

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 19th September 2016 at 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting

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

Public: 2 members of the public

2016/068 Apologies

Councillors S Hipkin, S Walker.

2016/069: Declaration of Interest

Councillor deGraft-Johnson declared an interest in Agenda item 6 – planning application for work on Stable House and Councillor Wyant, as Churchwarden, on item 11, maintenance of churchyard.

2016/070: Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 18th July 2016 and the Special meetings held on 25th July and 5th September

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

2016/071 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by agenda items.

2016/072 Correspondence

There was none to report.

2016/073 Planning Applications –

73/01: CA/16/01890 Stable House, Ickham: Councillor deGraft-Johnson, joint owner of the property, left the room and questions were answered by his wife, Sandra. The application re a summerhouse, that had been in the property for over 10 years, and a shed and greenhouse recently erected, was for retrospective permission due to a neighbour's concern over distance from the shared boundary. The councillors approved the application unanimously and had no objections.

73/02: CA/16/01927 The Quaives – this was mainly for internal modifications and the councillors had no objections to the proposals.

2016/74: Finance

In the absence of Councillor Hipkin, the clerk reported on the CCF application which Councillor Hipkin had prepared for the period 2017-21 and all approved and it will be submitted before the deadline of 30th September.

2016/75 Highways

75/01: Water mains replacement: Councillor Tatman reported that no further work is planned in Wingham Well Lane so they will just connect up to the old pipe at Mill Road, requiring a short road closure. They were unable to drill under the Nailbourne so the existing bit of pipe under the Nailbourne will stay in place and new pipe connected to it each side. Work will continue up to, and then down Bekesbourne Lane, requiring two weekends of road closure – probably in November. Individual house connections will happen when all work is completed, by negotiation with individual householders.

75/02: A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne: Still awaiting completion of road works at Littlebourne after which Councillor Tatman can chase this again.

75/03: Accidents Councillor Tatman was pleased to report there had been none on the A257 since April and nothing elsewhere in the Parish since Councillor Richards had reported a collision with a parked car in July.

75/04: Potholes The series at the s-bend on Wingham Lane at Port Rill is still awaiting completion. Councillor Tatman had been told that it would take about two months and it has now been three since he reported it. Despite the fact he had reported it using their on-line reporting, he found that the location had been recorded as Wingham Road, Littlebourne so had to re-report it by phone. Having heard from one source that Highways have a new pot of money to spend on potholes, he asked the councillors to report as many as they could, although another source had told him that the pot had already gone. He said that he would report potholes that he was told about but would prefer people to report them themselves - 03000 418181 – telephoning preferable to using web which was inaccurate.

75/05: A257 Resurfacing: This was carried out recently between the Bramling Woodyard to half way up Bramling Hill at White Cottage. The work was quite good work although Councillor Tatman had received comments on adverse car vibrations on the Bramling Bend. Unfortunately, the contractors had put tarmac over the drains at the side of the road and the utility inspection lids. Councillor Tatman had reported this to Kent Highways and the contractors had removed tarmac from one drain, saying they would need a special cutter to do the rest as the tarmac was too deep – this will take longer. Hopefully the white markings indicating where the cutting needs to be done will not have been washed away by then. The removed piece of tarmac was just dumped in the verge although the contractors say that they will return to remove it.

2016/076 Ford in Drill Lane

76/01: Councillor Tatman reported that the work to make the ford safer was still programmed to be done and that he had enquired when this would be and what was to be done but had not heard yet.

76/02: There is only one sign indicating the presence of the ford and this is on the Nargate Street end although there are warning triangles on either side of the ford itself.

76/03: There are no pedestrian slabs over the ford itself.

76/04: Councillor Wyant reported that the board diverting the water to the relief channel, having been bolted in place, was now working and that the algae caused by the water flow in warm weather should not now be a problem as it had not been in the past.

76/05: A member of the public, Lindsay Dixey, reported that there had been another accident involving a cyclist since the last meeting in July and Councillor Tatman thought that there had been 5 accidents involving cyclists in total.

2016/77: River management

77/01: It was mentioned that the sluice at White Bridge had been used to divert water from the Black Hole Dyke in case of flooding, reducing the flow to the relief channel pending further work being done.

77/02: Martin Thomas (Kent Stour Countryside Partnership) will be coming to the meeting on 17th October, as will Richard Collins, to discuss Martin's email detailing proposed work on the Little Stour between Wickhambreaux and Seaton Mill to modify river bed, repair flood defences and erect fencing and on its impact on the environment, particularly bird life.

77/03: The work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Environment Agency and proof of this endorsement was requested and Councillor Wyant offered to speak to Mr Thomas. The clerk was also asked to check EA's legal rights on privately owned land.

77/04: The proposed fencing was to prevent cattle from entering river but Councillor Tatman queried whether approval of landowner / tenant was required.

77/05: Mrs Dixey requested that someone monitor the progress on the clearing of the Relief channel in the fields on both sides of Drill Lane, i.e. on both the Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux sides of the Lane – and Councillor Wyant offered to find out the situation.

2016/78 Maintenance of churchyard

78/01: Councillor Wyant reported that the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard had not been included in the CCF funding application originally and had been added erroneously a few years ago but that it previously came from the precept, although possibly not separately identified.

78/02: The meeting acknowledged Councillor Hipkin's strong arguments to include this in the CCF application for 2017-21, which had been ultimately rejected by Canterbury City Council.

78/03: Councillor Wyant argued the importance of keeping the graveyard in good condition and not allowing the grass to hide tablets etc. as the church was an important part of the village and visitors often came to seek relative's memorials, (often using the graveyard plan, created by Wendy Sansom and which we were legally obligated to keep up to date).

78/04: The councillors were supportive of the church's request for funding but the question of how to do this was raised. Councillor deGraft-Johnson stated that the council would guarantee £500 for the following year but that it would be necessary to determine ways of funding for the future. The precept is likely to be curtailed and it was suggested that parishioners be asked to help raise money. Ex-Councillor Brennan Dwyer will also be asked if he thought that the funding should be included in the precept.

2016/79: Footpaths and Warden

79/01: Councillor Wyant reported that a bag of type 1 aggregate to cover the muddy patch on the footpath alongside The Duke would cost £50.

79/02: Martin Twyman had offered to move the aggregate from the access road to the pathway and Gary will lay it.

79/03: The ownership of this and other footpaths was queried – and its definition as footpath or bridleway. Councillor Richards will ask Canterbury about this.

79/04: Councillor deGraft-Johnson will speak to the owners of The Duke to see if they would contribute to the repair of the footpath and Councillor Wyant will order the aggregate.

79/05: Councillor Richards spoke about Canterbury Ramblers, who had a budget assigned for maintenance of footpaths, and who were asking to work with parish Footpath Wardens to map, clear and maintain footpaths within the parish. She agreed to contact them and to check if they would help with this particular pathway which would probably need redoing annually. There is also an overgrown pathway by the church going towards Seaton and the path by the Mill gets very muddy.

79/06: The stile at the end of Seaton Weir had been reported as needing replacement in June to Kent CC. It is still pending inspection but Kent should cover the cost of replacing the stile with a kissing gate.

79/07: It as suggested that ramblers be asked to survey the footpaths and to report faults as soon as possible.

79/08: Councillor Richards queried our liability if we changed, e.g. cemented, a footpath on private land without the owner's consent, but it was felt that the act would be deemed to have been done 'with good intent'.

2016/80 First Aid course

Councillor Richards was waiting for a response from Brennan re the proposed course.

2016/81: Ickham noticeboards

81/01: Mrs deGraft-Johnson, on behalf of FOI, confirmed their generous offer to contribute up to £1,500 towards the cost of replacing the noticeboards in the village.

81/02: Councillor Wyant will ask Wendy Easter if she is willing to work with the FOI to find suitable boards and this will be presented at the meeting in October in order to seek formal approval from both the FOI and the council.

81/03: Councillor Wyant will also approach the owner of the barn wall to which the boards are attached to seek their permission to fix the new boards in place.

81/04: It was noted that the board at Seaton was in reasonable condition although notices had to be laminated as there was no cover but that the board at Bramling would probably last the winter but would need replacing soon.

2016/82 Broadband

82/01: Councillor Tatman showed members an email (below) that he had received from a parishioner:

We have been having major problems with our internet service, BT Infinity. The engineer told us it was because we are c. 800 Metres from the exchange and all the cable is aluminium, and that is why we get such bad broadband speed. He also mentioned a new BT system specially designed for rural areas called G.Fast, which basically involves BT placing a new "*Distribution Point (DP)*" on the pole in the street, and running Fibre cable to that DP, and then they connect the existing copper cable that runs from the pole to the house. You can then get up to 300mbs broadband rather than the 17mbs we are currently receiving.

The parishioner suggested it would be advantageous if as many people as possible viewed the plans via the link below and made contact with BT to press for improvement in this area:

<http://home.bt.com/news/bt-life/openreach-expands-ultra-fast-fibre-plans-11364045256060>

82/02: BT Infinity broadband, coming from Wingham, delivers a better service than was available 5 years ago but is deteriorating and slows down as more use it and for those further away from source.

82/03: The council agreed to take on the responsibility of monitoring speeds, Councillors deGraft-Johnson and Richards in Ickham and Councillor Tatman in Bramling and to try to detect any pattern in delivery.

2016/83: AOB

Councillor Hodges offered to manage the village column for Ickham in the East Kent Gazette as we had failed to find a volunteer within the village to do so, (Councillor Tatman reports on Bramling).

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

The next parish meeting is on Monday 17th October 2016 at 7.30pm