the Parish Council at this time.

2015/87 Finance

In the absence of Councillor Hipkin, the Parish Clerk was asked if there were any matters needing attention and there were none.

2015/88 Highways

88/01: **A257 Group** - Councillor Tatman reported that preparations were underway for a meeting with Kent CC at the end of November on major issues affecting the road between Canterbury and Sandwich, as detailed in last month's minutes. There will be speakers from the Stodmarsh Road area, Littlebourne, Ickham and Well, Wingham and Shatterling (Staple). The Group will be seeking a 40mph limit from Canterbury to Littlebourne, 40mph from Littlebourne to the Cherville Lane approach with double white lines, 30mph from there to beyond the Bramling bend, 40mph from there to Wingham, and possibly 40-50 mph down through Shatterling to Ash, together with double white lines. Councillor Tatman will soon be making a formal approach to Bramling residents seeking opinions on a speed camera near the Bramling bend and, so far, this has only been met with approval.

88/02: **Mains replacement** - Councillor Tatman reported that work will start on the eastern part of Wingham Well Lane on the 9th November with resultant road closure and, once completed, work will begin at the western end at Bramling. Meanwhile Southern Water are negotiating to use farm land off the road for the middle section, which includes sign-off of an environmental impact study. If the negotiation fails, the middle section of the road will also be dug up and closed with access

limited to residents. The Wingham Well Section is scheduled to be completed by Christmas. Work on the A257 section will start in January and will take 3 to 5 months. There will be manned lights controlling the traffic. SW are arranging “drop-in” sessions to provide interested parties with details and these will probably be at Wingham and Littlebourne village halls. Councillor Tatman will inform Councillors and residents when dates and venues are confirmed.

88/03: **Wingham Lane potholes** – Councillor Tatman reported that he had been astounded to receive a phone call from KCC asking if he was a satisfied customer regarding the pothole fixes. He had informed them that he was not satisfied as no work had been carried out and was told that the issue had been closed as completed. He then called Highways and they opened up a new issue, (they can’t re-open a closed issue), which is still “under investigation”. Councillor Tatman put a call in to Sid Miller, the Highway Steward, to get an explanation for the delay and is still awaiting a reply.

88/04: **Accidents** - There has been yet another accident since the last meeting, a collision between a car and van outside Councillor Wyant’s driveway on the A257 near Littlebourne. The car driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries and the road was closed in both directions for several hours.

88/05: **Bekesbourne Lane** - Although not in our parish, the Lane is well used by residents and so Councillor Tatman informed the meeting that part of it is due to be closed from that day for 5 days. A member of the public asked that notification of road closures should be placed on the parish website.

2015/89 KCC Street lighting consultation

The only place that had street lighting was Treasury View, which came under Councillor Richards’ remit, and she agreed to ask the residents whether they were satisfied with the current lighting, if and when it should be switched off at night etc.

Councillor Richards joined the meeting at this point.

2015/90 Dog fouling

90/01: Councillor Hodges had informed the clerk by email that the residents of Seaton definitely did not want a dog bin.

90/02: Councillor Richards reported that there was no particular fouling at Seaton and in the field behind The Duke, so the main objective has been achieved, despite the vandalism of the signs at Seaton. There was, however, still some fouling behind the church and in Baye Lane. Councillor Shouls said that it was possible to report dog mess to

Canterbury CC in order for it to be cleared and she was asked to circulate the link to the Council website via Jacque to inform residents.

2015/91 Flood prevention

- 91/01: In Councillor Wyant's absence an email report from her was read out. She reported that she had attended at Seaton Weir on October 10th with members of the Environment Agency. This was to show the excellent restructuring work that had been carried out on the Weir and was extremely pleasant and informative. Councillor Richards, Richard Collins also attended from Ickham, as well as Jill Thomas from the Little Stour and Nailbourne Flood Management Group, members of the Internal Drainage Board and Julian Brazier (MP). They were also shown how the E.A. continue to be successful in encouraging the return of wild life to the Little Stour, much of which was similar to a talk given to Littlebourne residents about work on their river. Councillor Wyant suggested in her report that a presentation from the E.A. on this subject would be an excellent item for the parishioners to hear at the next Annual Meeting.
- 91/02: In her report Councillor Wyant also mentioned that she had visited an E.A. display at the Grove Ferry Inn which showed the extent of the dredging being done in the Great Stour which will help water flow during times of flood.
- 91/03: Councillor Wyant also reported that she has replaced Richard Collins on the Little Stour and Nailbourne Flood Management Group and has also been nominated as the representative for this area on the Internal Drainage Board to replace Stephen Twyman, who has retired, and will endeavour to represent the Parish as well as possible with regards to the river.
- 91/04: It was observed that the greenery along Drill Lane and Nargate Street had not been cut back but Councillor deGraft-Johnson said that Councillor Wyant had told him she had been assured by the E.A. that water was flowing freely beneath the vegetation as the river bed had been dredged earlier in the year. It was, however, reported that the relief ditch was still not flowing and that the Black Hole Dyke was clogged.

2015/92 Councillors' Code of Conduct

In the absence of Councillor Hodges, this item was deferred.

2015/93 Contact list for parishioners

The process of asking residents about their preferred method of contact was still underway.

2015/94 Reforming the powers of the police consultation

Councillor Tatman had read the document and felt that there was nothing specific to object to but was slightly worried by the whole approach – getting people to do something for nothing and possible steps towards future privatisation. The council were asked to post the consultation document online and to circulate it.

2015/95 AOB

95/01: Councillor Richards will circulate draft proposals for RAMP projects to the other members before the next meeting and requested that any comments be forwarded directly to her. She planned to circulate the finalised proposals to parishioners by the first week of January, allowing one month for them to comment.

95/02: The start times of the parish meetings was raised as an issue, (particularly the 6.30pm start time of what was the bi-monthly planning meeting but which is now an additional full meeting in practice), and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7:15pm.

The next parish meeting is on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm