

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 19th June 2017 at 7.30 pm

Minutes of meeting

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

Public: 4 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

2017/043: Apologies
Councillors Hodges, Walker and Northey.

2017/044: Declarations of Interest
There were none.

2017/045: Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on 22nd May
The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2017/046: Matters Arising
There were none.

2017/047: Correspondence
There was none.

2017/048: Planning Applications
There were none.

2017/049: Finance
Councillor Hipkin reported that the year-end accounts for 2016-17 had been submitted to Littlejohn for audit. He also confirmed that the budget for the coming year had been agreed and that expenditure for the year was estimated at about £6k.

2017/050 Highways

050/01: **A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne:** No progress on this matter for two years and the surface to the half-mile long pavement is badly broken and potentially dangerous for pedestrians using it. Councillor Tatman agreed to email Michael Northey to try to expedite the issue.

050/02: **Potholes at Port Rill, Wingham Lane.** No progress. There are white lines painted round the worst sections, but they have now been there over two months. There is a huge pothole at the corner of Drill Lane and Nargate Street.

050/03: **Interactive Sign opposite Bramling House:** No progress. The issue of speed on the Bramling Bend was in the hands of Julian Brazier (and Craig McKinley) but Councillor Tatman remarked that now, of course, we were dealing with a new MP who had not been briefed on the issue yet.

050/04: **A257 road surface at the Bramling bend.** Awaiting BT to raise their inspection hatch to the new road surface level. A large white cross had been painted on the top.

050/05: **Accidents:** Nothing since the last parish meeting.

050/06: **Ickham Village road safety features:** Councillor Tatman had been in touch with Michael Heath, who is in Kent Highways "Schemes". He said that they are developing an information sheet to inform Parish Councils how they can go about progressing such safety features as the council had been discussing, (e.g. 20mph zone, flashing speed lights, chicanes, bumps, pinches, additional signage, etc.). He was not willing to give Councillor Tatman a synopsis and asked him to wait for publication, which should be in 3 or 4 weeks. Councillor Tatman contacted him again today and the document still cannot be released but Mr Heath offered a site visit on Friday 23rd or Friday 30th June for Councillor Tatman and, (no more than), one other and Councillor Hipkin volunteered to go. It was mentioned that the questionnaire that is being prepared for circulation around the parish should indicate possible costs and check whether parishioners would want such changes implemented.

050/07: The damaged finger post at the point where Baye Lane forks towards Seaton was mentioned and Councillor Tatman offered to report it to Highways. Councillor Hipkin said that the post was regularly rotated in the wrong direction and he had had to turn it many times.

2017/051: River Management

Councillor Wyant reported that the water levels of the River Stour were still very low. She mentioned that Southern Water had taken steps to stop sewage leaking out of the drains into the river at times of flooding and that gaps had been sealed to prevent seepage into groundwater. The Environment Agency had recently sent people to check Black Hole Dyke to see how flood water could be best diverted.

2017/052 Future projects / community involvement

Jacque Grimsley had given a copy of the previous Parish Plan to the group designated to create a new Plan, (Councillors Richards and Hipkin and former Councillor, Brennan Dwyer). The group will gather as much information as possible and make recommendations to the parish council on the content, including possible guidance, of the questionnaire to be circulated to parishioners to seek their opinions.

2017/053: Debris and litter

053/01: Councillor Richards reported that she had spoken to Jeremy at Strutt & Parker who had said that asbestos cladding, as present in the barn in the field behind The Duke, was widely used in the UK and only dangerous if broken up.

053/02: The gate from The Duke's garden into the fields was still being left open and Strutt & Parker are to visit The Duke and tell them to shut it.

053/03: Councillor Shouls reported the extensive amount of litter dumped behind the wall of the car park which serves the flats, some of which might be dangerous. Councillor Richards will discuss the matter with Strutt & Parker and / or Canterbury City Council.

2017/054 Damaged electricity pole, School Lane

054/01: The previous week, a resident, Jim Boyd, had asked that the council become involved in getting repaired the electricity pole, damaged in the Christmas Eve 2015 storm, which was leaning at a dangerous angle over the corner of School Lane / The Street. Unlike the other two poles damaged in the storm which had been replaced, this pole had only been temporarily repaired by the Electricity Company by tethering it to a cherry tree in Mr Boyd's garden. The tree had since died as a result, and the cable securing the post had now snapped. The electricity cables were hanging low over the road and could be a danger to the farm machinery passing by.

054/02: Mr Boyd had spoken to the Electricity Board about this but no action had been taken to remedy the situation, hence his request to the parish council to progress the matter.

054/03: The clerk was asked to draft a message to be sent to the Board and to circulate it to the councillors for their comments.

2017/055 Over tall hedgerows

The hedgerows either side of School Lane where it joined The Street were over tall. Mr Boyd would be able to cut his back once the overhanging electricity cables mentioned above were repaired. Councillor deGraft-Johnson undertook to ask David Rosslyn Smith to cut back his hedge which was obscuring the sign post and partially blocking the pavement. The clerk was asked to check the legal implications.

2017/056 Pathway by Church / field

056/01: Councillor Shouls expressed her concern that hedgerows had been cut back in April / May during nesting time whereas they should be left until July for that reason, unless safety was a concern.

056/02: A flail cutter had been used and Councillor Wyant will try to find out who had organised the cutting.

056/02: There was significant debris on the pathway and it was not known who had left it but Martin Twyman had cleared it by the churchyard.

2017/057 Repair / replace old noticeboard

The second noticeboard in Ickham has a damaged glass door, caused by a car hitting it, and needs other repairs. Councillors Shouls agreed to get two quotes, and Councillor Tatman a third, to be presented at the next parish meeting.

2017/058 Future participation in Canterbury consultations

Currently, the Canterbury District Parish Charter was being prepared in conjunction with KALC. The clerk will check the current status and inform councillors.

2017/059 AOB

059/01: A local resident had discussed with Councillor Wyant how the music coming from the seasonal workers' site in School Lane was affecting nearby residents. The resident herself had spoken to them and had felt that their attitude was aggressive. Councillor Wyant had spoken to the manager, particularly about the loud karaoke music on 13th June and had been told that this was the workers first day's break for some time. She asked him to ensure that the volume was kept down in future. In previous years, the relationship between the workers and the village had been good but seemed to have deteriorated, maybe due to the Brexit vote, although Councillor Richards pointed out that the workers were always polite to her when she encountered them whilst walking her dog. It was agreed that measures should be taken to improve matters and to engage with the workers. Mrs Elderson suggested hosting a welcome party next year at the start of the season and Councillor Wyant will explore this idea with them.

059/02: Councillor deGraft-Johnson had had a meeting with Mr de Haan, the leaseholder of The Duke, about matters affecting residents. Councillors Wyant and Shouls, and Josh's area operations manager, Jack, were also present. Mr de Haan will issue the minutes of that meeting which included discussions of parking in the street, loud music, rubbish and debris and the general relationship with the villagers. There had been recommendations in minutes from the CCC at licensing sub-committee meeting at which Michael White was present, (as also were some villagers), but Mr de Haan was not aware of this. It was agreed that they should meet quarterly to catch up on any issues as

Mr de Haan was keen to maintain a good relationship with the villagers. Councillors Hipkin and Richards asked to be informed of any suggestions to improve parking so that these could be included in the new Parish Plan which was being devised. Councillor Richards mentioned that paramedics attending a house in the village the previous week had had to park near the Old Rectory as there was no available space nearby. It was also mentioned that a 4X4 parked at right angles to the wall opposite The Duke limited the available road width to an extent that a bus would not have been able to get through. The result of the meeting with Mr de Haan will be discussed at the next parish meeting in July.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

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