

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Meeting – 15th February 2016 at 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors J deGraft-Johnson (Chair), K Richards, S Hipkin, K Tatman, G Wyant
Police Community Support Officer Kerry-Anne Pearce

Public: Two members of the public

Minutes taken by S deGraft-Johnson in the absence of the Clerk.

2015/143: Apologies

Councillors L Shouls & P Hodges. P Heath, Clerk.
Councillors M Northey and S Walker.

2015/143: Declarations of Interest

Councillor Tatman declared an ongoing interest in the mains replacement as his property is at risk.
Councillor Wyant declared an interest in the Mansfield site which she owns.

2015/144: Minutes of the meeting on 18th January 2016

2015/141 Councillor Tatman had asked that “Correspondence” should be added routinely to every agenda. Clerk to note. Draft copy of the minutes signed, seconded by Councillor Wyant. Final copy to be signed when available.

2015/145: Matters Arising

Re 2015/130/02: Councillor deGraft-Johnson has spoken to Lisa, manager of the Duke William. She is aware of the situation. Matter now rests with the owners and managers of the pub.

2015/146: Report from PCSO

146/01: This item was called early because the PCSO had limited time available. A written report (attached) was circulated.

146/02: PCSO Pearce highlighted the item on nuisance and scam phone calls to which older residents are especially vulnerable. The Chairman said a warning and reminder to all would be placed on the village website and circulated via email.

146/03: Parking on The Street and outside Ickham Court Farm. The Police have no powers to act: parking on The Street is not technically an offence but problems should be reported to Highways. Cars parked alongside the plant tubs by Ickham Court Farm are largely on land belonging to Ickham Court Farm. Asking staff in the pub to invite customers to move cars has helped in the past.

146/04: Road closures along A257. Councillor Tatman reported that drivers have sometimes removed barriers and driven through the roadworks, once with calamitous results. Police have few powers to deal with this if there is no danger, but are willing to talk to any locals who are known to be involved. The contractors should take responsibility to ensure safety.

2015/147: Planning

147/01: CA/15/02766 A reapplication to create more accommodation within the existing living space at Treasury Barn. A previous application has been rejected by CCC Planning Department, although the Parish Council had raised no objections. Again, no adverse comments were recorded.

147/02: CA/16/00176 An application to erect a 2nd electricity pole on the boundary of Wickhambreaux and Ickham. No objections. Councillor Wyant said this has no connection with the proposal to relocate the substation at the end of Drill Lane.

2015/148: Finance

148/01: Councillor Hipkin reported that Council spending had been broadly in line with the Budget. He believes this is a good outcome.

148/02: There is work outstanding on both the Ickham Village and Bramling noticeboards; this should be done next week. There is also money left to repair the noticeboard in Seaton and Councillor Wyant will check whether Seaton residents are happy for the work to go ahead.

148/03: No expenditure should be necessary on Ickham Village pond now that KCC have assumed responsibility for clearing it.

2015/149: Finance and the Smaller Authorities' Audit

Councillor Hipkin explained that the Parish Council has until 31st March 2016 to decide whether or not to opt out of the new system. Councillors were given supporting papers and a flowchart to explain the changes. It was agreed that the default system – stay as we are - seemed best since it appeared to have no cost implications.

2015/150: Maintenance of tree under TPO

150/01: Councillor Richards said that the sycamore tree on Ickham Village green had been checked and, despite appearance, is healthy and not in need of lopping or felling. It is unlikely to fall soon. Hence it, and the other 2 trees will remain a future call on Parish spending.

150/02: Councillor Hipkin said that the money allocated to future treatment of the trees should be kept and a special case made to CCC for the money to be saved, now and in future years, to meet future expenses. Councillor deGraft-Johnson said that there is a clear paper trail to show that PC has done what was necessary.

2015/151: Highways

151/01: Councillor Tatman reported that Bramling Road is open again.

151/02: A pothole in Drill Lane has been reported.

151/03: Damage to the Treasury View sign may take some time to be remedied but he will chase Canterbury CC.

151/04: Responsibility for the pothole in Bramling Lane is unclear but will be pursued.

151/05: Kent CC Councillor Northey is dealing with the broken interactive sign on the A257.

151/06: There had been only a limited amount of mud cleared from around the bus stop by Highways but, with the ongoing road works, Councillor Tatman pointed out that it would be pointless pursuing this matter until we could fully assess the situation after works had been completed.

151/07: Councillor Wyant reported a developing pothole at the bottom of School Lane.

2015/152: Emergency Plan

152/01: Minor corrections/omissions were made. Councillor deGraft-Johnson agreed to talk to Richard Collins about the need for a contact for Seaton.

152/02: It was agreed that copies should be printed, (at no cost to the PC), black print on yellow card. Copies should be ready in 2 weeks. They can be distributed with either the invitations to the Parish meeting on May 16th or with Church & Village. Councillor deGraft-Johnson will do Garrington separately if necessary.

2015/153: Ramp Funding

153/01: Fewer than 10% of households responded to the request about projects for RAMP funding.

153/02: A bus shelter for Bramling gained the most support, although response from Bramling residents was poor. Any project would need local fundraising in addition to RAMP funding and Councillor Tatman doubted that this would be successful in Bramling because of the commitment of residents to fund raising for the Pilgrims Hospices. It may be necessary to get support from other charities beyond the parish.

153/03: It was agreed that the idea for a bus shelter should be pursued. Councillor Tatman agreed to get some estimates, check who owns the land outside the woodyard and look into charity funding.

153/04: Councillor deGraft-Johnson cautioned that the council should not expend too much time on a project which may not progress.

2015/154: Mansfield Caravans

Assurance has been given that lights in the caravans are a result of maintenance work. They cannot be occupied before 21st March.

2015/155: Litter Picking

155/01: Councillor Tatman commended the litter picking exercise but said that Bramling could not take part whilst the road works were in place. He will pick this up as a separate exercise when the road works have moved on.

155/02: It was also made clear that the initiative was only made by Lynn Shouls with reference to Ickham village. Hence it was agreed that this should be treated as an individual initiative carrying the approval of the Parish Council.

155/03: It was further agreed that 12 high visibility jackets should be bought by the Parish Council, (probable cost £2 each), to be available for this and similar projects.

2015/156: Defibrillator

In the absence of Councillor Hodges, Councillor Richards said she had spoken to a paramedic and made the parish clerk aware of information on Community First Responders. It was agreed that a knowledgeable speaker should be invited to a council meeting in the near future.

2015/157: Code of Conduct

Adoption of this was delayed until Councillor Hodges is available.

2015/158: Contact List Preferences

It was agreed that this item no longer needs to be on each agenda.

2015/159: AOB

159/01: It was agreed to send Councillor Wyant a letter in support of the proposed developments of the church building.

159/02: It was agreed that Councillor Wyant should invite a speaker from the Environment Agency to address the Parish meeting on May 16th.

159/03: It was agreed that River Management should be a standing item on at least the next 3 agendas, with regular updates from the river monitoring group.

159/04: Concern was raised about gathering balanced opinions from parishioners and not allowing a vociferous few to predominate. The chairman made it clear that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to give careful consideration to matters in hand and to make balanced judgements.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next parish meeting is on Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30pm