

ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Short Parish Meeting 21st August 2017 at 7.30 pm

Minutes of meeting

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

Public: 4 members of the public present.

2017/077: Apologies
Councillors Hodges, Richards, Walker and Northey.

2017/078: Declarations of interest
There were none.

2017/079: Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on 17th July
The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2017/080: Matters arising
It was noted that the application to fell and replace trees at Lee Priory had been accepted except for felling the sycamore tree, protected by a TPO, which was refused.

2017/081: Correspondence

081/01:

- a) Correspondence that had taken place between a parishioner and KCC Highways re Wingham Lane was discussed. The parishioner had initially written to KCC to request that they should consider making proper passing places in the Lane, which now carried a lot of heavy vehicles, such as buses, lorries and tractors. Their response had been based on 'crash data' not being applicable to the Lane rather than responding to the actual request to facilitate road usage.
- b) A second letter was sent to KCC from the parishioner clarifying the basis for the request and pointing out the damage caused by lack of adequate passing places, including breakdown of road metal and potholes. Particular reference was made to the gaping potholes on the south side at the blind bend at Port Rill. No reply had, at the time of the meeting, been received to this second letter.

- c) All present at the meeting, including the public, felt that the request was reasonable. Councillor Tatman had talked to Wingham PC about the problem at Port Rill and also mentioned the narrow width of the road and the fact that, in some parts of the road, passing places would have to be made on private land. Councillor Tatman had also spoken to KCC about maintaining the existing passing places and would seek the help of Councillor Northey in this matter.
- d) The council will continue to monitor the situation.

81/02: The meeting also discussed an email received from another parishioner who was concerned about the new village green being considered as a possible parking area to alleviate the problem of the excessive number of parked cars in The Street, which had been aggravated by the increased trade at The Duke. The councillors had not suggested this solution but felt that it might be one of the proposals in the new Parish Plan for which all parishioners' views and comments would be sought before any action was considered. The Plan will be circulated shortly.

2017/082: Repair of village notice board

Councillor Shouls reported that three contractors had been approached for a quotation to repair the broken door and that two had been too busy to do the work or even quote for it. A quotation of £78 from Littlebourne Woodcraft was unanimously accepted and Councillor Shouls will arrange for the repair to be done.

2017/083: Parishioners' survey

083/01: Councillor Hipkin reported that the amended version of the questionnaire had not been circulated to the councillors and that feedback would be required before distribution to the parishioners. It was hoped to provide the updated questionnaire for approval at the next parish meeting.

083/02: There was discussion of who should be allowed to respond to the questionnaire – whether, for example, children could, with guidance, as well as adults within a family.

083/03: Questionnaires will primarily be sent via email to those on the email list, others by hand to everyone else on the electoral roll. There was discussion on whether the questionnaire should be delivered to workers at the farms, Tor Spa etc but no final decision was made on this matter.

083/04: it was agreed that the accompanying letter should be shorter but should include an offer to assist anyone who needed help in completing the questionnaire, plus a map of the parish.

2017/084: KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The clerk will check who is required / allowed to complete the questionnaire (the council and / or individuals) and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

2017/085: AOB

085/01: The parishioners who were at the meeting then raised the main issue which they had primarily come to discuss. Living near The Duke, they had been subjected to the effects of firework displays, the most recent being that month. There were also fireworks at New Year and other occasions. Some of the fireworks had ended up on the artificial grass, children's trampolines and on roofs. Although the manager of the pub had agreed to clear up the debris, this had not been done and relations were at times aggressive. The residents were not given warning of the planned fireworks and when they mentioned this, were told that details were on Facebook, (which did not appear to be correct and was, in any case, not the best method of communicating to nearby homes). The residents of the flats were also affected by loud music late at night, smoke from the fireworks etc and they felt that the pub staff had no regard for the villagers nearby. Councillors deGraft-Johnson, Shouls and Wyant were meeting the pub owners in September and would discuss these matters with them as well as the importance of ensuring the safety of the residents, building good relationships and not causing undue disturbance.

085/02: Councillor Shouls mentioned that it was possible to purchase the village telephone box for £1. Housing a defibrillator in it was mentioned as a possible use but no decision was made on its future usage. It was, however, agreed to buy the box and Councillor Shouls will arrange for this to be done.

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

The next parish meeting will be on Monday 18th September at 7.30 pm.