

## **ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm**

### **Minutes of meeting**

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

**Public:** 7 members of the public and Sam from The Duke William

#### **2016/001: Apologies**

Councillors M Northey and S Walker.

#### **2016/002: Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tatman declared an ongoing interest in the mains replacement as his property is at risk and also in the Bramling Road repair; Councillors deGraft-Johnson, Hipkin and Shouls declared an interest in the parking and rubbish collection issues affecting Ickham Court Farm residents; Councillor deGraft-Johnson declared an interest in the planning application CA/16/00618 for Stable House. Councillor Wyant had a potential interest in a matter raised under Item 13 on the Agenda.

#### **2016/003: Minutes of the meetings on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and the previous APCM on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The minutes were signed by Councillor deGraft-Johnson as true records.

#### **2016/004: Matters Arising**

Councillor deGraft-Johnson stated that any matters arising would be covered by items in the agenda and all agreed.

#### **2016/005: Correspondence**

There was none to report.

#### **2016/006: Parking issues and rubbish left at entrance to Ickham Court Farm**

005/01: This item was called early so that Sam from The Duke and parishioners affected by the issues did not have to stay for the entire meeting unless they wished to do so.

005/02: There were various issues in respect of rubbish put out for collection by staff from The Duke William:

- large bins and other rubbish containers were often placed to the left of the tubs at the right hand entrance to Ickham Court Farm, (when viewed from The Street), rather than to the right of those tubs, thereby blocking the view of oncoming traffic to cars attempting to exit; another example of the problem was that a plastic tub of empty wine bottles had been left near the tubs for a week;
- it was also pointed out that the land between the tubs was private land and bins should not be placed there;
- various suggestions were made to combat the problem – such as putting the bins out as late as possible and taking them back in as soon as they'd been emptied; Sam reminding the kitchen staff again about where to place the bins; pub staff sweeping up in the morning around the area that the bins were placed and where customers parked as there was sometimes broken glass and other litter left there.

005/03: The other issues discussed were the very real concerns about the dangers to which motorists driving down The Street and / or exiting from Ickham Court Farm were exposed as well as pedestrians, especially young children, walking on the unpaved roads:

- the problems were particularly bad at the weekend as cars were forced to weave in and out of parked vehicles in what had become essentially a single car width road;
- despite the 30 mph speed restriction, (which was anyway too fast for safety), motorists often sped through the village and risked meeting other cars head on at the blind corners;
- Councillor Richards reported two parked cars having been damaged by vehicles trying to get out of close parking situations;
- Councillor Hipkin reported a potentially serious accident 10 days previously when he had been edging out of Ickham Court Farm and had nearly been hit by a speeding vehicle;
- some vehicles block the alleyway near The Duke and once the mobile library blocked the entrance to Ickham Court Farm as there was no other place to park;
- the problems on parking had been exacerbated recently due to the increased numbers of customers frequenting The Duke, which was good in itself, but needed careful managing.

005/04: Sam from The Duke responded that they had ordered signs encouraging clients to park responsibly and also, on a separate issue, not to use the back exit onto the fields. These would be displayed once received. He also stated that The Duke was going to use a new contractor for rubbish removal in future, rather than Serco as at present, and that hopefully this would improve the situation.

005/05: Councillor deGraft-Johnson stated that the parish council could not force the pub to take any actions but hoped that they could work together to minimise the problem without referring the matter to Highways or Canterbury CC:

- it was suggested that staff cars might be parked in New Place Farm, which Councillor Wyant rents out to Mansfield, and this option will be explored;
- the possibility of asking Canterbury CC to paint double yellow lines across the entrance to Ickham Court Farm and the alleyway was dismissed pro tem as it had been discussed three years previously and, although agreed by Highways, the lines would have been extended to near the church and would have restricted the parking too much;
- Sam was asked to provide confirmation in writing that The Duke would display signs asking customers to park safely and also to keep out of the area between the tubs at the entrance to Ickham Court Farm and, if such parking was noticed, that the staff would ask the driver (s) to move their vehicles. He was also asked to confirm that bins and rubbish containers were kept to the right of Ickham Court Farm entrance (when viewed from the pub) and were removed as soon as possible once emptied. He agreed to this.

**2016/007: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Chairman: Councillor deGraft-Johnson was nominated by Councillor Wyant and seconded by Councillor Tatman.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Tatman was nominated by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor deGraft-Johnson.

**2016/008: Other appointments**

Treasurer: Councillor Hipkin was nominated by Councillor deGraft-Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hodges.

Footpaths Officer: Councillor Richards was nominated by Councillor Shouls and seconded by Councillor Wyant.

Highways Officer: Councillor Tatman was nominated by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Shouls.

KALC representative: Councillor Hodges was nominated by Councillor deGraft-Johnson and seconded by Councillor Tatman.

Little Stour & NG  
Representative: Councillor Wyant was nominated by Councillor Shouls and seconded by Councillor Richards.

IVH Committee  
Representative: Councillor Shouls was nominated by Councillor Hodges and seconded by Councillor Richards.

First Aider: Councillor Richards was nominated by Councillor Tatman and seconded by Councillor Shouls.

#### **2016/009: Treasurer's report and approval of accounts**

009/01: Councillor Hipkin wished to minute his thanks to the parish clerk for help and support during the year.

009/02: In 2015/6, the Council received funding of approximately £8,500 but had spent less than this as some of the funding was for future tree surgery on the protected trees and it was not known at this stage whether accrual / reserves could be carried forward into the next year. Surgery on the TPO'd trees would be required every 3-5 years and would cost about £3-3,500 and the council wished to be able to spread this unwanted burden.

009/03: Councillor Hipkin expressed his concern that CCF funding, primarily used to cover the costs of grass cutting, tree and shrub maintenance and insurance premium, was regularly reduced to approximately 70% of the amount requested, the balance having to be met from the precept and he felt that this figure would further be reduced. Councillor Tatman suggested that costs might have to be kept to the actual amount given under CCF in future.

009/04: The accounts for 2015-16 were formally approved by the Council and will be submitted to the auditors.

009/05: It was requested that these draft accounts be placed on the web for the public to inspect and that in future, copies of the draft accounts should be circulated together with the agenda prior to the meeting in which they were to be discussed so that members of the public could follow and take part in the debate.

## **2016/010: Budget approval for 2016-17**

The budget estimates were shown to Councillors. Councillor Tatman commented that the Bramling and outlying districts' residents felt that more money was spent in Ickham village than elsewhere and he did not feel that the precept should be used to make up the shortfall in grass cutting funds. Councillor Hipkin expressed his opinion that more money should be spent on improving the parish, for example, constructing bus shelters along the A257 in Bramling.

## **2016/011: Planning**

CA/16/00618 Stable House, Ickham - installation of 3 roof lights:  
Councillor deGraft-Johnson had already declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. There were no objections.

CA/16/00653 3&4 Treasury View – timber cladding to front of houses:  
There were no objections.

## **2016/12: Highways**

**12/01: Water mains replacement** Councillor Tatman reported that work had progressed very well and is now down the hill towards Littlebourne. It would appear they have received the permissions they sought and will be crossing the road before the bridge at Littlebourne and cutting through farmland towards Bekesbourne Lane. He had received no complaints from anybody about their work and they have been very courteous to residents along the way. Only one incident – they ran a pressure test with a fireman's type hose and a car ran over it, fracturing it and causing a jet which hit the Haywain roof (and washed their windows for free). Each subsequent car changed the direction of the spurt but it was soon rectified.

**12/02: Treasury View road sign** Canterbury Council are now saying the demolished sign will not be replaced due to budgetary constraints. Generally, roads have two signs so they can be seen from both directions but CCC say that, as it is a cul-de-sac, it can make do with one.

**12/03: Bramling Road** There is no date yet for the 2 days or so road closure of Bramling Road for major pothole and verge works (mostly in our neighbouring parish).

**12/04: A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne** This stretch of about half a mile has sections with tarmac eroded down to the underlying shingle and where there is tarmac it is covered by a thin film of mud and very slippery (and hence very dangerous). After an initial battle between Highways and Canterbury Council, Highways now own the issue and have agreed that something needs to be done. It will have to wait until Clancy Docwra have finished their works on the A257 and budgetary constraints will dictate how much repair work is carried out.

**12/05: Accidents** There has been one accident in our Parish reported to Councillor Tatman since the last meeting. It happened opposite Heelaway on the hill down to Littlebourne in the early hours of April 10. Police attended but no further details available. Councillor Richards mentioned that there had been two incidents in Ickham, which were not official as had not been notified to Councillor Tatman, and she was asked to email him the details.

**12/06: The A257 Group** met last Saturday. Meetings are being held with sat nav providers and government to try to ensure lorry drivers have suitable sat navs to steer them away from the A257 when they do not need to use it. Also there is an exercise underway to produce a map which will be given to every lorry driver at Dover / Folkestone with suitable roads clearly marked.

Councillor Tatman has been tasked with drafting an “A257 Plan”, which is effectively a study of the whole road from Canterbury to Sandwich, documenting the hotspots of speeding, congestion and dangers to pedestrians (e.g. trying to cross the road at Wingham Wildlife Park. This will probably take about 6 months to complete, but it can then be used as evidence next time we meet with Kent Highways.

**12/07:** Councillor Richards expressed her concern, as did members of the audience, about the speeds with which some motorists drove down The Street and the danger it posed, particularly to young children, as did the parking near the flats which obscured parents’ / children’s view of the road and motorists of the pedestrians. Cars were sometimes even parked over the ‘Keep Clear’ markings.

**12/08:** It was widely felt that a 20mph speed limit through the village would be worthwhile but unlikely to be granted by KCC, partially due to budget constraints and partly because there had, as yet, been no major incident. Alternatives of signs requesting drivers to slow down, or placement of speed display monitors, chicanes or speed bumps were possible measures although would have to be approved by the emergency services as well as KCC.

**12/09:** Following suggestions and comments from Councillors and members of the public present, Councillor Tatman agreed to investigate the costs of speed bumps and flashing signs etc. as KCC might allow their use if we funded their costs. Both Wingham and Littlebourne had the flashing speed signs and the latter had reported a perceived speed reduction although Wingham were moving the sign every three weeks as it tended to be ignored after the initial period. It was suggested that Michael Northey be approached once costs were known.

**12/10:** Councillor deGraft-Johnson suggested that a working party could possibly be set up in the future to explore options, identify problem areas, initiate fund raising and possible campaign to get KCC to reduce speed limit through village.

**12/11:** In order to monitor the current situation, it was suggested that the PCSO should be asked to patrol at times especially when children were about / going to school etc. Another suggestion was that it would be worthwhile finding out the cost of hiring a mobile speed monitor from Canterbury CC and Councillor Tatman said that he would do that.

**12/12:** It was also agreed that a letter be sent to all residents asking that they drive safely through the village and lanes.

**2016/13: River Management**

13/01: Councillor Wyant reported relevant matters discussed at the meeting of the Little Stour and Nailbourne Multi-Agency Group on April 14:

- the Environment Agency are conducting a modelling exercise looking at works from Littlebourne Green to Seaton which will be reported to the Group when the EA team has evaluated the options;
- the Government has increased the tax on insurance premiums and the money raised has been ring-fenced for water course flood maintenance work - so extra money is available for things like dredging. The EA team is currently working on how that money can best be spent – the Great Stour, the Little Stour and the Nailbourne should all benefit;
- a take-off point into the Black Hole Dyke at the White Bridge on the road from Littlebourne to Wickhambreaux has been designed and agreed in principle. It is due to be built in August. The EA will run it under a new procedure;
- funding has become available for the development of Temporary Relief plans for Bridge and Wickhambreaux /Ickham /Seaton. This means that the emergency/instant response plans put together after the 2014 floods will be embedded with equipment purchased and stored for emergency deployment in those places – similar to the temporary barriers deployed in Barham this year. This will free up resources (manpower and hired-in equipment) for all the other villages on the watercourse for which the instant response plans remain in place.

13/02: Councillor Wyant asked that parishioners submit questions to her that they wished addressed by the Environment Agency, prior to the meeting in May at which the EA will be making a presentation. Lindsay Dixey had already discussed various matter with them and will continue to liaise with them to resolve issues.

**2016/14: Improving muddy pathway by The Duke**

14/01: Water running off the field alongside the pathway to The Street causes large muddy patches at the entrance to the pathway, which encourages people to use the rear access to The Duke across private land.

14/02: Peter Gottschalk mentioned the potential responsibility of owners of the Oast House dwellings to keep the drain in the alleyway clear. He offered to check the titles of the properties to see which of the conversions was liable.

14/03: It was suggested that a small ditch could be dug at the side of the field to take the excess water and Councillor Wyant said that she would talk to the farmer, Martin Twyman, to see if he was agreeable to that idea.

14/04: Putting down shingle at the edge of the field would also be discussed as an alternative or additional option.

**2016/15: Defibrillator / First Aid training**

15/01: It was agreed that purchasing a defibrillator, which might only be used once in a couple of years, was not a viable option at the present time but that it was a good idea to offer First Aid courses to parishioners.

15/02: Councillor Richards was asked to email villagers to see who would be interested in attending a course of general First Aid.

15/03: The course costs £30 per attendee and it was debated whether the Parish Council should fund this and, if this were done, whether the people receiving this funding should be asked to make themselves available to the general public, if required.

15/04: Councillor Shouls felt that the course might be better as a “personal use” course and that attendees might be concerned about public liability.

15/05: Peter Gottschalk mentioned that there should be qualified First Aiders at The Duke, The Haywain and the Tor Spa and that their details could perhaps be publicised, with their permission, as potential helpers in an emergency as the response times for ambulances was getting longer.

**2016/16: Annual public meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May**

16/01: The clerk was asked to prepare a letter inviting the public to attend and this will be distributed by the individual Councillors together with a letter from Councillor Tatman about road safety and the Emergency Procedures document.

16/02: Councillor deGraft-Johnson and his wife, Sandra, kindly offered to supply the drinks for the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.40pm.

**The next parish meeting is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm**