

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 20th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting

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

2016/031: Apologies

Councillor L Shouls
Councillors M Northey and S Walker.

2016/032: Declarations of Interest

There were none

2016/033: Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 16th May 2016

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

2016/034 Matters Arising

re 2016/20/02 – Councillor Wyant reported that she had spoken to Martin Twyman about the muddy entrance to the pathway by The Duke. It was agreed that a bag of Type 1 gravel, at a cost of £50, should be laid on the grass at the edge of the field to stabilise the muddy area at the edge of the field junction with the hard path and that small ditches should be constructed on each side of this for drainage. Martin will be asked to transport the bag of gravel and Gary Bradford to lay the path and construct ditches. This work will not affect the drain, which is in the main pathway, but Councillor deGraft-Johnson will contact the person who owns the pathway and discuss the blocked drain.

2016/035: Correspondence

There was none to report.

2016/036: Planning Applications

None had been received.

2016/37: Finance

37/01: Councillor Hipkin reported that the next application for CCF funding would cover the period 2017-2021 and should be submitted by the 30th

September. There was a fixed annual budget of £134,500 to cover all applicants and this would not be increased annually by inflation. This funding reduction was being driven by central government cuts.

37/02: He confirmed that Canterbury CC would allow the underspend to be carried forward and that this must be designated as a 'Restricted Fund' in the accounts and only used for expenditure covered by CC funding.

37/03: Councillor Hipkin stressed that we would only be granted a percentage of the amount applied for, possibly as little as 60%, and that councils were being urged not to over claim and distort distribution. The only exception would be claims for the maintenance of bus shelters which, although ring-fenced, will be capped at £140 per shelter.

37/04: Councillor Hipkin also mentioned that Canterbury had reviewed grounds eligible for grass cutting in each parish and had listed only the two village greens and not the churchyard, which the parish has traditionally supported, (last year, £680 was spent on grass cutting on the greens, £700 donated to the church for grass cutting in the churchyard). He would contact Canterbury to ask if this could be added to the eligible areas. Councillor Wyant, as Church warden, declared a non-pecuniary interest and stated that the loss of such funding would represent a 10% reduction in income and that the church now only just broke even. If Canterbury did not allow funding, money would have to be found by other means, maybe by asking for donation from the residents.

37/05: Councillor deGraft-Johnson suggested that we compare our rate for grass cutting against the average for the area.

37/06: Councillor Tatman expressed his concern that unforeseen costs under the categories covered by CCF within the 4-year period would not be covered. He also mentioned that a new Parish Council would be elected within that time frame.

2016/38: Highways

38/01: **Water mains replacement:** Councillor Tatman stated that he thought that Clancy Docwra (CD) had reached their final point along the A257 at Littlebourne but the traffic lights will remain in place until they have finished "joining up" the new pipe. Work has already started in Wingham Well Lane and will continue for a few months yet.

38/02: **A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne:** This half mile stretch 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). CD must finish their works on the A257 for

anything to be done and budgetary constraints will dictate how much repair work is carried out.

38/03: **Accidents:** For the 2nd month running there have been no reported accidents in the Parish and Councillor Tatman expressed his conviction that the temporary traffic lights / speed limit had something to do with this.

38/04: **Potholes:** The large hole in Drill Lane has been fixed. A series at the S-bend on Wingham Lane at Port Rill is now scheduled.

38/05: **A257 – Wingham Green:** Following a speed and volume survey on the A257 at Wingham Green recently, Highways have agreed that the speed limit between the 30mph limit in Wingham to Trapham Farm, (just our side of the Casino Garage), will be lowered from 50 to 40mph. This happens to be on the boundary of Dover district and Canterbury. Councillor Tatman had emailed Stuart Walker and Michael Northey to say that the A257 was just as dangerous in Canterbury district as Dover district and he had received support from Wingham and Littlebourne Parish Councils and that Stuart Walker had also indicated that he thinks something should be done. If the next steps taken, if any, involve RAMP spending then this should be discussed at our council as we have already discussed a preference for such spending to be bid for a bus shelter.

38/06: Road Safety in Ickham. Following the April meeting, Councillor Tatman put several questions to Kent Highways regarding possible improvements to road safety in the village of Ickham and had already circulated the full response but, in summary:

- **can Ickham have a 20mph speed limit?** *If there is local support and funding external to KCC (e.g. Parish Council or Community Member Grant). If the current average speed is above 24mph then additional measures would need to be in place which may not have local support;*
- **are there any other Kent villages with 20mph zones (N.B Fordwich is a “town”?)** *A few but only where traffic speeds are already low.;*
- **could Ickham have flashing speed signs like Littlebourne and Wingham?** *Yes, provided criteria are met (which Councillor Tatman assumed meant line of sight etc.) and funding to purchase and maintain is available. (N.B. Wingham were originally invited to join a pilot scheme and got their equipment for free);*
- **what are the estimated costs of for various suggested safety measures (speed bumps, flashing signs, chicanes etc.)?** *The Parish Council would need to employ*

a consultant to come up with a scheme and provide estimates. KCC will do so but would still need funding;

- **any other suggestions?** *Community Speed Watch but the equipment would need to be purchased and maintained out of Parish Council funds, Member's Grant or other local funding.*

38/07: Councillor Wyant asked if Kent Highways had planned any more resurfacing work on the A257 but it was thought not yet. Bramling Hill was bad but excellent work had been done on Bekesbourne Lane.

38/08: Councillor Richards mentioned that the ford in Drill Lane was slippery with algae and that there had been two cyclists injured recently, one receiving head injuries, the other a fractured collarbone. She was asked by Councillor Tatman to send him full details including dates and times. Councillor Tatman pointed out that Highways would confirm that cyclists should not cycle across the ford but should dismount and walk across. The clerk was asked to place a warning on the web site and Councillor Richards will ask the Ickham Facebook group to warn subscribers. Councillor Wyant suggested warning signs to be placed in Drill Lane and Councillor Hodges volunteered to research costs etc. of suitable signage (and of those suggested for the village green – see 2016/40 below).

38/09: Councillor Richards reported a parked sports car regularly blocking the entire pedestrian pathway in front of Fern Cottage. The car in question belonged to the tenant of that cottage and Councillor deGraft-Johnson will contact the owner and request that he asks the tenant to park elsewhere.

2016/39: River management

39/01: Councillor Wyant reported that river levels were fine at the moment and that the water table was the same as last year so that, if there was normal rainfall in autumn and winter this year, there should be little risk of flooding.

39/02: Southern Water had organised bunding around the pump station in Drill Lane and this would be used to protect the station if flooding was anticipated.

2016/40: Signage on village green

40/01: Councillor Wyant wished to change the wording on the village green which currently read “No access unless *attending* Church” to “No access unless *visiting* Church” as she felt that the former wording prevented disabled visitors being able to reach the Church. Councillor Hodges will also investigate costs for this.

40/02: Councillor Wyant reported that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission wanted to place a plaque at the Church indicating the presence of

a war grave in the churchyard and that this would probably be placed on the railing near the lych gate.

40/03: Councillor Richards offered to prepare a notice to place on the gate of the new village green telling motorists not to park across the gateway as this inhibited access to pushchairs etc. It also further restricted places where cars could pass each other in The Street, a problem caused by the amount of cars parked by visitors to The Duke.

40/04: Councillor deGraft-Johnson pointed out that the signs would have to be funded externally and not from parish funds.

2016/41: Dog fouling

Councillor Richards was pleased to say that no incidents had been reported to her. She also confirmed that dogs were not permitted on the new village green as this was an area used by children.

2016/42: Pathway by The Duke

This matter had already been dealt with – see 2016/34 above.

2016/43: KALC Emergency Plan

Councillor Hodges had attended the meeting, arranged by KALC in co-operation with the Kent Resilience Team, but she felt that such a major plan, requiring many volunteers, was not suitable or necessary for Ickham and that we were covered. She did feel, however, that, as ambulances are taking much longer to come, the parishioners should be encouraged to attend the First Aid course below.

2016/44 First Aid course

All agreed to take up ex-Councillor Brennan Dwyer's kind offer to run the course, as he was suitably qualified and it would encourage attendance as he was known locally. Councillor Richards will seek suitable dates from him and prepare a draft flyer and circulate it to other councillors and the agreed flyer will be sent out, on coloured paper to attract attention, as soon as possible.

2016/45: Liaison with Sam from The Duke

Due to the fact that they lived in Ickham Court Farm, the area affected by parking and rubbish left by the pub, it was agreed that Councillors Hipkin and Shouls should be responsible for liaising with Sam. It was noted that there had been no recent issues to report.

2016/46: Possible community projects

It was felt that sourcing funds might be a problem as there had only been 18 responses to the flyer asking for suitable ideas. Conversely, the litter picking on the previous Saturday in the village, organised by Councillor Shouls, had been successful and

would be repeated. Councillor Tatman said that litter collecting could be undertaken in Bramling but it would be at participants own risk as Canterbury will only insure collectors in 30mph limits or less. A Bramling collection might be organised after the Clancy Dowcra road works is completed. Canterbury CC issue a risk assessment form and it this should be filled in on future occasions.

2016/47: AOB

47/01: The clerk will ask Jacque to email around the village asking for a volunteer to submit an article on Ickham for the local newspaper each month.

47/02: Councillor Tatman was asked about the Highways Strategies 2020-2025 document, which he had read, and he said that that there was nothing specific to Ickham but that it was an item on the next A257 group meeting and that he would report on this next time.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9 pm.

The next parish meeting is on Monday 18th July 2016 at 7.30pm