

# ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm

## Minutes of meeting

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

**Speakers:** Martin Thomas (Kent Stour Countryside Partnership; Tom Reid (Environment Agency)

**Public:** 5 members of the public

**2016/084 Apologies**  
Councillors K Richards, S Walker (Canterbury CC).

**2016/085: Declaration of Interest**  
Councillor deGraft-Johnson declared an interest in Agenda item 6 – correspondence re the planning application for work on Stable House.

**2016/086: Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**  
The minutes were amended in section 75/01 to change references to the *Nailbourne* to the *Little Stour* and in section 77/01 to read that the sluice at White Bridge diverts water *into* the Black Hole Dyke.

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

**2016/087 Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising that were not covered by agenda items.

**2016/088 Correspondence**

A letter had been received from Mrs Graham re the planning application CA/16/01890 for Stable House, Ickham, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. Councillor deGraft-Johnson again declared an interest and correctly absented himself from the meeting at this point and Councillor Tatman again took over as Chair. Councillor Tatman stated that the draft minutes correctly reflected the Council's unanimous decision. As no objections had been raised at that meeting, either by the Councillors or members of the public, nothing else needed to be added to the minutes. In particular, statements that were not made at the meeting must not be added to minutes as if they had been made. The application is now being processed by

Canterbury City Council who will consider all relevant issues, including representations made by Mrs. Graham. This view was accepted by the Parish Council and the minutes of the meeting of 19th September were not altered regarding this item and were signed off by those present. No further action on this matter is required, or is permissible, by the Parish Council. Councillor deGraft-Johnson then re-joined.

#### **2016/089 Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to discuss.

#### **2016/090 River Stour Restoration**

90/01: Martin Thomas distributed literature and gave a detailed talk about the work that was scheduled to take place on the river and banks between Wickhambreaux and Seaton Mill. This had been approved by the Environment Agency and Flood Risk Team and would take place in early November. The work would entail creating a narrow, deep channel to give fish easier passage particularly in the summer, to repair the flood defence bund on the north side of the Little Stour. They would also fence both sides to prevent cattle grazing and destroying the banks of the chalk stream, which had caused flooding in Seaton in 2013/14.

90/02: Richard Collins spoke on behalf of some parishioners who opposed the project because of the effect it might have on the local birdlife plus other ecological impact on the area, other than benefitting the fish. He felt that it was a good idea to increase the height of the banks to reduce risk of flooding but that widening the river would threaten the habitat and increased vegetation clog up the river as at Nargate Street. He also stated that Seaton residents liked the pastoral aspect of cows drinking at the river, which fencing would prevent.

90/03: Anthony Mauduit also raised objections on aesthetic grounds, i.e. the grazing cattle on an open river, and practical grounds that he felt that interfering with the flood plain could make the situation worse and it should be left as it was.

90/04: Dave Pearce, who owned part of the land where the proposed work would take place, was present at the meeting and expressed his full support for the project, particularly in view of the shallowness of the river in summer. It was stated that all 3 affected landowners had been consulted and had agreed to the proposed changes but there was some uncertainty expressed about the views of one of them, which Councillor deGraft-Johnson will seek to clarify.

90/05: Mrs Dixey queried where the funding came from and was told that it came direct from DEFRA and not from funding for flood relief work etc. The EA allocated funding to KSCP for suggested local projects that they approved.

90/06: There were many debates about the merit of the scheme both from the members of the public present and from the Councillors. It was widely felt that there had been insufficient consultation although KSCP had distributed leaflets in Seaton, but this was felt to be informative rather than consultative.

Experts on local wildlife had been consulted but a request from a member of the public that an independent expert be commissioned was declined by the EA on cost reasons , unless it was privately financed.

90/07: Tom Reid (EA) agreed to pass on the concerns expressed at the meeting but both Martin Thomas and Dave Pearce rejected the idea of further consultation and stated that he felt the project should go ahead. Councillor deGraft-Johnson expressed the hope that some compromise could be reached between the opposing parties but that the Parish Council were not able to influence the decision.

#### **2016/91: Finance**

Councillor Hipkin reported that the application for CCF for 2017-21 had been submitted and that he had been told the application for funding to maintain the churchyard ‘would be considered’, although he felt that this would probably have to be funded from the precept in practice.

#### **2016/92 Highways**

92/01: Water mains replacement: No further work is planned in Wingham Well Lane so Highways will just connect up to the old pipe at Mill Road, requiring a short road closure – probably in November. Work has finished in Littlebourne at the Little Stour for now but there is still the work to connect up the pipe in Bekesbourne Lane and this requires two weekends of road closure – probably in November.

92/02: A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne: Still awaiting completion of road works at Littlebourne before Councillor Tatman can chase this up again.

92/03: The interactive sign on the A257 has now been replaced – about a year after it was reported and Councillor Tatman expressed the belief that we have Councillor Northey to thank for it being replaced at all. He mentioned that nobody had seen it flash yet, but was a bit reluctant to drive down the hill at ever increasing speeds to see which one triggered it.

92/04: There have been two accidents since the last meeting. A car turning into Duckpitt Farm was hit by another vehicle. A lady had to be cut out of the car and was taken to hospital with only slight injuries. Later at the same spot a motorcyclist came off his bike. No further details available.

92/05; Potholes The series at the s-bend on Wingham Lane at Port Rill is apparently “resolved with the customer” on the grounds that they contacted Councillor Tatman to say that it would be spray filled. He went to inspect to see if it had been done but the rain had filled the area and he could not see if ruts were still there. **Update since meeting:** Councillor Tatman subsequently spoke to Kevin Able, a Highways Steward, (21<sup>st</sup> October), who agreed that the

whole section around the S-bend needs a substantial fix involving digging deeper – not just filling up the surface. He thought it would probably involve a road closure to allow the work to be carried out and therefore could not promise when it would happen.

**2016/093: Drill Lane Ford**

Works still programmed – Councillor Tatman has put in an enquiry as to when and what exactly is to be done.

**2016/094 Footpaths**

Councillor Wyant reported that the footpath by The Duke had been repaired by Gary Bradford with 2 bags of aggregate and was now in very good condition. In the absence of Councillor Richards, there was no discussion on footpath wardens etc.

**2016/95 First Aid course**

We are still waiting for a response from Brennan re the proposed course.

**2016/96: Ickham noticeboards**

It was agreed that the new boards should be headed as 'Ickham & Well Parish Noticeboard'. Wendy Sansom and Sandra deGraft-Johnson would order the boards and Councillor Wyant will inform the resident affected by the drilling.

**2016/97 Broadband**

Councillor Tatman had been collecting his own stats and other councillors agreed to do the same. Councillor deGraft-Johnson offered to collate these with his in order to help ascertain the quality /speed of local broadband.

**2016/98: AOB**

The ditches to the west of Drill Lane needed to be cleared and Councillor Wyant reported that Martin Twyman had stated that he would do so when he had the time.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

**The next parish meeting is on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm**