

# ICKHAM & WELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Parish Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30 pm

## Minutes of meeting

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

**Public:** 6 members of the public present.

**2017/100: Apologies**

Councillor. Tatman

Councillor Walker (Canterbury CC) and Councillor Northey (KCC)

**2017/101: Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**2017/102: Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September**

102/01: Changes were made to 094/02 so that it now should read:

‘The Environment Agency had cut back some weeds in the Little Stour the previous week and in the ditch running from the new sluice gate at the White Bridge on Nargate Street to Drill Lane’

102/02: In 095/06, ‘children proved able to climb over the fence’ should be replaced by ‘children proved able to climb over the wall, which had been partially taken down’.

102/03: The minutes were then signed as a true record.

**2017/103: Matters arising**

Councillor deGraft-Johnson reported that he had written to the owners of The Duke as agreed at the previous meeting, (095/10), and had received an emailed response from Jack Nimmons which stated that the points raised in the letter were valid and were being addressed.

**2017/104: Resignation of Councillor Hodges**

Councillor deGraft-Johnson said that it was with regret that he had to formally announce the resignation of Councillor Hodges. He asked the clerk to write to her to express the Council’s appreciation of all her hard work and contribution that she had

made during her time as Councillor. Her resignation had been reported to the Electoral Officer at Canterbury City Council and a notice issued from them, which was currently displayed on noticeboards in the parish. The notice stated that if 10 or more of the electorate wished to hold an election and contacted Canterbury before 25<sup>th</sup> October, then an election would be arranged. Failing this, the parish council would seek to co-opt a parishioner to serve on the council.

**2017/105: Correspondence**

There was none other than that mentioned under 2017/103 re The Duke.

**2017/106: Planning Applications**

106/01: 17/02230 Barton Field Farm bungalow – this was a retrospective application and there were no objections.

106/02: 17/02028 The Forge, Ickham: No members objected to the application but did comment that residents of nearby Forge House should have been formally informed, as should any affected residents, particularly in a conservation area. The clerk was asked to contact the planning officer to express this view.

**2017/107: Finance**

107/01: KCC have issued a consultation document re their draft 2018/19 budget and Councillor Hipkin encouraged members of the council and the public to respond as individuals before the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

107/02: It was agreed in respect of the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation that Councillor Hipkin would reply on behalf of the Parish Council by the deadline of 26 October.

107/03: Councillor Hipkin commented that councils needed to continue to have the flexibility to increase the precept as necessary and that he felt that the suggested referendum principle being applied to such increases should be resisted.

107/04: The Council would discuss setting the precept for 2018/19 at the next meeting as the amount required had to be submitted to Canterbury before 31<sup>st</sup> December. Councillor Hipkin suggested that an increase of 3% would be appropriate.

**2017/108: Highways**

In Councillor Tatman's absence, the only item discussed was the deep pothole in the passing place at the top of Drill Lane. Although the status had been set to 'resolved with customer' by Kent Highways, Councillor Tatman had emailed that he had not yet

inspected the repair and other Councillors at the meeting reported that the repair, although completed, was not particularly good and might not last.

### **2017/109: Community Governance Review**

109/01: Wickhambreaux Parish Council had informed the council that they were applying for a boundary change in the northern border which currently followed the Black Hole Dyke.

109/02: The effect of the current boundary was that the Frank Montgomery Playing Field, which had been donated to Wickhambreaux for the use of its parishioners and which was managed and maintained by them, was within the boundaries of Ickham & Well parish.

109/03: Wickhambreaux had requested that the boundary be moved to Seaton Lane, possibly including The Quaives, or not as the owner decided.

109/04: The councillors had no objections to the proposal but stated that Ickham & Well should be indemnified against all costs incurred in the boundary change and these should be met by Wickhambreaux Council. A letter will be sent to Wickhambreaux Council informing them of the Council's decision not to oppose their request.

### **2017/110: River Management**

110/01: Councillor Wyant reported that the water level in the Little Stour was even lower and the river appeared full of weeds.

110/02: Martin Thomas, from Kent CC, had inspected the village pond and reported that the pond vegetation did not need clearing at this stage but that the pond might need de-silting, (it had last been done 2 years ago). He said that he would further investigate this and would contact KCC Highways Drainage should de-silting be necessary to prevent flooding when water from School Lane drained into the pond.

110/03: Martin Thomas also commented in his email that if the pond vegetation had not been cleared for several years, it seemed likely that the shade from the sycamore tree overhead and the laurel hedge at the rear were preventing plant growth. Leaf litter from the tree and hedge could contribute to the build-up of silt and he suggested that the hedge should be cut back and overhanging branches removed.

110/04: It was remarked that the cut back of the hedge would also clear the signpost, currently partially obscured. Councillor Wyant will talk to Martin Thomas and the new owners of the property bordering the pond.

110/05: It was thought that it would be useful to have a map of the parish showing drainage pipes and Councillor Wyant offered to prepare one.

**2017/111: Inconsiderate parking**

111/01: Following the last meeting, the clerk had written to Canterbury CC and to Gavin Dodwell, the PCSO, re the suggestion that the council might endorse placing notices on the windscreen of inconsiderately parked cars. Both parties responded, advising that the council should not get involved, as they have no legal right to do so and, also, that the police would not be able to enforce any violation of parking restrictions. These statements were strongly reinforced by a retired lawyer present in the audience although another member of the public commented that sometimes cars were parked dangerously as well as inconsiderately.

111/02: Staff at the pub occasionally ask drivers to move badly parked vehicles and are doing what they can to improve the situation, following their talk with Councillors deGraft-Johnson, Wyant and Shouls. It was suggested that the pub staff should be asked to check more regularly and ask drivers to move if they were causing an obstruction.

111/03: Councillor Richards mentioned that vehicles occasionally block the alleyway by the pub and will ask if signs at either end can be prominently displayed to avoid horses being unable to exit the bridleway.

111/04: The suggestion that the new village green could be made into a car park was not feasible as it was an open public space and could not undergo a change of use.

**2017/112: Parish Plan**

112/01: Councillor Richards reported that she, Brennan Dwyer and Councillors deGraft-Johnson and Shouls had met ten days ago and had agreed changes to the survey, which Brennan will implement.

112/02: A short survey, of 10 points, will be circulated to the councillors to assess how best the information could be collated.

112/03: It would be possible for individuals to submit multiple responses via Survey Monkey so it was suggested that each resident be allocated a randomised code.

**2017/113: AOB**

A member of the public queried why the farmer had removed the hedges along one side of Wingham Lane, which had served as a wind break. This was thought to be because of disease as several trees had seen to be dying.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

**The next parish meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.**