

# ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm

## Minutes of meeting

**Present:** Councillors J deGraft-Johnson (Chair), S Hipkin, K Richards, L Shouls, K Tatman, G Wyant; Pat Heath (clerk)

**Public:** 3 members of the public

**2016/099 Apologies**  
Councillors P Hodges and M Northey, (Kent CC).

**2016/100: Declarations of Interest**  
Councillor Richards declared an interest in Wickhambreaux School, (due to be discussed under AOB) and Councillor Wyant, as church warden and member of the PCC, in the discussion re financing of churchyard grass cutting

**2016/101: Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**  
The word 'plan' in section 90/03 was amended to read (flood) 'plain' and then the minutes were then signed by Councillor deGraft-Johnson as true records.

**2016/102 Matters Arising**  
Councillor Wyant reported that she had again asked Martin Twyman to clear the channels in Drill Lane.

**2016/102 Correspondence**  
There was no correspondence to discuss.

**2016/103 Planning Applications**  
There were no planning applications to discuss.

**2016/104: Finance**

104/01: Councillor Hipkin reminded councillors that the precept amount required for 2017-8 had to be submitted to Canterbury CC by 31<sup>st</sup> December and that it would have to be agreed at the next parish meeting.

104/02: The committee considering the CCF claim would be meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November and their decision, (in view of our request for funding for churchyard maintenance - which was not likely to be met due to limited funding and the danger of setting a precedent for other parishes), would have to be considered when calculating the precept amount.

104/03: Based on last year's reduction and the current squeeze, we probably would only get 2/3 of the amount of CCF claimed, (£2,760, based on estimated true costs), i.e. a shortfall of about £920. Given that it was unlikely that we would be granted £735 for the churchyard grass cutting, we would need to raise £1,655 by other means, although one member of the public present felt that this was not our responsibility.

104/04: We currently receive £4,768 from the precept levied, (plus £67.82 Council tax support grant, which will be halved next year). Our rate is one of the lowest in the county but we must increase it above inflation to meet our costs over the coming years.

104/05: Councillor Tatman urged the necessity of informing all parishioners about the possible rises in precept amounts. Although comparatively low compared to council tax overall, (Band D this year, for example, was £23.86), some families might struggle to absorb even a relatively small increase and he felt that all should be informed and opinions sought.

104/06: A letter will be drafted to send to all parishioners explaining the precept and detailing expenditure and the need to consider various percentage increases. A 40% increase, (an increase of £9.54 on Band D, for example) would allow funding for the churchyard to continue whereas a 20% increase would be adequate to cover reduced CCF funding and inflation.

104/07: The next parish meeting has been brought forward to 12<sup>th</sup> December to allow parishioners the chance to voice their concerns and to allow time for a decision to be made re the precept before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December.

104/08: Fund raising, for example a quiz night suggested by Councillor Tatman or a spring / summer fair, might be an option to raise money for any shortfall in funding. An item will be added to next month's agenda re seeking a fund-raising organiser.

104/09: A member of the public, Mrs deGraft-Johnson, raised the possibility that increases might be capped in the future and that there was currently a green paper being considered on this point (although being fought by NALC and KALC).

## **2016/105      Highways**

**105/01: Water Mains Replacement:** Any remaining work will just be a day or two around the drive to Lee Priory and then it will be complete.

**105/02: A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne:** Still awaiting completion of road works at Littlebourne before Councillor Tatman can chase this again.

**105/03: Accidents:** None since our last meeting.

**105/04: Potholes at Port Rill, Wingham Lane:** On the 21<sup>st</sup> October, Councillor Tatman met with Kevin Able, a Highways Steward, who agreed that the whole section around the S-bend needed 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.

**105/05: Drill Lane Ford:** A new SLOW sign has been painted on the Nargate Street side of the ford, and the one on the Ickham side has been refreshed. Councillor Tatman met with Highways at the ford on the day that this was done and had asked if a blue sign advising cyclists to dismount could be placed under the triangular signs. They thought probably not but would enquire. He also asked for a better means for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists to get through the ford when it is in flood but they said this was not policy and that there were too many fords in the country for this to be standard practice. He felt that he had gone as far as he could on this matter.

**105/06: Gullies:** Councillor Wyant had asked Councillor Tatman to ensure that the gullies in Ickham, especially School Lane, were cleared by Highways. Highways have a schedule of gully clearance to which they stick. They will come out, (not immediately), if they are informed of a gully which had silted up. Councillor Tatman reported that he had driven through Ickham twice recently but with the rain and fallen leaves, did not know where the gullies were and if they were silted up and did not particularly want to walk down School Lane or the Street with a broom handle looking for them. If any other councillor knew where the gullies were, he asked them to check them after the wind and rain had subsided and to let him know if any are silted up and could be reported although, if just covered in leaves, could be cleared up.

**105/07: Bramling Road blockage:** A tree had come down in the high winds and blocked Bramling Road near the Garrington Farm turnoff for several hours.

**105/08: Interactive sign:** The broken interactive sign on the A257 opposite Bramling House had been replaced but there was no indication that it was working. Councillor Tatman will check with Highways.

**105/09: A257 Group** met on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. The main activity and discussion centred around the A257 Plan – a plan for the whole road, identifying accident hotspots, areas of congestion and difficulties experienced by pedestrians.

**2016/106: River Stour**

106/01: Councillor Wyant had attended a meeting of the Internal Drainage Board at which temporary flood barriers to protect property had been discussed. These come in 50m packs and are 2m high and can be constructed quickly. Supplies are held at Wye depot but packs enabling 4 kilometres to be constructed will be delivered to Ickham.

106/02: The Little Stour and Nailbourne group also met but Highways did not attend. The water table was at a record low and the only danger from heavy rainfall would be surface flooding. Councillor Wyant said that she would check the number of sandbags available if needed.

106/03: A member of the public, Mrs Dixey, reminded the meeting that the Environment Agency had promised at this year's APM to clear the Black Hole Dyke relief channel by November but this had not been done. Councillor Wyant promised to find out about the current position.

**2016/107 First Aid course**

Councillor Richards reported that Brennan Dwyer had offered to hold a one day course for up to 12 people on either 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> December. These dates will be circulated and, if enough parishioners respond, the course will take place on one of these dates. If there is insufficient response, a course will be arranged in the new year.

**2016/108: Ickham noticeboard**

The new board for Ickham had been ordered by Wendy Sansom, funded by Friends of Ickham, and should be available in about 6 weeks. It was a double, lockable board with 'Ickham Parish' at the top. The clerk was asked to formally seek the permission of the owner of the house to which the board was to be affixed.

**2016/109 Wedding party**

Councillor Wyant reported that a couple getting married in August 2017 wished to serve free drinks to their guests on the village green before proceeding to the formal reception. The councillors had no objection but pointed out that it was the responsibility of the couple and The Duke public house, who were supplying the drink, to check with Environmental Health and to obtain any necessary licence and they also wanted clarification that adequate public liability insurance had been, or would be, arranged.

**2016/110: Broadband speed**

Councillor Tatman reported that, despite BT Infinity's promise of 23MB speed 'guaranteed', he was only getting 5MB and had been awarded compensation from BT after a lengthy battle. The problem was apparently having aluminium instead of copper cable linking to the Wingham hub and sharing the line. Councillor Richards, however, reported a consistently high rate of reception.

**2016/111: Parish Charter**

The Councillors reviewed the draft Parish Charter from Canterbury CC and made several comments which will be sent to the Council after checking.

**2016/112: AOB**

The Council discussed the proposed extension both of the buildings and of the number of pupils at Wickhambreaux School. Although no intervention was proposed at this time, it was suggested that the Council keep a watching brief on developments as there were many children from Ickham who attended the school.

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

**The next parish meeting is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm**