

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 17th July 2017 at 7.30 pm

Minutes of meeting

Present: Councillors K Tatman (Chair), S Hipkin, L Shouls, G Wyant; P Heath (clerk)

Public: 1 member of the public present.

2017/060: Apologies

Councillors deGraft-Johnson, Hodges, Richards, Walker and Northey.

2017/061: Declarations of Interest

There were none.

2017/062: Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on 19th June

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2017/063: Matters Arising

063/01: The clerk was asked to check if there were any current consultations at Canterbury CC in which the members might participate.

063/02: Councillor Wyant reported that she had attempted to contact the manager of the workers' caravan site off School Lane and had left a message but, so far, her call had not been returned.

2017/064: Correspondence

Following an email from Councillor deGraft-Johnson, Jack Nimmons had supplied details of an incident that had occurred at The Duke on 26th June and it was agreed that the matter had been dealt with adequately by the staff at the time.

2017/065: Planning Applications

There were two applications for tree surgery on / removal of trees protected under TPOs. The clerk was asked to register queries whether the trees being felled would be replaced and the reason for reducing an elm to 1.5m in height.

2017/066: Finance

066/01: Councillor Hipkin reported that submissions for grants for capital projects had to be made to Canterbury CC (Stacey Wells) by 2nd October.

066/02: The questionnaire seeking the parishioners' views on possible projects had now been drafted and Brennan Dwyer was preparing the final version for circulation in a couple of weeks.

066/03: In view of the tight timescale, responses to the questionnaire would have to be received by the end of August so that a project could be chosen and a secondary consultation undertaken, or meetings held, to describe the project in more detail, obtain estimated costs etc prior to application. It was pointed out that people were away in August and this might affect the responses received.

066/04: It was agreed that mention of the questionnaire and possible capital project should be made in the local newspaper, Church & Village and on the website as it was very important to get good and visible public support for the proposed project.

2017/067 Highways

067/01: **Ickham Village Road Safety Features** Councillor Tatman reported that he and Councillor Hipkin had met up with Michael Heath, who is in Kent Highways "Schemes", on Friday 30 June. He gave them a lot of information about what Highways are prepared to do, (very little), and what Parish Councils might do at their own expense. Some of the suggestions discussed may be included in the updated Parish Plan questionnaire.

In summary, a number of things are possible but:

- they are potentially very expensive;
- usually additional road features require (additional) lighting;
- the Council must be very sure that residents want them, (e.g. everyone might vote for speed bumps, except the residents of the house that they were placed outside where increased noise would ensue);
- there are legal implications of encroaching on the highway with things like planters and tubs.

The document being prepared to guide Parish Councils through the process of securing such features is still not ready for release.

067/02: **A257: Pavement from Duckpitt Cottages to Littlebourne:** At the last PC meeting, Councillor Tatman was asked to draft a letter to Michael Northey to try to get action on this issue. However, following the meeting with Michael Heath, Councillor Tatman drove him down the length of road next to the pavement in question. He agreed that it needed repair and that he would see what he could do. Nothing so far. Councillor Tatman will give him a little time but he warned that he was changing job titles soon.

067/03: **Potholes at Port Rill, Wingham Lane.** As above. Councillor Tatman drove Michael Heath past these obstacles and he said that he would see what he could do. Nothing so far.

067/04: **Interactive Sign opposite Bramling House:** No further progress although the letter that the Council had previously addressed to Julian Brazier and Craig McKinley, (copied to Michael Northey), regarding the A257 speed limit, has been passed to the KCC Highway's cabinet member.

067/05: **A257 road surface at the Bramling bend:** The BT inspection hatch on the new road surface has now been raised to almost the correct level and the noise and vibration has reduced but has not been eliminated.

067/06: **Directions sign at Baye Lane / Seaton Lane junction:** Reported the day after the last meeting and now fixed, though the signs are not necessarily correctly pointing in the right direction.

067/07: **Accidents:** One accident since the last parish meeting in which a lorry reversed into a stationary vehicle on the A257 outside the Haywain. No injuries.

067/08: **A257 Traffic Group:** met on Saturday 8 July. Few people attended due to holidays and a clash with a KALC meeting. Discussions focused mainly on the Wingham and Preston regions of the A257 Plan under construction. Minutes will be distributed when available.

067/09: **Grove Road roadworks:** Theoretically, a short section of Grove Road is closed for about a month, although Councillor Tatman reported that the road was open that day, but with a 'road closed' sign still showing on the approach from the north. Theoretically, again, there should be less traffic coming through Ickham as drivers learn to avoid the area but, at present, there were no road signs on the A257 advertising the closure at, say, Nargate Street, so that drivers coming from Littlebourne to Grove Rd do not learn of the closure until they get to Wickhambreaux. Councillor Tatman thought it best left for a week to see if it settles down.

067/10: Councillor Hipkin spoke about the difficulties and costs involved in reducing the speed at which some drivers came through the village. He reported that chicanes could not be installed before the speed through the village had been reduced to 20 mph or less, and the cost of doing this, including obtaining a Traffic Regulations Order and appropriate signage, would be about £3k. He also said that there would have to be adequate lighting to help prevent accidents, which would

not be popular amongst village residents, and that the police, due to lack of manpower, would not enforce this speed limit.

067/11: Other problems that potentially might be incurred would be objections from people living next to any speed bumps, for example, because of the noise and vibration caused by them; objections to any signage and bollards which would both adversely affect the appearance of the village and become a drain on council finance for their maintenance. Councillor Hipkin felt that, due to the costs, the controversial nature of the possible speed reduction changes and the general lack of support, probably nothing would be implemented. Councillor Tatman mentioned that any changes would have to be approved by Canterbury City Council and that street lighting would have to be installed to show the restrictions, which would not be popular.

067/12: Similarly, it was felt that residents would not like lines painted on the roadway restricting parking. Any such lines would have to be approved by Canterbury but it was thought unlikely that they would enforce them for financial reasons as Ickham was on the perimeter of their domain.

067/13: It was decided that, at this stage, no recommendations could be made to deal with the traffic / parking issues. Councillor Hipkin queried the number of traffic accidents in the village and was told by Councillor Tatman that 2 small and 1 serious incident had occurred since 2002.

067/14: Councillor Tatman was asked about the KALC project to impose a speed limit in all villages in Kent and reported that KALC's AGM was in November after which NALC would have to approve any proposal. It could be many years before such changes were implemented and the cost would have to be borne by each village and approved by the relevant city or county council. It was felt that it would be very beneficial if the idea was adopted at a national level.

067/15: Councillor Hipkin acknowledged the difficulties of sorting out the parking issues but voiced his support for a 20mph speed limit. Councillor Tatman replied that the parked cars did inadvertently help reduce speed through the village.

2017/068: River Management

Councillor Wyant reported that the water levels of the River Stour were still very low and that cutting back the weed should start soon. There was a meeting of the IDB scheduled for 3rd August at which she would report any information from the Environment Agency re Black Hole Dyke and flood prevention. She also mentioned that a large terrapin had been seen in the river at Wickhambreaux and could cause a problem to the native species.

2017/069: Meeting with 'The Duke' leaseholder

069/01: Councillor Shouls reported that the meeting had been very positive and copies of the minutes were shown to councillors.

069/02: Car parking issues were discussed and it was mentioned that a sign was already displayed in the pub asking customers to park considerately; there will probably be one outside too. Various options had been discussed as to how parking spaces could be made available, and these were explained to councillors; some of these ideas were known to be unpopular or not viable. One idea had been that the new village green could be a possible option and Councillor Hipkin said that this could be included in the project questionnaire being prepared for circulation.

069/03: It was reported that parishioners next to and opposite the pub had objected to the pub bins being taken out too early in the day and the length of time that the bins were left outside after collection, but that this situation had improved.

069/04: Councillor Shouls said that the meeting had been good and that the pub were keen to get and retain local support. It had been agreed to hold quarterly meetings to discuss any future or ongoing issues.

2017/070 Parish Plan

Councillors Hipkin and Richards and Brennan Dwyer had met on 13th July and it was planned that the questionnaire would be ready for distribution in two weeks' time and would include possible use of the village green. The Councillors wished to formally record their gratitude to Mr Dwyer for agreeing to be part of the project team and for all his hard work.

2017/071: Litter behind the car park at the flats

In the absence of Councillor Richards, this matter was deferred.

2017/072 Damaged electricity pole, School Lane

The clerk reported that the Electricity Company had come and inspected the damage to the pole and that she had given them Mr Boyd's contact details, with his permission, as they needed access to his land to secure the pole. She had also been told that they would address the problems of the trees interlacing with the wires.

2017/073 Repair old noticeboard

Councillor Shouls reported that Littlebourne Woodcraft, who had experience in mending noticeboards, were coming to inspect the damaged board. It was suggested that an email be sent out through the village via Jacque asking if anyone was willing, and able, to volunteer to repair the board.

2017/074 Security fences at Seaton Lake

Councillor Tatman had inspected the fences, which were put in place to prevent otters reaching the lakes and killing the fish, (and were dug in to a depth of two feet to prevent otters from digging under them). He thought the fences were unsightly but probably legal. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting when Councillor Richards is present.

2017/075 Provision of play equipment

The possibility of having a playground on the new village green is being included in the capital project questionnaire about to be circulated. Due to the tight timescale for applications, it was felt important that parishioners wanting this development should form a committee to aggregate costs etc. Councillor Hipkin stated that Wickhambreaux had increased the precept for the development of their playground, which had cost approximately £18k, but that there would also be ongoing costs for insurance, H&S expenses and general maintenance and that these costs should be included in any proposal from the group. Councillor Wyant agreed to circulate this information via the Facebook group to see if there were any volunteers.

2017/076 AOB

There was none.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

The next parish meeting may be on Monday 21st August at 7.30 pm, if there are urgent matters, else will be at the same time on Monday 18th September.