

# **ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm**

## **Minutes of meeting**

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

**Public:** One member of the public

### **2015/127 Apologies:**

Councillor Geraldine Wyant.

County Councillor Michael Northey and City Councillor Stuart Walker were also unable to attend.

### **2015/128 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Tatman declared an ongoing interest in the mains replacement as his property was at risk from flooding.

### **2015/129 Minutes of meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

The minutes were signed as a true record and will be placed on the web.

### **2015/130 Matters arising**

130/01: re 2015/114: It was confirmed that the precept claim had been submitted on 24<sup>th</sup> December to Canterbury CC, (claim was for £4700.68 + £67.82 Council Tax support – these figures not given at meeting).

130/02: re 21015/118: Councillor deGraft-Johnson stated that he would speak to Lisa, the new manager of The Duke and would give her a copy of the letter from Strutt and Parker re closing the gate at the rear of the pub garden which gave access to and from the field behind. When this had been done, all agreed that the matter was closed as far as the Council was concerned and was solely between the pub owners, Strutt & Parker and the farmer involved.

### **2015/131 Finance**

Councillor Hipkin expressed his apologies and stated that he had not had time to prepare a report but that the finances looked satisfactory.

### **2015/132 Maintenance of single tree under TPO**

132/01: Councillor Richards had spoken to the tree surgeon, Dave Gurney, on the preceding Tuesday and he had expressed his concern that Canterbury would not be happy with work being done on the canopy of a tree that had had surgery 18 months ago.

132/02: Councillor Richards reported that the tree officer from Canterbury had left and that decisions were being referred to an external source. This might facilitate getting the TPO lifted from the tree on the grounds that it was diseased and that the trunks of the sycamores were too close together.

132/03: Two quotations had been submitted by Treeworld: (1) -for reduction of the crown of the diseased tree and necessary pruning, (£1300) and (2) - to remove tree leaving stump in situ (£1450).

132/03: Work should be done this year if funds set aside for it are not to be jeopardised. Tree surgery, however, can only be done in the non-growing season so this may not be possible to arrange in time, given that Canterbury has to approve the application.

132/04: Councillor Richards was asked to contact Dave Gurney to go ahead with option 2 on his quotation but to make it clear that he must obtain CCC approval to get the TPO lifted before the tree is removed and she will report back at the next meeting.

### **2015/133 Highways**

133/01: **Interactive Signs:** Councillor Tatman reported that he had emailed our County Councillor, Michael Northey, who was instrumental in obtaining the missing interactive sign in the first place. Mr Northey had already replied and said that he would contact the cabinet member to see what can be done.

133/02: **Treasury View Road Sign:** This was demolished last year and Councillor Tatman had reported it to Highways, who had told him that it was the responsibility of the District Council and they had therefore passed the issue to Canterbury. As the sign has still not been reinstated, Councillor Tatman had chased Canterbury who responded that they had no knowledge of the issue and that it had not been passed to them by Highways. Now that they had been made aware, they would look into the matter.

133/03: **Bramling Road Pothole:** Councillor Tatman re-booked the pothole in the Bramling Road passing place, which was reported to have been the cause

of a serious cycling accident, rather than relying on the issue being reported by someone else, as this would make it easier for him to chase the matter up.

133/04: **Drill Lane Potholes:** Councillor Tatman reported that he had booked two that were close together. One is now flagged as “Works Completed”, but he had not yet checked if this had been done. The other is set to “Issue resolved with the customer”, when it has not been. It was explained to him that the two bookings had been combined and were therefore probably both fixed. Councillor Shouls expressed concern that there was a huge pothole near the bend which had not been fixed and Councillor Tatman said that he would rebook it.

133/05: **Mud on the road:** Councillor Tatman had reported a section of the A257 which, as well as having no pavement, was deep in mud on the sides. Pedestrians currently had no choice but to plough through it.

133/06: **Bramling Road – Ovendens:** The company has already stated (17 Feb 2014) that “we will work with Kent Highways to reinstate the road to its former condition (including hedge planting) once our operations have finished”. The clerk is researching the original planning permission conditions to determine what the legal obligations are, and we will follow up with them concerning this offer.

It has been reported by a resident of Bramling Road that occasionally water streams under the metal gates to the quarry and journeys unhindered down Bramling Road towards Plantation Cottages. This factor should be included when the nature of our follow up letter to Ovendens has been determined.

133/07: **Water Mains Replacement:** Work has now restarted on the A257 and will progress from the Haywain to Littlebourne in 100 metre stretches, taking from three to six months in total. The Bramling Road and Wingham Well Lane junctions with the A257 will be closed for the first three weeks or so.

## **2015/134      Emergency Plan**

134/01: The proposed double-sided A5 leaflet, produced by Councillor deGraft-Johnson and detailing useful contact numbers and advice in emergencies, was discussed.

134/02: Emergency co-ordinators were allocated: Councillor deGraft-Johnson for Ickham village residents; Councillor Tatman for Bramling and surrounding area and Councillor Hipkin as Deputy for both.

134/03: The redrafted leaflet will be presented at the next meeting and later distributed to all residents in laminated form, possibly along with invitations to the annual parish meetings.

**2015/135 Hydrants – allocation of responsibility**

Councillor Tatman has allocated responsibilities for regularly checking the hydrants to ensure that the metal cover is in place over the hydrant and the yellow sign, if present, is not obscured.

**2015/136 Defibrillator for village**

136/01: Councillor Hodges reported that she had been given contact details for John Rivers by a KALC administrator. In addition to being the KALC president and Chairman of Wittersham Parish Council, Mr Rivers was also a community first responder, trained and appointed by the South East Coast Ambulance Service. As such, Mr Rivers was able to provide life-saving emergency treatment, especially useful in rural areas which can be difficult for ambulances to reach, and would therefore be able to advise on the usefulness, or not, of defibrillators.

136/02: Councillor Tatman preferred to have a talk from a disinterested medical professional first and Councillor Richards offered to ask a paramedic that she knew. A later talk by Mr Rivers, possibly at the AGM, might then be worthwhile.

136/03: Councillor Hodges will contact Mr Rivers to ask if he knew of any defibrillators installed locally, and if they had been used, and also to ascertain if he would be willing to give a talk later, if asked.

**2015/137: Drill Lane**

It was reported that two boards had been put in place to help the water to stay into the relief channel.

**2015/138: Councillors' Code of Conduct**

138/01: The Councillors discussed the disclosure of non-pecuniary interests and Councillor Hodges informed them that, although this was not a legal obligation, it was something for individual councils to define and agree.

138/02: Although all councillors had signed and submitted disclosure of pecuniary interest forms last year, these were not all shown on the Canterbury website. Whilst making any disclosures of non-pecuniary interest, it was suggested that signed copies of pecuniary interest disclosures could also be added to the website, together with the finalised Code.

138/03: It was agreed that page 2 of the code be amended to give examples relating to the seven principles.

138/04: Councillor Shouls offered to review and comment on the Code.

138/05: The definitions of non-pecuniary interests on page 7 will be amended to delete examples 2 & 3, add a comment on card-carrying members to example 4 and to combine examples 7 and 8.

138/06: It was also mentioned that it would be worthwhile looking at the Standing Orders to check if they needed updating. The clerk will try to get the relevant template.

**2015/139: RAMP funding**

Councillor Richards reported that she had received 7 or 8 responses so far from the flyer circulated earlier in the month asking for ideas for projects for which to seek RAMP funding. She asked that Councillors forward any responses that they might receive and that she felt that a 70/80% level of response was probably necessary before committing to any given project.

**2015/140: Contact list of preferences for parishioners**

Deferred

**2015/141: AOB**

Councillor Tatman requested that 'Correspondence' be routinely added to the Agenda, as had been done previously. He mentioned that retrospective permission had been granted for the changes at Carpenters Lodge.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.



15/2/2016

**The next parish meeting is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm**